



AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION  
Promoting the Practice and Profession of Statistics®

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January 5, 2023

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chair, Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and  
Related Agencies  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Murray,

Thank you for the strong support for the backbone of the US data infrastructure in FY23 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations. We are grateful for the FY23 levels for the Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Center for Education Statistics, and National Center for Health Statistics. We also appreciate the wise investments in the National Institutes of Health and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

The \$15 million in additional funding for NCES, including \$10 million for the statistics line, will be put to immediate use to help families, schools, and administrators make better decisions. We also again thank you the explanatory-statement language stating the committee's belief that "the Secretary, Commissioner and Director of IES should take swift action to support NCES as an independent Federal statistical agency..." We look forward to supporting this.

The BLS funding level would help the agency [improve its programs](#) monitoring and reporting our nation's workforce, work conditions, productivity, and inflation. The additional funding for NCHS will quickly be put to effective use to improve the timeliness, frequency, and granularity of health statistics, thereby helping our country better track and address issues in health and healthcare.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Wasserstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Ron Wasserstein  
Executive Director