



December 8, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi

Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer

Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy

Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell

Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McCarthy, and Minority Leader McConnell,

We, the undersigned, ask the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate to prioritize the enactment of the Strengthening Agency Management and Oversight of Software Assets Act by the end of the calendar year. The bipartisan legislation, initially introduced by Sens. Gary Peters (D-MI) and Bill Cassidy (R-LA), was reported favorably out of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee without objection and with unanimous support. It was introduced in the House by Reps. Cartwright (D, PA-08) and Fitzpatrick (R, PA-01) in November.

Technology plays an increasing role in the daily operations of the United States federal government. Software is a critical tool for the federal workforce, which includes nearly 2.1 million civilian employees. The Strengthening Agency Management and Oversight of Software Assets Act would require federal agency heads to conduct an assessment of their agency's software contracts, offering key insights on costs, management, and cybersecurity risk. As federal agencies adopt varying approaches to modernize and manage their IT, it is important to have a comprehensive view of all of their software assets and discretion to both consolidate large enterprise licenses to attain cost savings as well as continue to purchase specialized software licenses for differentiated capabilities. The complexity of federal software purchasing and management along with restrictions placed on how the software is run, prevents federal agencies from using the most innovative, cost-effective, interoperable and secure software and cloud services of choice. Further, hidden fees and unnecessary spending deplete government resources and put hard-earned taxpayer dollars at risk of waste, fraud, and abuse. These reports will help to inform ongoing efforts to modernize the federal government and improve the value of federal IT.

Ultimately, the goal of this bill is to ensure that software and other IT work in harmony within and across federal agencies. This will not only improve interagency coordination and communication but also ensure better returns on IT investments made with taxpayer dollars.

Examining and rooting out the potential for waste, fraud, and abuse throughout the federal government has long been a bipartisan priority in Congress as it supports prudent, long-lasting solutions. We urge Congressional leaders to support this bipartisan momentum and include the Strengthening Agency Management and Oversight of Software Assets Act in must-pass legislation this year.

Sincerely,

Ryan Triplette

Executive Director
The Coalition for Fair Software Licensing

Matt Schruers

President
Computer & Communications Industry Association

Steve DelBianco

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Carl Holshouser

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Ross Nordruft

Executive Director
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