



Congressman

RAUL M. GRIJALVA

Serving the people of Arizona's 7th District

The Bicameral LGBTQI+ Data Inclusion Act H.R. 3970



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The LGBTQI+ Data Inclusion Act, which passed the House last year with bipartisan support, would require federal agencies that collect demographic survey data to collect **voluntary** data on sexual orientation, gender identity, and variations in sex characteristics (sometimes referred to as intersex traits).

Federal data collection informs a significant range of government functions and policies that affect the health, safety, and well-being of our constituents. To better address and deliver effective programs, services, and policies we must have a representative count of all members of our community.

Currently, more than 100 federal agencies engage in data collection, but there is no uniform policy requiring the collection of data pertaining to LGBTQI+ people. As the LGBTQI+ community continues to be targeted for discrimination by state legislatures, the importance of collecting data on these communities and their experiences only continues to grow. As the Center for American Progress has calculated, more than 5 in 6 LGBT adults cannot be identified by existing questions in non-experimental surveys conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau such as the American Community Survey and the Census—which only accounts for cohabitating same-sex couples. While data is limited, existing research demonstrates that LGBTQI+ people experience disproportionate rates of poverty, unemployment, economic instability, housing insecurity, adverse mental and physical health outcomes, and discrimination.



FOUR REASONS TO SUPPORT THE BILL

1. It will help ensure that policymakers and community leaders have the information they need to better serve the communities they represent.
2. It will direct more than 100 federal agencies engaged in survey data collection to standardize the inclusion of questions related to sexual orientation, gender identity, and variations in sex characteristics.
3. Even though data is limited, existing research demonstrates that LGBTQI+ people experience disproportionate rates of poverty, unemployment, economic instability, housing insecurity, adverse mental and physical health outcomes, and discrimination.
4. More than 350 federal assistance programs relied on Decennial Census Programs data to distribute \$2.8 trillion to communities across the country in fiscal year 2021. Without accurate data, funds would not be adequately distributed to address the most pressing issues facing LGBTQI+ Americans.

The LGBTQI+ Data Inclusion Act has support from over 68 civil rights, public health and scientific organizations.