



**For Immediate Release
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Press Release: American Evaluation Association Applauds Congressional Action on the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act

The American Evaluation Association enthusiastically applauds Congress for passing the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018. Congress sent a clear signal that evidence matters and should drive policy and program decision making.

“Today’s action by Congress will make key evaluation activities more commonplace in government,” said Leslie Goodyear, president of the American Evaluation Association. “It demonstrates that our elected leaders agree that program evaluation is an essential activity for understanding how programs operate and for improving public policies.”

The legislation takes steps to recognize the important role of program evaluation in government by directing agencies to: designate evaluation officers, create written evaluation policies, and to establish multi-year learning agendas to outline evaluation priorities.

The Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act includes specific provisions that align with the American Evaluation Association’s recommendations in *An Evaluation Roadmap for a More Effective Government*, which also sought to institutionalize evaluation in government and ensure evaluations meaningfully inform program management.

The American Evaluation Association thanks the sponsors of the legislation, including House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) and Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), as well as the U.S. Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking’s members for their commitment to sound public policy by strengthening the country’s evaluation infrastructure. The American Evaluation Association looks forward to working with executive branch agencies to implement the provisions of this important law over the next year, strengthening the federal government’s culture of learning and continuous improvement.

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The American Evaluation Association is an international professional association and the largest in its field. Evaluation involves assessing the strengths and weaknesses of programs, policies, personnel, products and organizations to improve their effectiveness. AEA’s mission is to improve evaluation practices and methods worldwide, to increase evaluation use, promote evaluation as a profession and support the contribution of evaluation to the generation of theory and knowledge about effective human action.