

DARRELL E. ISSA, CALIFORNIA
CHAIRMAN

JOHN L. MICA, FLORIDA
MICHAEL R. TURNER, OHIO
JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR., TENNESSEE
PATRICK T. MCENRY, NORTH CAROLINA
JIM JORDAN, OHIO
JASON CHAFFETZ, UTAH
TIM WALBERG, MICHIGAN
JAMES LANKFORD, OKLAHOMA
JUSTIN AMASH, MICHIGAN
PAUL A. GOSAR, ARIZONA
PATRICK MEEHAN, PENNSYLVANIA
SCOTT DESJARLAIS, TENNESSEE
TREY GOWDY, SOUTH CAROLINA
BLAKE FARENTHOLD, TEXAS
DOC HASTINGS, WASHINGTON
CYNTHIA M. LUMMIS, WYOMING
ROB WOODALL, GEORGIA
THOMAS MASSIE, KENTUCKY
DOUG COLLINS, GEORGIA
MARK MEADOWS, NORTH CAROLINA
KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO, MICHIGAN
RON DESANTIS, FLORIDA

LAWRENCE J. BRADY
STAFF DIRECTOR

ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
FACSIMILE (202) 225-3974
MINORITY (202) 225-5051
<http://oversight.house.gov>

ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS, MARYLAND
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

CAROLYN B. MALONEY, NEW YORK
ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON,
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
JOHN F. TIERNEY, MASSACHUSETTS
WM. LACY CLAY, MISSOURI
STEPHEN F. LYNCH, MASSACHUSETTS
JIM COOPER, TENNESSEE
GERALD E. CONNOLLY, VIRGINIA
JACKIE SPEIER, CALIFORNIA
MATTHEW A. CARTWRIGHT, PENNSYLVANIA
L. TAMMY DUCKWORTH, ILLINOIS
ROBIN L. KELLY, ILLINOIS
DANNY K. DAVIS, ILLINOIS
PETER WELCH, VERMONT
TONY CARDENAS, CALIFORNIA
STEVEN A. HORSFORD, NEVADA
MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, NEW MEXICO
VACANCY

Opening Statement

Rep. Elijah E. Cummings, Ranking Member

Hearing on "Transforming Federal Spending: Implementing the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act" December 3, 2014

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to begin by recognizing that it was your vision and bipartisan approach that paved the way to the successful enactment of the DATA Act.

From the very beginning, you worked closely with me and my staff, as well as the Administration and the Senate, to craft a bipartisan bill that would provide the American people with information about how their money is being spent.

Senator Warner and Senator Portman, thank you for being here with us today. Your leadership and commitment got this landmark legislation over the finish line, and you should be commended for your leadership.

Now the ball has been handed off to President Obama and his Administration, and they are running with it.

I look forward to hearing from our witnesses from the Office of Management and Budget and the Treasury Department about the Administration's efforts to implement the DATA Act.

President Obama has shown his support for open data. He issued an Executive Order on May 9, 2013, that requires all newly generated government data to be available in open, machine readable formats.

President Obama also joined seven other countries in launching the Open Government Partnership at the United Nations in 2011. That Partnership has now grown to 65 countries that pledge to create action plans to make government information open and accountable.

The DATA Act builds on this ongoing work. This new law requires agencies to report detailed information about how they are spending money.

Agencies are required by May 2017 to begin reporting information using common data standards developed by OMB and Treasury.

OMB and Treasury are then required to report the information agencies provide in a searchable and downloadable format.

Once implemented, these requirements will improve oversight and accountability. Congress and the public will have an unprecedented amount of transparency into agency spending.

Agencies will also be able to better use their own data to identify trends and make smarter funding decisions.

Comptroller General Gene Dodaro said in testimony before this Committee earlier this year that the DATA Act was one of the single biggest things Congress could do to address wasteful spending. I agree with this assessment, and I congratulate all of the stakeholders for working together to get this legislation passed.

Our work did not end with the enactment of the DATA Act, however. It is critical for Congress to stay engaged with regular, bipartisan oversight, just like this hearing.

Congress also must ensure that agencies have the resources they need to carry out the requirements of the DATA Act.

As many of you know, I frequently say that we need to make the government work more effectively and efficiently. The DATA Act is a law that, if implemented correctly, will do just that.

Contact: Jennifer Hoffman, Communications Director, (202) 226-5181.