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(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To modernize Federal grant reporting, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. FOXX (for herself and Mr. GOMEZ) introduced the following bill; which
was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To modernize Federal grant reporting, and for other
purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Grant Reporting Effi-
5 ciency and Agreements Transparency Act of 2017” or the
6 “GREAT Act”

7 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

8 The purposes of this Act are to—

1 (1) modernize reporting by recipients of Federal
2 grants and cooperative agreements by creating and
3 imposing data standards for the information that
4 grants and cooperative agreement recipients must
5 report to the Federal Government;

6 (2) implement the recommendation by the Di-
7 rector of the Office of Management and Budget,
8 under section 5(b)(6) of the Federal Funding Ac-
9 countability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31
10 U.S.C. 6101 note), which includes the development
11 of a “comprehensive taxonomy of standard defini-
12 tions for core data elements required for managing
13 Federal financial assistance awards”;

14 (3) reduce burden and compliance costs of re-
15 cipients of Federal grants and cooperative agree-
16 ments by enabling technology solutions, existing or
17 yet to be developed, by both the public and private
18 sectors, to better manage data recipients already
19 provide to the Federal Government; and

20 (4) to strengthen oversight and management of
21 Federal grants and cooperative agreements by agen-
22 cies through consolidated collection and display of
23 and access to open data that has been standardized,
24 and where appropriate, transparency to the public.

1 **SEC. 3. DATA STANDARDS FOR GRANT REPORTING.**

2 (a) AMENDMENT.—Subtitle V of title 31, United
3 States Code, is amended by inserting after chapter 63 the
4 following new chapter:

5 **“CHAPTER 64—DATA STANDARDS FOR**
6 **GRANT REPORTING**

“Sec.

“6401. Definitions.

“6402. Data standards for grant reporting.

“6403. Guidance Applying Standard Data Elements for Grant Reporting.

“6404. Agency requirements.

7 **“§ 6401. Definitions**

8 “In this chapter:

9 “(1) AGENCY.—The term ‘agency’ has the
10 meaning given that term in section 551 of title 5,
11 United States Code.

12 “(2) CORE STANDARD DATA ELEMENTS.—The
13 term ‘core standard data elements’ means data ele-
14 ments that are not program-specific in nature and
15 are required by all or the vast majority of Federal
16 grant and cooperative assistance recipients for pur-
17 poses of reporting.

18 “(3) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means
19 the Director of the Office of Management and Budg-
20 et.

21 “(4) FEDERAL AWARD.—The term ‘Federal
22 award’ means a grant agreement or a cooperative

1 agreement, as defined in part 200 of title 2, Code
2 of Federal Regulations.

3 “(5) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
4 the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

5 **“§ 6402. Data standards for grant reporting**

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—

7 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARDS.—Not
8 later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of
9 this chapter, the Secretary and the Director shall es-
10 tablish Governmentwide data standards for informa-
11 tion reported by recipients of Federal awards.

12 “(2) DATA ELEMENTS.—The data standards
13 established under paragraph (1) shall include, at a
14 minimum—

15 “(A) a comprehensive taxonomy of stand-
16 ard definitions for data elements required for
17 managing Federal awards; and

18 “(B) unique and nonproprietary identifiers
19 for Federal awards and entities receiving Fed-
20 eral awards that can be consistently applied
21 Governmentwide.

22 “(b) SCOPE.—The data standards established under
23 subsection (a) shall include core standard data elements
24 and may cover any information required to be reported
25 to any agency by recipients of Federal awards, including

1 audit-related information reported under chapter 75 of
2 title 31, United States Code.

3 “(c) REQUIREMENTS.—The data standards required
4 to be established under subsection (a) shall, to the extent
5 reasonable and practicable—

6 “(1) render information reported by recipients
7 of Federal grant and cooperative agreement awards
8 fully searchable and machine-readable;

9 “(2) be nonproprietary;

10 “(3) incorporate standards developed and main-
11 tained by voluntary consensus standards bodies;

12 “(4) be consistent with and implement applica-
13 ble accounting and reporting principles; and

14 “(5) incorporate the data standards established
15 under the Federal Funding Accountability and
16 Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note).

17 “(d) CONSULTATION.—In establishing the core
18 standard data elements under subsection (a), the Sec-
19 retary and the Director shall consult with, as appro-
20 priate—

21 “(1) the Secretary of the Treasury, to ensure
22 that the data standards incorporate the data stand-
23 ards created under the Federal Funding Account-
24 ability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C.
25 6101 note);

1 “(2) the head of each agency that issues Fed-
2 eral awards;

3 “(3) recipients of Federal awards and organiza-
4 tions representing recipients of Federal awards;

5 “(4) software providers seeking to build tools
6 that automatically compile and submit grant-related
7 reports and organizations representing such software
8 providers; and

9 “(5) members of the public, including privacy
10 experts and privacy advocates.

