

Vargas	Walz	Welch
Veasey	Wasserman	Wilson (FL)
Vela	Schultz	Yarmuth
Velázquez	Waters, Maxine	
Visclosky	Watson Coleman	

NOT VOTING—14

Bass	Frankel (FL)	Rush
Buchanan	Graves (MO)	Sanchez, Loretta
Chaffetz	Jordan	Scalise
Comstock	Kirkpatrick	Smith (WA)
Fincher	Lieu, Ted	

□ 1233

Ms. BROWN of Florida changed her vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mrs. WALORSKI changed her vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, March 14; Tuesday, March 15; Wednesday, March 16; and Thursday, March 17, 2016, I was on medical leave while recovering from hip replacement surgery and unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted:

“Yes” on rollcall vote No. 111 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 2426).

“Yes” on rollcall vote No. 112 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H. Con. Res. 75, as amended).

“Yes” on rollcall vote No. 113 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H. Con. Res. 121, as amended).

“No” on rollcall vote No. 114 (on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 640).

“No” on rollcall vote No. 115 (on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 640).

“Yes” on rollcall vote No. 116 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2081).

“Yes” on rollcall vote No. 117 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3447, as amended).

“Yes” on rollcall vote No. 118 (on agreeing to the Pallone Amendment No. 1 to H.R. 3797).

“Yes” on rollcall vote No. 119 (on agreeing to the Pallone Amendment No. 2 to H.R. 3797).

“Yes” on rollcall vote No. 120 (on agreeing to the Bera Amendment to H.R. 3797).

“Yes” on rollcall vote No. 121 (on agreeing to the Veasey Amendment to H.R. 3797).

“Yes” on rollcall vote No. 122 (on the motion to recommit H.R. 3797, with instructions).

“No” on rollcall vote No. 123 (on passage of H.R. 3797).

“Yes” on rollcall vote No. 124 (on passage of H.R. 4596).

“Yes” on rollcall vote No. 125 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 4416).

“Yes” on rollcall vote No. 126 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 4434).

“No” on rollcall vote No. 127 (on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 649).

“No” on rollcall vote No. 128 (on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 649).

“No” on rollcall vote No. 129 (on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 639).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 127, 128, 129, I was unable to vote, as I

was attending a funeral service for a close family friend. Roll No. 127 was ordering the previous question; Roll No. 128 was H. Res. 649, providing for consideration of the resolution H. Res. 639, which authorizes the Speaker to appear as amicus curiae on behalf of the House of Representatives in the matter of U.S., et al. v. Texas, et al., No. 15–674; and Roll No. 129 was agreeing to that resolution, H. Res. 639. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on all three rollcall votes.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

EVIDENCE-BASED POLICYMAKING COMMISSION ACT OF 2015

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 1831) to establish the Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Evidence-Based Policymaking Commission Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT.

There is established in the executive branch a commission to be known as the “Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking” (in this Act referred to as the “Commission”).

SEC. 3. MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION.

(a) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Commission shall be comprised of 15 members as follows:

(1) Three shall be appointed by the President, of whom—

(A) one shall be an academic researcher, data expert, or have experience in administering programs;

(B) one shall be an expert in protecting personally-identifiable information and data minimization; and

(C) one shall be the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (or the Director's designee).

(2) Three shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, of whom—

(A) two shall be academic researchers, data experts, or have experience in administering programs; and

(B) one shall be an expert in protecting personally-identifiable information and data minimization.

(3) Three shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, of whom—

(A) two shall be academic researchers, data experts, or have experience in administering programs; and

(B) one shall be an expert in protecting personally-identifiable information and data minimization.

(4) Three shall be appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate, of whom—

(A) two shall be academic researchers, data experts, or have experience in administering programs; and

(B) one shall be an expert in protecting personally-identifiable information and data minimization.

(5) Three shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate, of whom—

(A) two shall be academic researchers, data experts, or have experience in administering programs; and

(B) one shall be an expert in protecting personally-identifiable information and data minimization.

(b) EXPERTISE.—In making appointments under this section, consideration should be given to individuals with expertise in economics, statistics, program evaluation, data security, confidentiality, or database management.

