National Secure Data Service Act

Rep. Donald S. Beyer Jr.

Rep. Beyer is introducing the National Secure Data Service Act in an effort to improve the federal government's data analysis capabilities.

The need for data to generate solutions to improve American society is vast and pressing. Researchers require specific capabilities to link together data collected through surveys, federal program administration, and non-governmental data sources. However, the lack of coordination across the federal government's decentralized data infrastructure and statistical system limits the ability to generate timely information needed to promote evidence-based policymaking.

In the 2017 Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking (CEP) final report, experts on a panel commissioned by Congress recommended the establishment of a National Secure Data Service to facilitate access to data for qualified researchers and approved purposes, while also ensuring privacy and transparency for the data service's activities. However, to date, no such service has been stood up.

Therefore, this bill would create a National Secure Data Service demonstration project housed within the National Science Foundation. The demonstration project would test and refine approaches to inform the implementation of a government-wide data linkage and access infrastructure, with the goal of scaling up the project in the future. The National Secure Data Service Act is a crucial step in modernizing our data infrastructure to facilitate and advance research and policymaking.