

March 12, 2013

The Honorable Darrell Issa
U.S. House of Representatives
House Oversight and Government Reform
Committee
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Elijah Cummings
U.S. House of Representatives
House Oversight and Government Reform
Committee
B350A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Candice Miller
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on House Administration
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Brady
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on House Administration
1307 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman and Ranking Member,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations concerned with government accountability and transparency, we are writing in support of the Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act, introduced by Representative Mike Quigley.

The Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act requires that any report required by statute to be issued to Congress and releasable under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) be posted on a website managed by the US Government Printing Office (GPO). The public will be able to search, sort and download all congressionally mandated reports for free. During the 112th Congress, the bill was passed by the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee by a voice vote and discharged by the Committee on House Administration.

Congressionally mandated reports contain a wealth of information that enable the public to better understand how well federal agencies are (or are not) fulfilling their respective missions, from ensuring the safety of our drugs and food supply, to protecting the environment, and monitoring the soundness of our financial institutions. Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act makes it easier for the public to find this information and use it to hold officials accountable for their actions.

We appreciate your time and attention to this issue, and urge that you pass the Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this issue further, please contact Patrice McDermott, Director of OpenTheGovernment.org (pmcdermott@openthegovernment.org or 202-332-6736).

Sincerely,

American Association of Law Libraries

American Association of University Professors

American Library Association

Center for Effective Government (formerly OMB Watch)

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington – CREW

Community Research

Defending Dissent Foundation

Free Government Information

Freedom of Information Center at the Missouri School of Journalism

Government Accountability Project – GAP

InvestigateWest

iSolon.org

National Coalition Against Censorship

National Coalition for History

National Freedom of Information Coalition

National Security Counselors

New England Center for Investigative Reporting

OpenTheGovernment.org

Peacefire.org

Society of American Archivists

Society of Professional Journalists

Special Libraries Association

Sunlight Foundation

Tully Center for Free Speech at Syracuse University

Utah Foundation for Open Government

Washington Coalition for Open Government

cc: Representative Mike Quigley