

May 5, 2025
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Dear Mr President:

I am concerned about data.

Information can be a powerful tool for monitoring and planning around disease, weather and economics among others. The federal government has the world's largest trove from census and tax data to crime and medical reporting. Such data can also be dangerous and maintaining privacy difficult but techniques such as President Biden's firewalls and differential privacy can work fairly well. You have been destroying both, handing people access across systems and firing the data privacy teams at many agencies. A dozen government health monitoring systems such as AtlasPlus for stds have been eliminated while Secretary Kennedy is proposing monitoring autism on a grand scale with no privacy. The plan seems too crude for coherent studies but great for tracking and harassing people people with housing and employment discrimination or even more dystopian uses such as ICE appears poised for with tax data.

Please assure me that you will respect data privacy.

My pride in the US derives in part from our strong privacy laws.

Sincerely,
Eric Babson