



August 21, 2024

**The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker**

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

**The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader**

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

**The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader**

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

**The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader**

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

Speaker Johnson, Minority Leader Jeffries, Majority Leader Schumer, and Minority Leader McConnell:

As the Congressional Session comes to a close, on behalf of our organizations, we urge the passage of S. 931 / H.R. 1695, the *Strengthening Agency Management and Oversight of Software Assets (SAMOSA) Act*. This bipartisan and bicameral landmark legislation will reduce unnecessary technology-related costs across federal agencies by requiring independent and comprehensive assessments of current software management practices.

Practices such as inflexible licensing agreements and limited integration capabilities prevent federal agencies from accessing or utilizing the most cost-effective options available. This dynamic undermines digital transformation. It also puts taxpayer dollars at risk of waste, fraud, and abuse. S. 931 / H.R. 1695, the *SAMOSA Act*, will ensure that the U.S. government practices better stewardship of taxpayer dollars and allow resources to be more appropriately spent on pressing projects and priorities that benefit Americans by increasing transparency and accountability around federal IT purchases,

The U.S. Government and Accountability Office (GAO) has issued multiple reports over the past several years citing the need for U.S. Departments and agencies to put mitigation plans in place to address the cost and impact of both restrictive software licensing terms and duplicative software spending. [One such report](#) found that the federal government spends more than \$100 billion every year on IT and cyber-related investments. The report also makes clear that federal agencies are not currently optimizing the tracking and maintenance of their IT purchases, resulting in duplicative purchases of software licenses and wasteful

spending of taxpayer dollars. The GAO has repeatedly recommended that government Departments and agencies improve the tracking of software license usage and comparison of inventories with purchased licenses. S. 931 / H.R. 1695, the SAMOSA Act, ensures that recommendations are heeded and taxpayer dollars saved.

Private sector experts agree with these concerns and recommendations. A report from leading software and government procurement industry expert [Michael Garland](#) found that measured steps, including the passage of the *Strengthening Agency Management and Oversight of Software Assets Act*, would address systemic issues and embedded restrictions with software licensing. Garland conservatively estimates these measures could generate cost savings for the U.S. government close to \$750 million annually.

The U.S. government is the world's largest software customer. Federal agencies rely on cloud computing services to fulfill their daily operations and should practice responsible stewardship of IT ecosystems to ensure efficacy, efficiency, and security. It is incumbent upon the federal government to exercise prudence in its management of software licenses to protect and save taxpayer dollars.

State governments have already taken action to address these concerns and foster cost savings. To date, multiple states¹ have passed laws on a bipartisan basis that either require a similar accounting of state software assets as S. 931 / H.R. 1695, the *SAMOS Act*, or prohibit software contracts entered into by a state agency from restricting the ability of the agency to choose the hardware or cloud environment that best meets its needs.

The time has come for similar action on the federal level. The *Strengthening Agency Management and Oversight of Software Assets Act* will ensure responsible IT spending and greater transparency and communication across federal agencies. For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to support this good government legislation and include it in any must-pass legislation before the end of this Congressional session. If you have any questions regarding our support, please feel free to reach out to our organizations directly.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Digital Innovation

Coalition for Fair Software Licensing

Computer & Communications Industry Association

NetChoice

Software Information & Industry Association

¹ These States include Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, and New Hampshire with similar legislation pending in other states.