



member.<sup>2</sup> Many of the original Commissioners also provided direct feedback on and agreed with that subsequent proposal. In May 2021, NSF’s Assistant Director for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences said in a public statement that NSF is already beginning efforts to establish the infrastructure to operate the data service.<sup>3</sup> More recently, the Federal Advisory Committee on Data for Evidence Building established by the Evidence Act released its interim recommendations calling for the creation of a data service and presented an implementation framework that aligns with the NSDS Act.<sup>4</sup>

The establishment of an NSDS would substantially contribute to strengthening the analytical capabilities of the Federal Statistical System, provide a resource and expanded capacity for conducting program evaluation, and, at a practical level, create an infrastructure for more rapid responses to congressional policy inquiries about outcomes and programmatic impacts. This can be achieved within the strong privacy framework laid out in the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (CIPSEA) reauthorized by the Congress in 2018, consistent with what is proposed in the NSDS Act.

In our view, the National Secure Data Service is a necessary part of modernizing our country’s data infrastructure. We encourage the Congress to include this bipartisan proposal in the conference agreement for the House NSF reauthorization bill and the Senate USICA. We are happy to speak with you or your staff on any questions about the Evidence Commission’s recommendations or the NSDS Act.

Respectfully,



Katharine G. Abraham  
Former Chair  
Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking



Ron Haskins  
Former Co-Chair  
Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking

cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Members of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

<sup>2</sup> Hart, N. and N. Potok. (2020). *Modernizing U.S. Data Infrastructure: Implementing a National Secure Data Service to Improve Statistics and Evidence Building*. Washington, D.C.: Data Foundation. Available at: <https://www.datafoundation.org/modernizing-us-data-infrastructure-2020>.

<sup>3</sup> Lupia, A. (2021). Letter to the Data Foundation RE National Secure Data Service. National Science Foundation. Available at: <http://www.datacoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/NSF-Response-to-Data-Foundation-Inquiry-Lupia-May-18-2021-FINAL-1.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> Advisory Committee on Data for Evidence Building. (2021, Oct. 29). *Advisory Committee on Data for Evidence Building: Year 1 Report*. Washington, D.C. Available at: <https://www.bea.gov/system/files/2021-10/acdeb-year-1-report.pdf>.