What is the Commission?

- The Commission was established by the bipartisan *Evidence-Based Policymaking Commission Act of 2016*, enacted March 30, 2016 (P.L. 114-140).

- Legislation was co-sponsored by Speaker Paul Ryan and Senator Patty Murray.

- The Act directed the Commission to study how the data that government already collects can be used to improve government programs and policies.

- The Commission presented their final report to the President and the Congress on September 7, 2017.

Who are the Commissioners?

15-Member Bipartisan Commission

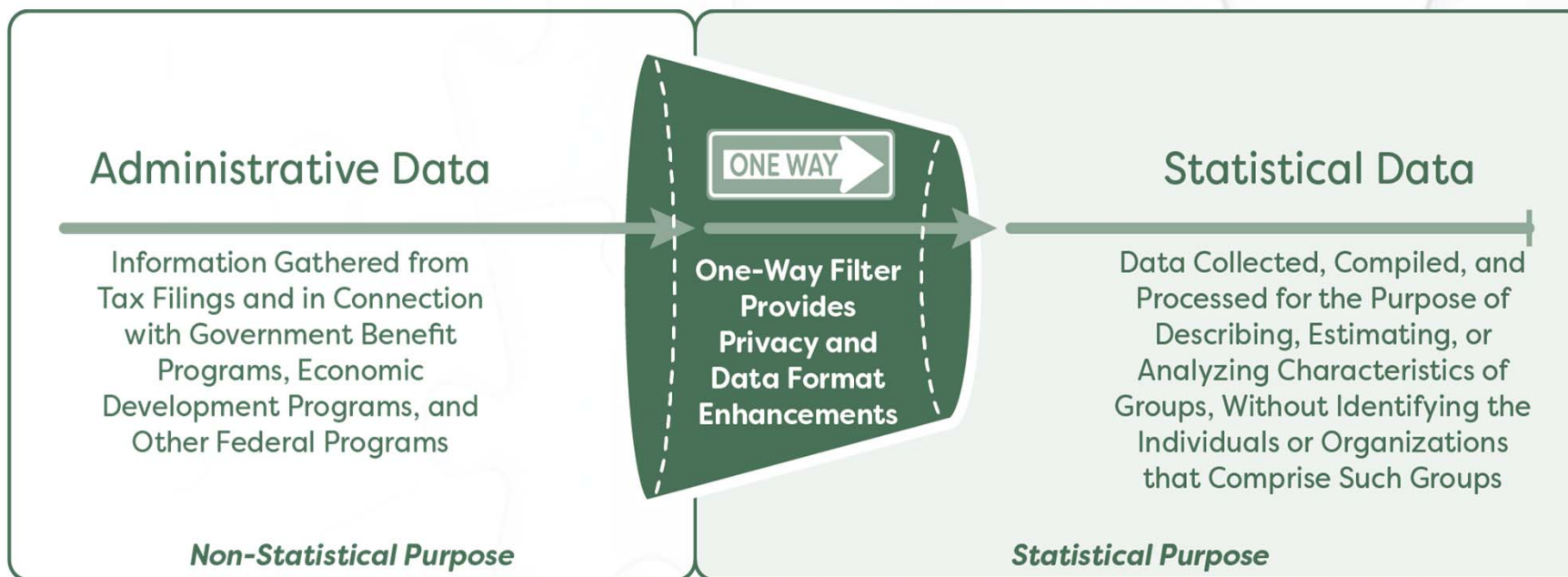|	Researchers and Administrators		Privacy Experts
President	**Katharine Abraham** *University of Maryland* **(CHAIR)**	**Nancy Potok** *OMB*	**Paul Ohm** *Georgetown University*
Speaker of the House	**Ron Haskins** *Brookings Institution* **(CO-CHAIR)**	**Bruce Meyer** *University of Chicago*	**Robert Hahn** *University of Oxford*
House Minority Leader	**Hilary Hoynes** *University of California, Berkeley*	**Sherry Glied** *New York University*	**Latanya Sweeney** *Harvard University*
Senate Majority Leader	**Kenneth Troske** *University of Kentucky*	**Robert Shea** *Grant Thornton LLP*	**Kathleen Rice** *Faerge Baker Daniels LLP*
Senate Minority Leader	**Jeffrey Liebman** *Harvard University*	**Kim Wallin** *Wallin Ltd.*	**Robert Groves** *Georgetown University*

