

LGBTQI+ Data Inclusion Act

Complete and accurate data collection is essential to informing policies, laws, and programs that address the needs of communities. Within the LGBTQI+ community, such data generally does not exist. The National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine recently published a report detailing the need for comprehensive data for the LGBTQI+ community. Representative Grijalva introduced the LGBTQ Data Inclusion Act to ensure that agencies collect the much-needed data when conducting surveys. At the markup of this bill Chairwoman Maloney amended the title and text of the bill to include collection of data pertaining to the intersex community.

- H.R. 4176, the LGBTQI+ Data Inclusion Act, as reported by the Oversight Committee, would require agencies to review existing surveys to determine where information on sexual orientation, gender identity, and variations in sex characteristics are not included.
- Agencies would be required to identify and employ appropriate methods to include questions on sexual orientation, gender identity, and variations in sex characteristics in covered surveys that allow for voluntary participation with privacy protections and confidentiality.
- Within three years after enactment, information on sexual orientation, gender identity, and variations in sex characteristics must be included in any report released by an agency that relies on covered survey demographic data.
- The head of the statistical unit within an agency would be permitted to waive the report requirement if privacy and confidentiality standards could not be met.
- The information collected would be maintained in accordance with applicable confidentiality and privacy laws, policies, and standards. Individuals are not required to disclose their sexual orientation, gender identity, or variations in sex characteristics and will not be penalized for not answering any survey questions related to their sexual orientation, gender identity, or variations in sex characteristics. In addition, the information collected would not be used to adversely impact the participant or any individual.

The LGBTQI+ Data Inclusion Act has 128 Democratic cosponsors and has been endorsed by the Equality Caucus. The bill has also been endorsed by more than 170 LGBTQI+ civil rights, public health, and scientific organizations, including: the Human Rights Campaign, the Center for American Progress, the American Psychological Association, interact: Advocates for Intersex Youth, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, the National Center for Transgender Equality, GLSEN, the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, the Whitman-Walker Institute, the Consortium of Social Science Associations, the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics, the Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences, and more.