



ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES

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AAU STATEMENT ON CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF THE DIGITAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY (DATA) ACT

Following is a statement by Hunter Rawlings, President of the [Association of American Universities](http://www.aau.edu) (AAU), on congressional approval of the Digital Accountability and Transparency (DATA) Act

On behalf of AAU's 60 leading public and private U.S. research universities, I commend Congress for its bipartisan approval of the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act (DATA). DATA will not only provide greater financial transparency in federal grants and contracts spending, but it takes important steps toward streamlining the reporting process, thus eliminating duplicative financial reporting requirements and reducing compliance costs.

It is hard for government to improve transparency and at the same time reduce compliance requirements and costs. DATA does just this. We thank Senators Mark Warner (D-VA), Rob Portman (R-OH), Tom Carper (D-DE), and Tom Coburn (R-OK), and Representatives Darrell Issa (R-CA), Elijah Cummings (D-MD), and Gerald Connolly (D-VA) for their leadership and for working together to achieve a sensible result. We urge President Obama to sign the legislation into law.

Universities take very seriously the need to ensure that the tax dollars entrusted to them are spent appropriately. DATA should help to further assure the public that their funds are being well spent.

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The Association of American Universities is a nonprofit association of 60 U.S. and two Canadian preeminent public and private research universities. Founded in 1900, AAU focuses on national and institutional issues that are important to research-intensive universities, including funding for research, research and education policy, and graduate and undergraduate education.

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