



## American Economic Association

Committee on Economic Statistics <https://www.aeaweb.org/about-aea/committees/economic-statistics>  
Committee on Government Relations <https://www.aeaweb.org/about-aea/committees/government-relations>  
(Committee on Economic Statistics member, Pat Bajari, is recused from this letter)

February 3, 2021

The Honorable Scott Peters  
1201 Longworth House Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Peters,

We write to thank you and your House colleagues for having introduced the Health STATISTICS Act of 2021. The American Economic Association (AEA) Committees on Economic Statistics and Government Relations endorse the bill's support of the statistical uses of public health survey, administrative data and other relevant data for evidence building and its move towards modernizing the nation's public health surveillance system.

The Health STATISTICS Act of 2021 is consistent with recommendations in our report on Necessary Improvement in the U.S. Statistical Infrastructure (<https://www.aeaweb.org/content/file?id=13507>). That report is also aimed at improving federal statistics' potential to accurately guide important decisions by households, businesses, and all levels of government, but extends beyond the realm of health statistics, promoting linkages across data systems. Of special relevance to your bill, it urges that the Executive Branch and the Congress to work together to develop fundamental processes and incentives that assure that federal statistical agencies, under sufficient privacy and confidentiality provisions, can access State administrative data for improved State and Federal statistics.

Please feel free to contact us if your office would like to further discuss our recommendations for the statistical system.

With thanks,

*John Haltiwanger*

Chair, AEA Committee on Economic Statistics

*Kenneth Troske*

Chair, AEA Committee on Government Relations

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