

Why Everyday Citizens Should be Worried about the College  
Transparency Act (CTA) H.R. 2434

CTA would completely eliminate the ban on the federal government collecting data on college students and replace it with an expanded Federal data collection system for all college students. Currently, only limited data is collected regarding students who receive federal student aid. Under the new system:

- The federal government will create a personally identifiable tracking system of all college students – citizens and non-citizens
- The bill will require the federal data Commissioner to match data with other agencies, such as Treasury, Defense, Veterans Affairs, Social Security Administration, and the Census Bureau
- The bill will allow the Commissioner almost unlimited authority to create new data requirements
- There is no opt-out, opt-in, or notice to students about being in the system
- There are no provisions on data retention or destruction
- Data would be available for research, but there would be no limits on who can access it (unlike Ohio)

The federal government will be able to track every person's every move in higher education.

Because data will be collected with the same significant detail as IRS data, but for far less necessary purpose – college “accountability.”

By mandating links to data sharing with the Social Security Administration and other agencies, the bill is, essentially, the groundwork for the creation of a “life to death” database tracking system.

While the legislation does not allow for the publication or sale of this information to third-parties, it does not limit the scope of what the federal government will do with this information. This could include cross programmatic support for efforts like the introduction of new social welfare programs.

Companion legislation is in the Senate as S. 1121.