

Population Association of America Association of Population Centers

Office of Government and Public Affairs

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PAA and APC Applaud Release of Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking Recommendations September 2017

The Population Association of America (PAA) and Association of Population Centers (APC) strongly support the collection of accurate, representative, and essential statistical data and the application of that data to advance evidence-based policymaking. To this end, PAA and APC have supported the work of the Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking—an independent advisory committee created by legislation sponsored by the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Paul Ryan (R-WI) and U.S. Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), which President Barack Obama signed into law in March 2016. The charge of the commission was to “study how data, research, and evaluation are currently used to build evidence, and how to strengthen the government’s evidence-building efforts.”

PAA and APC applaud recommendations the Commission issued on September 6, 2017, to improve access to and use of existing government data to inform evidence-based policy making. In particular, PAA and APC are pleased the commission recommends concrete steps for enhancing access to federal administrative records and state-level data, while simultaneously protecting privacy and confidentiality. The Commission’s proposal to establish centralized, streamlined processes for granting approved researchers with access to government data is also a critical component of the report.

PAA and APC will be engaged as the Commission’s recommendations proceed through various phases of implementation, which will entail congressional and administrative actions.

The Commission’s final report can be accessed at:
<https://www.cep.gov/content/dam/cep/report/cep-final-report.pdf>.

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