

WASHINGTON—Before heading home to Chicago for district work period, Congressman Mike Quigley (D-IL) introduced the **Transparency in Government Act**--H.R. 4983--a multi-faceted bill that would bring unprecedented access and accountability to the federal government. Just yesterday, Quigley [unveiled](#) the bipartisan Transparency Caucus, of which he is a co-chair. The new group is dedicated to the enforcement of current transparency laws and advocating for new initiatives.

**“As Justice Brandeis said, ‘sunlight is the best of disinfectants,’ and at a time when trust in government is so perilously low, ushering in a new era of open government is one of the best ways to win it back,”** Quigley said. **“With the amount of global information we can access instantly on a smartphone, the federal government should have no trouble making its work available online to the public.□ For anyone who worried the Transparency Caucus would be all bark, here is the bite.”**

Quigley’s comprehensive bill emphasizes transparency throughout the federal government with a focus on utilizing new technologies, increasing disclosures from both lobbyists and lawmakers, and strengthening oversight of federal spending. Highlights of the bill include:

- Establishing new definitions for lobbyists and stricter rules governing how and with whom they meet
- Creating the first-ever searchable, sortable, and downloadable database for earmarks, where taxpayers can see all appropriations in one place
- Improving public access to information about Members of Congress, including disclosure of financial information, travel reports, gifts, and earmark requests
- Requiring committees to post all roll call votes and video of hearings and mark-ups online
- Improving oversight and accuracy of USAspending.gov (federal contracting Web site) by allowing the public to report errors and requiring audits of the information on the site
- Instructing all FOIA requests of federal agencies be published online promptly after they

are completed

For a complete summary of the bill and fact sheet, click [here](#) .

Since his election to Congress one year ago and for the decade prior as a Cook County Commissioner, Rep. Quigley has made [reform](#) , [transparency](#) , and [fiscal responsibility](#) the cornerstones of his legislative agenda. He has

[posted](#)

all of his spending requests online immediately and was also a cosponsor of H. Res. 554 to require that legislation and conference reports be available online for 72 hours before consideration by the House. Rep. Quigley currently serves as a Member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and co-founded the bipartisan

[Transparency Caucus](#)

with Ranking Member Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA).