



Digital Accountability & Transparency Act (DATA) Letters of Support *Updated April 24, 2012*

Americans for Tax Reform

"In the wake of revelations regarding the spending abuses at the General Services Administration, government transparency must be reformed to root out this kind of waste, fraud and abuse. The status quo has produced mediocre data reporting amongst an obscure network of reporting websites and oversight agencies. This has squandered millions of taxpayer dollars and allows wasteful spending to go unchecked. The DATA Act simplifies and modernizes this process, making government more accountable to taxpayers."

AICPA (The American Institute of CPAs)

"On behalf of the 377,000 members of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), I am writing in support of H.R. 2146, the "Digital Accountability and Transparency Act," or DATA Act, because it includes important provisions that will enhance transparency."

24 Pro-Government Transparency Organizations Including

- Center for Responsive Politics
- Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington
- Cost of Government Center
- Data Transparency Coalition
- Electronic Frontier Foundation
- Fore See
- Global Financial Integrity
- iSolon.org
- Jubilee USA Network
- Liberty Coalition
- Missionary Oblates US Province
- National Priorities Project
- OMB Watch
- OpenTheGovernment.org
- Progressive Librarians Guild

- Project On Government Oversight
- Tabulaw Inc.
- Taxpayers for Common Sense
- Taxpayers Protection Alliance
- The Sunlight Foundation
- U.S. Transparency
- Washington Coalition for Open Government
- WashingtonWatch.com

“Currently available data on federal spending is incomplete and inconsistent. The DATA Act would centralize and simplify the convoluted spending reporting standards so that every government agency reports their spending in the same way. Importantly, the bill also includes uniform reporting from recipients of federal funds. All of this information will be readily available to the public.”

“We urge that you be present and vote “yes” on the DATA Act to shine a light on the spending of our tax dollars.”

[XBRL.US](#)

“On behalf of the members of XBRL US, the nonprofit consortium for XBRL business reporting standards, I am writing in support of the Digital Accountability and Transparency (DATA) Act legislation which will encourage the use of data standards for federal spending. Data standards are a critical tool to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of complex financial information. Because data standards enable comparability and compatibility, such standards provide needed clarity so all levels of government can better track and evaluate programs.”

[Ariel Markelevich, Ph.D., CMA, Director, Structured Data Lab - Center for Business Complexity and Global Leadership, Suffolk University](#)

“Not only the structured data provides for a much easier analysis, but in the context of government spending it would allow for an improved way to evaluate and control different government programs. In addition, the use of structured data opens the door for uses we sometimes cannot imagine at present. For example, as it refers to grant information in the academic arena, structuring and standardizing data may enable a tool that would help me to more easily know about grants and more easily apply for them.”

[Wharton Research Data Service, University of Pennsylvania](#)

“I am writing to express support for [DATA and specifically its creation of much-needed data standards... Wharton Research Data Services at the University of Pennsylvania has been a strong proponent of data standards. The benefits of standardized data are many – there is no ambiguity in the results or the interpretation of results; data are fully searchable and platform

neutral; and data are presented in real-time.”

[Dr. Glen Gray, PhD, CPA, California State University Northridge](#)

“As a representative of the academic members of XBRL US, the nonprofit consortium for XBRL business reporting standards, I am writing in support of the Digital Accountability and Transparency (DATA) Act legislation that will mandate the use of data standards for federal spending. Data standards are a critical tool to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of communicating and analyzing the information needed to track and evaluate government programs by enabling comparability and compatibility.”

[Level One Technologies](#)

“There is little doubt of the importance of this legislation, which promotes accountability and transparency in a drive to reduce fraud and waste in government spending. I’m excited to see the growing consensus between both parties, both houses of Congress and the current Administration in support of legislation that standardizes the reporting of federal spending and makes it available for everyone to see. I believe that when this legislation is enacted, many GSA style waste and spending abuses will be exposed and many others will be prevented entirely.”

Previous DATA Letters of Support

[CGI](#)

[RR Donnelley](#)

[Institute of Management Accountants](#)

[National Taxpayers Union](#)

[Rivet Software](#)

[Data Standards Organizations](#)

- FIX Protocol Ltd.
- International Securities Association for Institutional Trade Communication
- Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication
- XBRL.US

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