

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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**Opening Statement**  
**Ranking Member Robin Kelly**  
**Subcommittee on Information Technology**

**Hearing on "DATA Act Implementation"**  
**July 29, 2015**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank you for holding this hearing to examine the progress of implementation of the DATA Act.

I would also like to thank each of our witnesses for coming to address us today.

**Effective implementation of the DATA Act is crucial in order to improve the transparency of federal spending.**

The Act requires that agencies report spending data in a consistent way which, in turn, will help them operate more efficiently.

The transparency that the DATA Act is designed to provide will help hold agencies accountable for their spending decisions.

Comptroller General Gene Dodaro testified before this Committee last year that the DATA Act was one of the single biggest things Congress could do to address wasteful spending.

OMB and Treasury have taken major steps forward in carrying out the requirements of the DATA Act.

**I applaud the way the Administration has embraced the DATA Act and worked so diligently over the last year to set the executive branch on the right path.**

In the last hearing concerning this topic, David Mader, the Controller for the Office of Management and Budget, stated, and I quote:

"We have charted a very aggressive path towards implementation building off past experiences and successes to transform the way the Government does business."

Mr. Mader is here with us again today, along with Mr. Lebryk from the Treasury Department, and I look forward to hearing from them how well OMB and Treasury are progressing.

OMB and Treasury got off to a great start by meeting the first big deadline which required them to establish governmentwide data standards by May 9, 2015.

I want to highlight the efforts the Administration has taken to get feedback from stakeholders and provide opportunities for public comments over the past year. Stakeholder input is critical to ensuring the success of the DATA Act.

**The DATA Act is an initiative that encourages innovation. Including stakeholders in the discussion will help foster that innovation both inside and outside the government.**

I also want to commend the way GAO and the Office of Inspector General for Treasury have engaged early in the process. I know both GAO and the OIG already have work underway to assess implementation efforts.

The work of Congress did not end with the passage of the DATA Act. It is our duty to stay engaged and see that the execution of the Act happens seamlessly.

We must keep a finger on the pulse of the agencies to assure them that they have our support and guidance as well as the resources they need to ensure this law is carried out as it was intended.

Again, I thank the Chairman for holding this bipartisan hearing and I look forward to hearing from our witnesses.

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