

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
MINORITY (202) 225-5051

<http://oversight.house.gov>

Opening Statement Vice Ranking Member Gerald E. Connolly

H.R. 4887, Grant Reporting Efficiency and Agreements Transparency Act of 2018

February 6, 2018

The Grant Reporting Efficiency and Agreements Transparency Act, introduced by Representatives Virginia Foxx and Jimmy Gomez, would standardize reporting for recipients of federal grants and cooperative agreements.

Grant recipients often have to report the same information in different ways because federal agencies do not use the same forms or even the same terms to describe required information.

Under this bill, the Director of OMB and the Secretary of Health and Human Services would be required to establish government wide data standards for grant reporting.

The bill encourages OMB and HHS to make the information grant recipients report fully searchable and machine readable.

This would provide greater transparency into the money spent on grants because spending data would be more usable.

The bill would also require that data collected from grant recipients be published on a single public portal.

I plan to offer an amendment at the appropriate time to address a concern I and other members of the Committee have with the underlying bill.

The bill encourages the use of nonproprietary identifiers.

This is an issue that should be carefully considered to ensure it is workable and does not override existing government contracts.

My amendment would allow for such consideration, and I will offer it at the appropriate time.

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