(c) CHAIRPERSON AND CO-CHAIRPERSON.—The President shall select the chairperson of the Commission and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall select the co-chairperson.

(d) TIMING OF APPOINTMENTS.—Appointments to the Commission shall be made not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(e) TERMS; VACANCIES.—Each member shall be appointed for the duration of the Commission. Any vacancy in the Commission shall not affect its powers, and shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made.

(f) COMPENSATION.—Members of the Commission shall serve without pay.

(g) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Commission.

SEC. 4. DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.

(a) STUDY OF DATA.—The Commission shall conduct a comprehensive study of the data inventory, data infrastructure, database security, and statistical protocols related to Federal policymaking and the agencies responsible for maintaining that data to—

(1) determine the optimal arrangement for which administrative data on Federal programs and tax expenditures, survey data, and related statistical data series may be integrated and made available to facilitate program evaluation, continuous improvement, policy-relevant research, and cost-benefit analyses by qualified researchers and institutions while weighing how integration might lead to the intentional or unintentional access, breach, or release of personally-identifiable information or records;

(2) make recommendations on how data infrastructure, database security, and statistical protocols should be modified to best fulfill the objectives identified in paragraph (1); and

(3) make recommendations on how best to incorporate outcomes measurement, institutionalize randomized controlled trials, and rigorous impact analysis into program design.

(b) CLEARINGHOUSE.—In undertaking the study required by subsection (a), the Commission shall—

(1) consider whether a clearinghouse for program and survey data should be established and how to create such a clearinghouse; and

(2) evaluate—

(A) what administrative data and survey data are relevant for program evaluation and Federal policy-making and should be included in a potential clearinghouse;

(B) which survey data the administrative data identified in subparagraph (A) may be linked to, in addition to linkages across administrative data series, including the effect such linkages may have on the security of those data;

(C) what are the legal and administrative barriers to including or linking these data series;

(D) what data-sharing infrastructure should be used to facilitate data merging and access for research purposes;

(E) how a clearinghouse could be self-funded;

(F) which types of researchers, officials, and institutions should have access to data and what the qualifications of the researchers, officials, and institutions should be;

(G) what limitations should be placed on the use of data provided;

(H) how to protect information and ensure individual privacy and confidentiality;

(I) how data and results of research can be used to inform program administrators and policymakers to improve program design;

(J) what incentives may facilitate interagency sharing of information to improve programmatic effectiveness and enhance data accuracy and comprehensiveness; and

(K) how individuals whose data are used should be notified of its usages.

(c) **REPORT.**—Upon the affirmative vote of at least three-quarters of the members of the Commission, the Commission shall submit to the President and Congress a detailed statement of its findings and conclusions as a result of the activities required by subsections (a) and (b), together with its recommendations for such legislation or administrative actions as the Commission considers appropriate in light of the results of the study.

(d) **DEADLINE.**—The report under subsection (c) shall be submitted not later than the date that is 15 months after the date a majority of the members of the Commission are appointed pursuant to section 3.

(e) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term “administrative data” means data—

(1) held by an agency or a contractor or grantee of an agency (including a State or unit of local government); and

(2) collected for other than statistical purposes.

SEC. 5. OPERATION AND POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.

(a) **EXECUTIVE BRANCH ASSISTANCE.**—The heads of the following agencies shall advise and consult with the Commission on matters within their respective areas of responsibility:

(1) The Bureau of the Census.

(2) The Internal Revenue Service.

(3) The Department of Health and Human Services.

(4) The Department of Agriculture.

(5) The Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(6) The Social Security Administration.

(7) The Department of Education.

(8) The Department of Justice.

(9) The Office of Management and Budget.

(10) The Bureau of Economic Analysis.

(11) The Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(12) Any other agency, as determined by the Commission.

(b) **MEETINGS.**—The Commission shall meet not later than 30 days after the date upon which a majority of its members have been appointed and at such times thereafter as the chairperson or co-chairperson shall determine.

(c) **RULES OF PROCEDURE.**—The chairperson and co-chairperson shall, with the approval of a majority of the members of the Commission, establish written rules of procedure for the Commission, which shall include a quorum requirement to conduct the business of the Commission.

