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Data Transparency Coalition Celebrates Senate Action on Federal Spending Transparency Legislation

Tech Companies Thank Democratic and Republican Senators for Re-Introducing DATA Act to Standardize and Publish Federal Spending Information

WASHINGTON, D.C. (September 25, 2012) – The [Data Transparency Coalition](http://datacoalition.org) today applauded the re-introduction of the bipartisan Digital Accountability and Transparency Act (DATA Act) in the U.S. Senate. Sens. Mark Warner (D-VA) and Rob Portman (R-OH) unveiled the new measure on Friday, Sept. 21. The DATA Act, which Warner and Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA) had originally introduced in both chambers in June 2011, will impose consistent data standards and a single public platform for spending information compiled by federal agencies, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Department of the Treasury. Standardized federal spending data will provide citizens with a detailed, accurate view of how taxpayer funds are used; give the government new tools to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse; and spur innovation in the federal information technology industry.

The House of Representatives unanimously passed Issa's version of the DATA Act last April. Warner and Portman's new Senate version addresses concerns raised by members of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee (HSGAC) in a July hearing. Their action Friday opened a possible pathway for committee consideration, negotiation with the House, and final passage before the current Congressional term ends in December.

"July's committee hearing demonstrated the need for legislation to require agencies, OMB, and Treasury to standardize and publish their spending data," said Hudson Hollister, Executive Director of the Data Transparency Coalition. "Without a law, we'll be stuck with eight incomplete, inaccessible databases of federal financial information, each incompatible with the others. That is why our Coalition called for action on the DATA Act in July. We applaud the Senators and their staffs on their determined and successful effort to negotiate a bill that will attract broad support and trigger transformation."

"Senators Warner and Portman have shown true leadership in pursuing data transparency for federal spending. The DATA Act will turn chaos into clarity across government agencies," said Tim Day, vice president of government affairs for Teradata Corporation, which is an executive committee member in the Coalition. "Without consistent standards to facilitate integrated data analytics, today's data volumes could quickly overwhelm federal decision-makers at every level."

The Data Transparency Coalition is the only industry group that advocates federal data reform. Founded last spring, the Coalition supports the DATA Act and similar standardization measures for federal regulatory

filings, performance metrics, legislative data, and judicial documents. The Coalition’s campaign for the DATA Act incorporates web and social media, Capitol Hill visits, and a public “[DATA Demo Day](#),” at which technology companies demonstrated how federal spending information—if fully standardized and published—could support innovative ways to fight contract and grant fraud, manage spending, and keep the government accountable.

About the Data Transparency Coalition

The Data Transparency Coalition is the only trade association that advocates data reform for the U.S. government. The Coalition brings together technology companies, nonprofit organizations, and individuals to support policies that require federal agencies to publish their data online, using standardized, machine-readable, nonproprietary identifiers and markup languages. The coalition is steered by a board of advisors. For more information, visit <http://datacoalition.org/>.

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