



Kentucky Society
Certified Public Accountants

April 16, 2012

The Honorable Geoff Davis, Chairman
Subcommittee on Human Resources of the
Committee on Ways and Means
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: April 19, 2012 Hearing Entitled "Properly Targeting Benefits and Ending Waste, Fraud, and Abuse"

Dear Chairman Davis:

On behalf of the 5,000 members of the Kentucky Society of CPAs, I am writing to thank you for your plan to hold the upcoming hearing on "Properly Targeting Benefits and Ending Waste, Fraud, and Abuse." You have led the effort on introducing legislation that includes requirements for nonproprietary data standards for reporting information under programs within your Subcommittee's jurisdiction. We understand that this is the Subcommittee's second hearing in this area and are pleased that Campbell Pryde, President of XBRL-US will be testifying.

We truly appreciate your leadership in introducing and working for the passage of H.R. 2883, the "Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act" with Ranking Member Doggett last year. That Act calls for grantees of Federal funds under the Child Welfare Services program and the Safe and Stable program to report certain data to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), and for DHHS to develop a rule designating standard data elements and data reporting requirements for the information to be reported. The legislation specifies that DHHS "shall, to the extent practicable, incorporate existing nonproprietary standards, such as eXtensible Business Reporting Language (XBRL)." We hope that H.R. 3339, the "Standard DATA Act," will enjoy similar success. Further, we strongly support including identical provisions in future legislation that requires reporting of financial and other program measurement data.

Data tagging using a nonproprietary standard, such as XBRL, has been proven time and time again to increase efficiencies and comparability in reporting processes of financial and other program measurement data. XBRL provides a detailed yet customizable approach to gathering data and will provide significant transparency to the Federal government and the American people regarding the use of taxpayer funds. Federal agencies, Congress, and others who report, monitor and/or analyze the use of these funds will find significantly reduced compliance reporting burdens and, at the same time, enhanced usability of reported information.

Thank you again for your leadership on this important issue. We are happy to talk further with you or your staff regarding additional areas where data standards can further enhance reporting under Federal programs. If you have any questions or if we can be of any further assistance, please contact me at (502) 749-1900 or you can contact Penny Gold, KyCPA CEO, at (502) 736-1372.

Sincerely,

Stephen Lukinovich
President, Kentucky Society of CPAs

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