The Commission's Process

- The Commission engaged in an *8 month fact-finding process* to gather input:
    - 7 Public Meetings with 49 invited witnesses
    - 3 Public Hearings in DC, Chicago, and San Francisco with 37 witnesses
    - Request for Comments in the *Federal Register* with more than 350 submitted comments
    - CEP Survey of 209 Federal offices
    - More than 40 meetings with other groups

- Following public input, the Commission ran a deliberative review process to consider all of the input received and distilled areas of agreement into the Commission's *22 recommendations.*

Administrative vs. Statistical Data

Functional Separation of Administrative and Statistical Data

Administrative Data

Information Gathered from Tax Filings and in Connection with Government Benefit Programs, Economic Development Programs, and Other Federal Programs

ONE WAY

One-Way Filter Provides Privacy and Data Format Enhancements

Statistical Data

Data Collected, Compiled, and Processed for the Purpose of Describing, Estimating, or Analyzing Characteristics of Groups, Without Identifying the Individuals or Organizations that Comprise Such Groups

Non-Statistical Purpose

Statistical Purpose

Key Barriers Identified

- **We Need Improved Access to Data** – Laws and policies are not currently optimized to support the use of data across programs or to maximize privacy.

- **We Need Stronger Privacy Protections** – Protections today are applied unevenly across government, and not dynamic enough to meet the changing risks associated with the use of data.

- **We Need Greater Capacity** – Institutions and actors, both inside and outside government, must have the capacity to generate and use evidence effectively and efficiently.
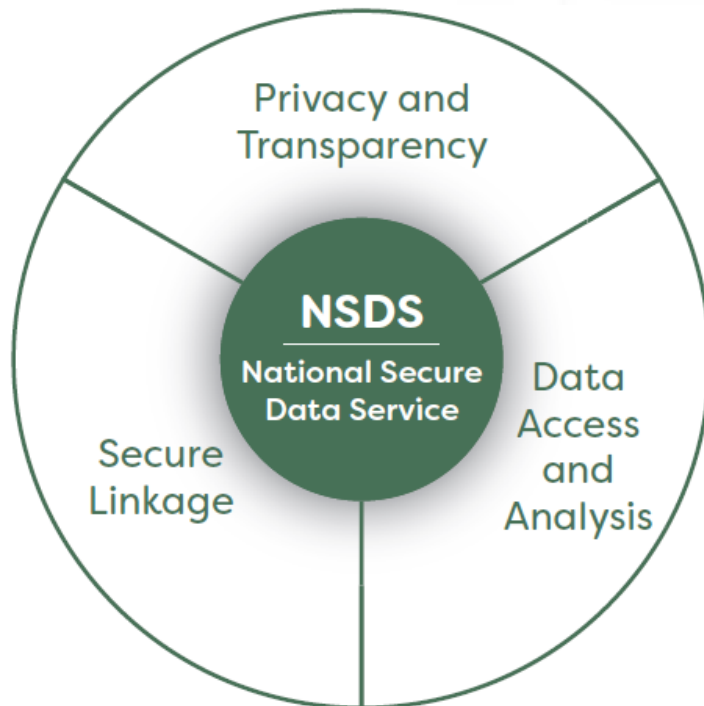
Recommendation Highlights

- **Improved Access to Data –**
  - Establish the National Secure Data Service by bringing together existing expertise (2-1, 2-2)
  - Address inconsistencies and barriers in law for better use of existing data (2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 2-7)
  - Streamline the process by which researchers access data (2-8)

- **Stronger Privacy Protections–**
  - Conduct and disclose comprehensive risk assessments for publicly released de-identified data (3-1)
  - Improve protections with better technology and greater coordination (3-2, 3-3)

- **Greater Capacity –**
  - Strengthen capacity for evidence building, particularly program evaluation, by ensuring sufficient resources and coordination both within and across departments (5-1,5-2,5-3,5-4,5-5)

Recommendations Related to the National Secure Data Service

Key Functions of the National Secure Data Service

- NSDS should facilitate secure data, with stringent privacy protection standards, develop and implement state-of-the-art methods to safely combine data, and apply cutting-edge technologies.

- NSDS should also have capacity to provide technical and analytical services on a fee-for-service basis for states and other jurisdictions.

