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<u>Indiana ranks No. 1 in the nation for spending transparency</u>

INDIANAPOLIS –A new report from the U.S. Public Interest Research Group ranks Indiana's state government transparency portal website as the best in the nation.

Indiana's online transparency portal tracks contracts, subsidies and other state expenditures and allows the public to view the information in a user-friendly, comprehensive manner.

"It is crucial that Hoosiers know exactly how Indiana is spending taxpayer money," said Auditor Crouch. "Accountability and transparency are our top priorities in the Auditor's Office. Our government's business should be open and accessible to the public in order to ensure trust and confidence in our finances."

Last year was the first year that all 50 states had a website with detailed information about state expenditures. Indiana's transparency portal was also named in the list of 'Top 10 Most Improved Transparency Websites from 2013 to 2014.'

"Our state works diligently to find ways to save money, reduce waste and abuse of taxpayer dollars and identify and eliminate inefficient spending," Auditor Crouch said. "I am proud of Indiana's No. 1 ranking and appreciate the support of Governor Pence's administration, especially the Indiana Office of Technology, in this initiative."

To view Indiana's online transparency portal, visit www.in.gov/itp/. To read a copy of the report, visit www.uspirg.org.

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Appointed in 2014 as Indiana's 56th State Auditor, Suzanne Crouch serves as the state's chief financial officer. Prior to becoming State Auditor, Crouch served eight years as the state representative for House District 78 in Evansville.

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