

AAU Association of American Universities
APLU Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
COGR Council on Governmental Relations

November 15, 2013

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
Chairman
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Coburn
Ranking Member
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Carper and Ranking Member Coburn:

On behalf of the leading U.S. research universities that our associations represent, we write to express our gratitude for your leadership in securing bipartisan approval of S. 994, the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act (DATA), by the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee last week.

DATA provides for greater financial transparency of federal grant and contract award funds and we believe that its provisions will help to further ensure the public trust that federal taxpayer dollars are being well spent. The legislation uses a streamlined approach to eliminating duplicative financial reporting requirements and reducing compliance costs. In addition to requiring the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to establish federal government-wide data standards, we are especially grateful that institutions of higher education are specifically mentioned as stakeholders with whom OMB should consult in identifying ways to streamline reporting requirements and to conduct a pilot program to that end.

Thank you for leadership on this important legislation. We stand ready work with you on this legislation and to encourage bipartisan support for it when the full Senate considers it.

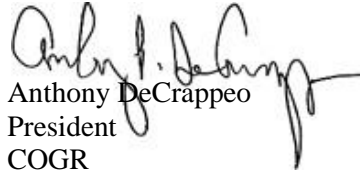
Sincerely,



Hunter R. Rawlings III
President
AAU



Peter McPherson
President
APLU



Anthony DeCrappeo
President
COGR

cc: Members of the Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee
Senator Mark Warner