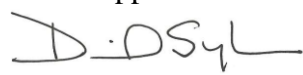


CITY COUNCIL ACTION REQUEST

Department(s): City Manager's Office	Date: 04/21/21	Coordination: City Attorney's Office	Dept. Approval: /s/ Lee Wilcox
			CMO Approval:  04/23/21

SUBJECT: H.R. 831 (Peters): Health STATISTICS Act of 2021

RECOMMENDED POSITION: Support

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. Adopt a position of support for H.R. 831 (Peters) on the development of certain public health data standards, epidemiological surveillance grants, and a data linkage demonstration project.
2. Recommend this item be agendized for the May 4, 2021 City Council Meeting so that the City's Legislative Representative can advocate the City's support H.R. 831.

BILL SYNOPSIS:

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) found national data on COVID-19 testing is incomplete and inconsistent from states and has significantly slowed the federal government's response to allocating resources to areas that need the most support.

H.R. 831, also known as the Health Standards to Advance Transparency, Integrity, Science, Technology Infrastructure, and Confidential Statistics Act of 2021, would rapidly improve COVID-19 health and vaccine data collection and accessibility to better inform decision-making and research in public health crises. The bill establishes a working group to set data collection and reporting standards for key health indicators and make recommendations, including methods to facilitate evidence-building through standardized local and state reporting, linkable data sharing between (and among) local, state, and federal agencies, and the social determinants of health. Additionally, this group must develop standards for high priority COVID-19 data elements, including genomic epidemiology and modeling outbreak preparedness and response, within 30 days of the bill's enactment.

H.R. 831 would also expand the data linkage program of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to allow for the temporary linkage of data across multiple sources, including genomic data, clinical data, and epidemiological data and directs HHS to share health data collected from reporting entities with the Centers for Disease Control, other public health agencies, and the public while preserving individual privacy.

Additionally, this bill would establish an epidemiological surveillance grant program for state, local, tribal, and territorial public health reporting entities to expand and modernize public health data systems.

IMPACTS TO CITY OF SAN JOSE:

The City's COVID-19 legislative advocacy focuses on expanding resources and support to protect the health and safety of its most vulnerable residents and ensure that the San José communities that were first in line to suffer the effects of the pandemic are not last in line for the vaccine. Access to complete and coordinated population health data is essential to providing critical resources to the community.

We learned from the state vaccine roll-out that standardized local and state reporting and linkable data sharing is needed to provide more equitable distribution of vaccines to our communities. Without rigorous data collection and reporting that links genomic data, clinical data, and epidemiological data, we can miss the needs of our hardest hit communities.

H.R. 831 would immediately improve data collection and accessibility by addressing inconsistencies in reporting public health data. This would ease the burden on state and local public health entities by creating a standard process, saving money and lives.

POLICY ALIGNMENT:

H.R. 831 aligns with the City’s Legislative Program position on COVID-19 Response and Mitigation to: “Advocate for resources and policies to protect the health, safety, and economic viability of residents and businesses in San José, including testing, food, shelter, childcare, digital inclusion, and isolation support for the City’s most vulnerable populations.”

SUPPORTERS/OPPONENTS:

None on file.

STATUS OF BILL:

H.R. 831 was introduced on February 4, 2021 and is currently in the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT: Alexandria Felton, (408) 535-8116, alexandria.felton@sanjoseca.gov