

BACKGROUND

Researchers have found that the United States COVID-19 response has been hindered by “data gaps, inadequate and inconsistent definitions of data across different governmental jurisdictions, ambiguous timing in reporting, problems in accessing data, and changing interpretations from scientific institutions.”¹

Due to these barriers, health care professionals have not had timely access to the data they need to make evidence-based clinical decisions and public health officials have been limited in their ability to accurately monitor and effectively respond to the spread of the coronavirus.² By facilitating the safe, secure, and swift transfer of critical health information, the **Improving DATA in Public Health Act** will enhance the U.S. response to public health emergencies and improve year-round efforts to improve the health of communities across the country.

SUMMARY

The **Improving DATA in Public Health Act** would:

- Promote coordination between federal agencies to share critical public health data used to prepare for, identify, monitor, and respond to public health emergencies.
- Create standards to improve the exchange of electronic health information, ensuring that health data can be transferred seamlessly and securely to protect confidentiality and improve infectious disease surveillance and other public health initiatives.
- Establish an Advisory Committee with key public health stakeholders to ensure that health data reporting and sharing processes are carried out as effectively as possible.
- Provide funding for health care providers; academic medical centers; community-based organizations; state, local, and Tribal governments and organizations; non-profit organizations; and other entities to identify, develop, and disseminate best practices in the collection and sharing of electronic health information.

ORIGINAL COSPONSORS

The **Improving DATA in Public Health Act** is co-led by Reps. Ami Bera (CA-07), Kathy Castor (FL-14), and Rosa L. DeLauro (CT-03) in the House of Representatives and Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA) in the Senate.

ENDORSEMENTS

The **Improving DATA in Public Health Act** is supported by the American Academy of Family Physicians; American Association of Colleges of Nursing; American Public Health Association; American Society for Microbiology; Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago; Association of Public Health Laboratories; Association of State and Territorial Health Officials; Big Cities Health Coalition; Bipartisan Policy Center; Council of Public Health Nursing Organizations; Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists; Families USA; National Association of County and City Health Officials; National Association of School Nurses; Resolve to Save Lives; and Trust for America’s Health.

CONTACT

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¹ Galaitsi et al.: [The challenges of data usage for the United States’ COVID-19 response](#).

² Moscovitch: [How President Biden Can Improve Health Data Sharing For COVID-19 And Beyond](#)