Recommendations to Improve Secure, Private, and Confidential Data Access

- Establish a *National Secure Data Service* to facilitate access to data for evidence building while ensuring privacy and transparency in how the those data are used.

- Require *stringent privacy qualifications* for acquiring and combining data for statistical purposes at the NSDS.

- *Review and revise laws authorizing Federal data collection and use* to ensure that limited access to administrative and survey data are possible under strict privacy controls.

- *Develop a uniform process for external researchers* to apply and qualify for secure access to confidential government data for evidence-building purposes.

Recommendations Related to State-Collected Administrative Data

- Ensure that *state-collected administrative data on quarterly earnings are available* for statistical purposes and made available through a single Federal source.

- Direct Federal departments that acquire state-collected administrative data to make the data available for statistical purposes. Where there is substantial Federal investment in a program, *Federal departments should, consistent with applicable laws, direct states to provide the data necessary to support evidence building.*

Recommendations to Modernize Privacy Protections for Evidence Building

- *Require comprehensive risk assessments on de-identified confidential data* intended for public release to improve how data are protected and risk is managed.

- *Adopt modern privacy-enhancing technologies for confidential data* used for evidence building to ensure the government's capabilities to keep data secure and protect confidentiality are constantly improving.

- *Assign senior officials the responsibility for stewarding data* within government agencies.

- *Codifying policies for maintaining integrity and objectivity* in Federal statistics to promote continued trust in the accuracy of information being used to guide government decision making.

Recommendations to Strengthen Federal Capacity for Evidence Building

- **_Identify or establish a Chief Evaluation Officer_** in each department to coordinate evaluation and policy research and to collaborate with other evidence-building functions within Federal departments.

- **_Develop learning agendas in Federal departments_** to support the generation and use of evidence to address the range of policymakers' questions.

- **_Improve coordination of government-wide evidence building_** by directing OMB to facilitate cross-government coordination.

- **_Align administrative processes_** with evidence-building activities, including those related to the approval of information collections and the procurement of services for evidence building.

- **_Ensure that sufficient resources are available_** to support evidence-building activities, including resources to support implementation of the recommendations of the Commission.
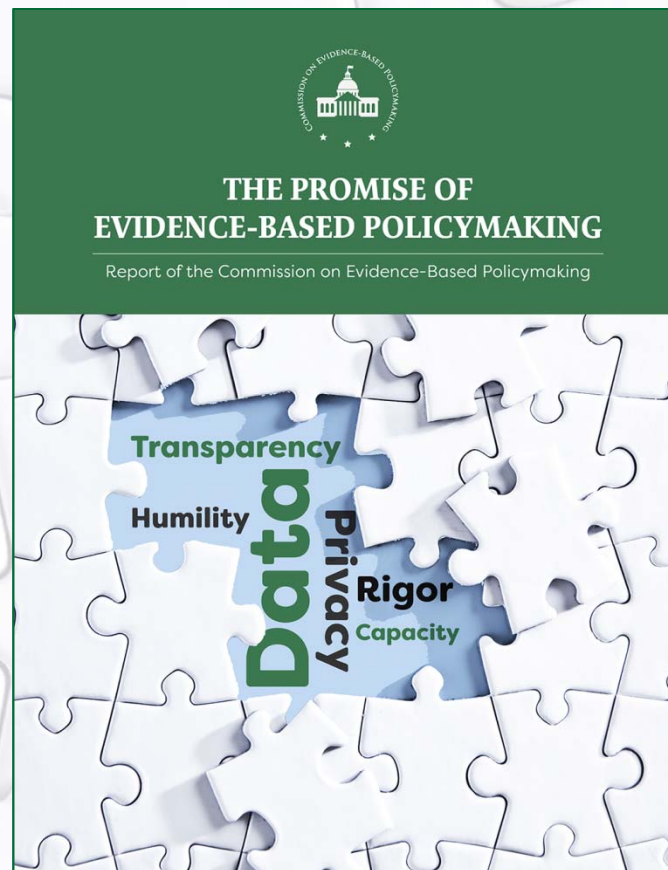
Where Do We Go From Here?

- The Commission's final report was released on September 7, 2017.

- "Down payment" legislation is under development and a hearing to discuss the report and recommendations is pending scheduling.

- The Commission will sunset on September 30, 2017 at which point the Bipartisan Policy Center will continue to advance the recommendations developed by the Commission.

The Commission's Report

Available at www.cep.gov