



March 28, 2025

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Subject: Upholding The Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act

Dear President Trump:

On January 14, 2019, you signed into law the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act (Evidence Act). The Evidence Act represented a landmark commitment on behalf of your administration to ensure federal policies and programs are driven by high-quality data, rigorous evaluation, and sound evidence. In just a few short years, the Evidence Act set into motion several activities that provided federal officials with a better understanding of what works, when, and where. Our government leaders have the decision-making power and responsibility to determine how to best use this information, and with the Evidence Act, for the first time, we are gaining insights into effectiveness and cost-efficiencies across all government agencies. These insights have become central to government operations and are fostering transparency for the public.

On behalf of the American Evaluation Association (AEA), the leading professional association for evaluators dedicated to the use of systematic and data-driven approaches, we write to urge the White House to continue fully upholding and enforcing the Evidence Act as you required when signing it into law. As you are aware, it is critical that the administration demonstrates leadership in fostering a culture of evidence-based decision-making across all federal agencies, and a continued commitment to the Evidence Act will accomplish this aim.

The recent Executive Orders have significantly affected the public and private evaluation workforce. This has been evidenced by reductions in the federal workforce, availability of data for use in evaluations, and termination of evaluation contracts [prior to the release of final reports]. We are concerned that these Executive Orders have had the unintended consequence of weakening evaluation capacity. To ensure the full realization of this Act, we respectfully urge the administration to:



1. **Ensure Full Compliance** – Direct all federal agencies to adhere to the law’s requirements by continuing to develop and publicly share their learning agendas, evaluation plans, capacity assessments and reports.
2. **Provide Adequate Funding and Resources** – Guarantee that agencies have the necessary personnel, expertise, and fiscal support to implement rigorous evaluation and data-driven decision-making.
3. **Strengthen Interagency Collaboration** – Foster a cross-agency commitment to utilizing evidence by facilitating knowledge-sharing and coordination between agency evaluation units, including through continued support of the Evaluation Officer Council.
4. **Enhance Transparency and Public Engagement** – Promote public access to government data and evaluation findings to encourage ongoing accountability and innovation.

Your leadership can continue to reinforce a culture of evidence-informed governance that builds public trust and ensures federal programs deliver measurable, meaningful results. A sustained commitment to the Evidence Act will position the United States as a global leader in accountable and effective governance.

We appreciate your attention to this critical matter and welcome the opportunity to discuss ways in which we can work together to uphold the integrity of evidence-based policymaking.

Please feel free to contact our Executive Director, Anisha Lewis at alewis@eval.org to arrange a meeting at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Karen Jackson

Karen Jackson, Ph.D.

President

The American Evaluation Association