



AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION
Promoting the Practice and Profession of Statistics®

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March 15, 2021

The Honorable Scott Peters
1201 Longworth Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Peters,

We write to express the American Statistical Association's support for the Health Standards to Advance Transparency, Integrity, Science, Technology Infrastructure, and Confidential Statistics Act of 2021 (the Health STATISTICS Act of 2021.)

The bill is consistent with the aims of the Foundations of Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 and serves as a model for future legislation to strengthen federal data systems. The bill highlights the following, which we strongly support:

- The federal government can play an important role not just in linking and aggregating data, but in making data accessible to state and local agencies and researchers in a usable form and in a timely manner, subject to appropriate safeguards for protection of privacy.
- Reporting in accordance with consistent standards for critical data items will allow the identification of differentials in health outcomes and services and more accurately measure health disparities.
- Data, particularly when linked with data from other sources, have important implications for the national priority of understanding and ameliorating social inequality.
- The modernization of the state and local systems used for reporting to the federal government is vital to our nation's data infrastructure.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Ron Wasserstein, ASA Executive Director

Larry Hedges, Chair, ASA Scientific and Public Affairs Advisory Committee