11 **“§ 6403. Guidance Applying Standard Data Elements**
12 **for Grant Reporting**

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the
14 date of the enactment of this chapter—

15 “(1) the Secretary and the Director shall issue
16 guidance to all agencies directing the agencies to
17 apply the data standards established under section
18 6402 to all applicable reporting by recipients of Fed-
19 eral grant and cooperative agreement awards; and

20 “(2) the Director shall prescribe guidance ap-
21 plying the data standards to audit-related informa-
22 tion reported under chapter 75.

23 “(b) GUIDANCE.—The guidance issued under this
24 section shall—

25 “(1) to the extent reasonable and practicable—

1 “(A) minimize the disruption to existing
2 reporting practices for agencies and for recipi-
3 ents of Federal grant and cooperative agree-
4 ment awards; and

5 “(B) explore opportunities to implement
6 modern technologies within Federal award re-
7 porting; and

8 “(2) allow the Director to permit exceptions on
9 a case-by-case basis.

10 **“§ 6404. Agency requirements**

11 “Not later than 3 years after the date of the enact-
12 ment of this chapter, the head of each agency shall ensure
13 that all of the agency’s grants and cooperative agreements
14 use data standards for all future information collection re-
15 quests and amend existing information collection requests
16 covered by chapter 35 of title 44 (commonly referred to
17 as the Paperwork Reduction Act) to comply with the data
18 standards established under section 6402, consistent with
19 the guidance issued by the Secretary and the Director
20 under section 6403.”.

21 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—
22 The table of chapters for subtitle V of title 31, United
23 States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relat-
24 ing to chapter 63 the following new item:

“64. Data standards for grant reporting 6401”.

1 **SEC. 4. SINGLE AUDIT ACT.**

2 (a) AMENDMENTS.—

3 (1) Section 7502(h) of title 31, United States
4 Code, is amended by inserting before “to a Federal
5 clearinghouse” the following “in an electronic form
6 consistent with the data standards established under
7 chapter 64,”.

8 (2) Section 7505 of title 31, United States
9 Code, is amended by adding at the end the following
10 new subsection:

11 “(d) Such guidance shall require audit-related infor-
12 mation reported under this chapter to be reported in an
13 electronic form consistent with the data standards estab-
14 lished under chapter 64.”.

15 (b) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 2 years after the
16 date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall issue
17 guidance requiring audit-related information reported
18 under chapter 75 of title 31, United States Code, to be
19 reported in an electronic form consistent with the data
20 standards established under chapter 64 of title 31, United
21 States Code, as added by section 3.

22 **SEC. 5. CONSOLIDATION OF ASSISTANCE-RELATED INFOR-**
23 **MATION; PUBLICATION OF PUBLIC INFORMA-**
24 **TION AS OPEN DATA.**

25 (a) COLLECTION OF INFORMATION.—Not later than
26 4 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the

1 Secretary and the Director shall enable the collection, pub-
2 lic display, and maintenance of Federal award information
3 as a Governmentwide data set, using the data standards
4 established under chapter 64 of title 31, United States
5 Code, as added by section 3, subject to reasonable restric-
6 tions established by the Director to ensure protection of
7 personally-identifiable and otherwise sensitive information.

8 (b) PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary
9 and the Director shall require the publication of recipient-
10 reported data collected from all agencies on a single public
11 website. Information may be published on an existing Gov-
12 ernmentwide website as determined appropriate by the Di-
13 rector.

14 (c) FOIA.—Nothing in this section shall require the
15 disclosure to the public of information that would be ex-
16 empt from disclosure under section 552 of title 5, United
17 States Code (commonly known as the “Freedom of Infor-
18 mation Act”).

19 (d) OPEN GOVERNMENT DATA.—Any information re-
20 ported by recipients of Federal awards and published pur-
21 suant to this section shall be published as an open Govern-
22 ment data asset.

23 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

24 In this Act, the terms “agency”, “Director”, “Fed-
25 eral award”, and “Secretary” have the meaning given

1 those terms in section 6401 of title 31, United States
2 Code, as added by section 3(a).

3 **SEC. 7. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

4 Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made by this
5 Act, shall be construed to require the collection of data
6 not pursuant to any grant agreement or a cooperative
7 agreement as defined in part 200 of title 2, Code of Fed-
8 eral Regulations.