

# S 674 – Public Health Infrastructure Saves Lives Act

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## Bill Summary

The Public Health Infrastructure Saves Lives (PHISLA) Act would create a Core Public Health Infrastructure Program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to modernize public health at every level.

Under PHISLA, state, tribal, territorial, and local health departments would receive sustained funding to address the foundational capabilities of public health, a core set of activities and measures that ensure they have the tools, workforce, and systems in place to address existing and emerging health threats.

Funding for the program would be aimed at addressing “core public health infrastructure,” including:

- Assessment (including surveillance, epidemiology, and laboratory capacity)
- All hazards preparedness and response
- Policy development and support
- Communications with the public
- Community partnership development
- Organizational competencies (leadership and governance)
- Accountability and performance management (including quality improvement, information technology, HR, financial management, and law)
- Equity

## AHIMA’s Perspective

AHIMA [believes](#) that to ensure the resiliency of public health, public policy must:

- Encourage standards to ensure accurate and timely data are used for public health responses and initiatives.
- Fund public health infrastructure to improve interoperability and sharing of public health data.
- Adopt modern technical standards and requirements to enhance interoperability, decrease unnecessary reporting duplication, and ensure data is consistent, comparable, and meaningful across the US and internationally.
- Enhance communication and transparency with patients.
- Protect patient privacy and security.

This bill supports AHIMA’s stance that public health surveillance systems must be prioritized to ensure that health information is accurate and timely. The bill also supports AHIMA’s stance that public health surveillance systems must be funded at an adequate level to ensure data is available in a timely manner to permitted public health agencies.

## AHIMA’s Ask

Support and cosponsor S. 674 to improve our public health infrastructure system. For offices that have already cosponsored, AHIMA thanks you for your support of this important and timely legislation.

To cosponsor S 674, please contact Jane Bigham (Jane\_Bigham@help.senate.gov) and Sabah Ghulamali (Sabah\_Ghulamali@help.senate.gov).