

Public health, medical, academic, and scientific groups oppose EPA transparency rule

August 9, 2018

Nearly seventy public health, medical, academic, and scientific groups representing millions of Americans released the following statement to express concern over the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) "Strengthening Transparency in Regulatory Science" proposed rule:

We strongly oppose EPA's efforts to restrict the use of the best available science in its policymaking and encourage EPA to withdraw its proposal.

We support the goal of improving the transparency of science and access to data. When feasible, scientists should strive for appropriate public access to data to maximize independent validation and trust in the scientific process. However, there are many credible scientific studies where the exposure of raw data to the public is infeasible, or would reveal confidential patient information.

The research EPA relies on to make determinations is already transparent in most cases. Many scientific journals and research agencies now have policies governing the sharing of data among researchers and with appropriate access by the public at large.

If EPA excludes studies because the data cannot be made public, people may be exposed to real harm. The result would be decisions affecting millions based on inadequate information that fails to include well-supported studies by expert scientists. These efforts are misguided and will not improve the quality of science used by EPA nor allow the agency to fulfill its mandate of protecting human health and the environment. For the sake of the country's health, EPA must not restrict this research.

Academy of Integrative Health & Medicine

Allergy & Asthma Network

Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

American Academy of Dermatology

American Academy of Family Physicians

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Association for Cancer Research

American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)

American Association of Community Psychiatrists

American Brain Coalition

American College of Lifestyle Medicine

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

American College of Physicians

American College of Preventive Medicine

American Geophysical Union

American Geriatric Society

American Heart Association

American Institute of Biological Sciences

American Lung Association

American Medical Association

American Medical Women's Association

American Parkinson Disease Association

American Physiological Society

American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Public Health Association  
American Society for Investigative Pathology  
American Society of Naturalists  
American Thoracic Society  
Association for Psychological Science  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of American Universities  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities  
Association of Public Health Laboratories  
Association of Reproductive Health Professionals  
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health  
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America  
Big Cities Health Coalition  
Breast Cancer Prevention Partners  
Bridge the Gap - SYNGAP Education and Research Foundation  
Center for Open Science  
Center for Progressive Reform  
Center for Reproductive Rights  
Children's Environmental Health Network (CEHN)  
Consortium of Social Science Associations  
Ecological Society of America  
Endocrine Society  
Environmental Protection Network  
Geological Society of America  
Health Care Without Harm  
International Society for Environmental Epidemiology (ISEE)  
Jacobs Institute of Women's Health  
Medical Advocates for Healthy Air  
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Environmental Health Association  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Women's Health Network  
Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Pittsburgh Institute for Neurodegenerative Diseases  
Society for the Study of Evolution  
Teratology Society  
The Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health  
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research  
The Parkinson Alliance  
The Prevent Cancer Foundation  
The Parkinson's Unity Walk  
Trust for America's Health  
Union of Concerned Scientists