



AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION
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November 3, 2022

The Honorable Shalanda Young
Director, Office of Management and Budget
Executive Office of the President
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Young,

I write in strong support of the recommendations in the recently issued [Year 2 Report of the Advisory Committee on Data for Evidence Building](#) (ACDEB). Their adoption is instrumental for advancing the federal government's capacity and motivation to use high-quality evidence for decision-making; OMB should implement the recommendations as promptly and as fully as possible.

The ACDEB recommendations continue the groundbreaking work inspired by the Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking. Many of the recommendations in the commission's report (which the [ASA Board endorsed in 2017](#)) were legislated in the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 (commonly referred to as the Evidence Act). Your adoption of the ACDEB recommendations will advance implementation of the Evidence Act and the broader evidence-based policymaking agenda.

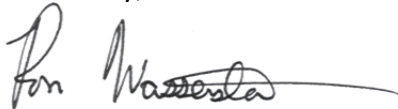
There is much to applaud in the many recommendations offered in ACDEB's report. For example, the suite of recommendations for expanding secure access to data under the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act and the array of proposals with respect to the National Secure Data Service's coordination and communication functions should greatly enhance the government's ability to foster effective and efficient use of evidence by many individuals and communities.

Much of the important data for evidence building comes from nonstatistical agencies, as well as state governments. To realize the full benefits of the Evidence Act and National Secure Data Service, we hope authority and funding will be requested in the FY 2024 budget that will support a new federal interagency budget account to buttress cross-agency evidence-building priorities, as well as a block grant program to champion data infrastructure improvements for state, local, tribal, and territorial governments. It will also be important to fund the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics as authorized to ensure the successful implementation and management of the National Secure Data Service pilot projects.

Notably, many of the ACDEB recommendations rest on effective collaboration within the federal government. These efforts will be led by the chief statistician of the United States in partnership with the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy. Resources and funding are essential to support their successful implementation. As advocated in a [March 2022 letter](#) to you from three former OMB chief statisticians and dozens of former statistical agency leaders, additional resources should be allocated to the chief statistician's office to carry out these new responsibilities.

Thank you for your consideration. We would, of course, be pleased to discuss our suggestions with you or others at OMB.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Wasserstein", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ron Wasserstein
Executive Director

CC: Dominic Mancini, OIRA Deputy Administrator, and Karin Orvis, Chief Statistician of the United States