(d) **HEARINGS.**—The Commission may, for the purpose of carrying out this Act, hold hearings, sit and act at times and places, take testimony, and receive evidence as the Commission considers appropriate.

(e) **CONTRACTS.**—The Commission may contract with and compensate government and private agencies or persons for any purpose necessary to enable it to carry out this Act.

(f) **MAILS.**—The Commission may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other agencies of the Federal Government.

(g) **GIFTS.**—The Commission may accept, use, and dispose of gifts or donations of services or property.

SEC. 6. FUNDING.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subsection (b) and the availability of appropriations—

(1) at the request of the Director of the Census, the agencies identified as “Principal Statistical Agencies” in the report, published by the Office of Management and Budget, entitled “Statistical Programs of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2015” shall transfer funds, as specified in advance in appropriations Acts and in a total amount not to exceed \$3,000,000, to the Bureau of the Census for purposes of carrying out the activities of the Commission as provided in this Act; and

(2) the Bureau of the Census shall provide administrative support to the Commission, which may include providing physical space at, and access to, the headquarters of the Bureau of the Census, located in Suitland, Maryland.

(b) **PROHIBITION ON NEW FUNDING.**—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act. This Act shall be carried out using amounts otherwise available for the Bureau of the Census or the agencies described in subsection (a)(1).

SEC. 7. PERSONNEL.

(a) **DIRECTOR.**—The Commission shall have a Director who shall be appointed by the chairperson with the concurrence of the co-chairperson. The Director shall be paid at a rate of pay established by the chairperson and co-chairperson, not to exceed the annual rate of basic pay payable for level V of the Executive Schedule (section 5316 of title 5, United States Code).

(b) **STAFF.**—The Director may appoint and fix the pay of additional staff as the Director considers appropriate.

(c) **EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.**—The Commission may procure temporary and intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at rates for individuals which do not exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay for a comparable position paid under the General Schedule.

SEC. 8. TERMINATION.

The Commission shall terminate not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

Mr. HURD of Texas (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the reading be dispensed with.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the original request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY), the majority leader and my friend, for the purpose of inquiring about the schedule for the week to come.

(Mr. MCCARTHY asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday, the House will meet at noon for morning hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30. On Tuesday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for morning hour and noon for legislative business, and on Wednesday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for legislative business. No votes are expected in the House on Thursday or Friday.

Mr. Speaker, the House will consider a number of suspensions next week, a complete list of which will be announced by close of business tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, the House will also consider H.R. 2745, the SMARTER Act, sponsored by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD). The bill will ensure that no matter who reviews mergers and acquisitions, be it the Federal Trade Commission or the Department of Justice, there will be uniform rules so that every transaction is reviewed fairly.

I thank the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for that information.

I did not see or hear “the budget for this coming year.” I know the Committee on the Budget marked up the budget yesterday. As I understand it, they completed their work, and they have reported a budget. I do not see it on the calendar for next week, which means that the earliest we could consider a budget would be April.

Speaker RYAN, as the majority leader knows so well, indicated we are going to pursue regular order, which would be the adoption of a budget, the establishment of a 302(a) allocation, which means the overall expenditure level for discretionary spending, and then the markup and consideration in this House of the 12 appropriation bills.

It would appear, if we are not going to do it next week, could we expect to see the budget on the floor, Mr. Leader, in April?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MCCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

The gentleman is correct that the Committee on the Budget successfully reported a budget resolution last night. I want to take a moment to thank Committee on the Budget Chairman TOM PRICE for his work, and the whole committee.

There are more conversations among Members which will be required before moving the budget to the floor, and therefore it will not be scheduled for the upcoming abbreviated week, but I will let the gentleman know as soon as we do schedule it.

Mr. HOYER. I thank my friend for that information.

As the gentleman probably recalls, back in January Majority Whip Scalise was quoted as saying: “We will forge ahead with spending bills and other initiatives in the coming year.” He implied that the House would start early on its appropriation bills.

Now, I can remember, as a long-time member of the Committee on Appropriations, that early for us was early