

May 9, 2017

President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We write to you as strong supporters of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) to urge the swift appointment of a BLS commissioner with the necessary credentials. We believe such credentials should include strong management experience, economic and statistical skills, extensive engagement with the federal statistical agencies, familiarity with BLS and an understanding of its products and broader relevance, visibility in the statistical community, an ability to interact effectively with both Congress and senior Department of Labor staff, and a thorough understanding of the National Academies' Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency.

The BLS is the country's second largest federal statistical agency and a major producer of the nation's primary economic indicators. Countless businesses, communities, students, and government policy makers rely on the accuracy, objectivity, and timeliness of statistical information from the BLS. Among the critically important products that BLS provides are the:

- Jobs outlook, upon which employers, job seekers, and students base their training, participation, and other labor market decisions;
- Consumer Price Index, which tracks inflation and informs monetary policy;
- Employment and unemployment at the national, state and local levels, which serve as the most timely and accurate indicators of economic activity;
- Measures of productivity that gauge our nation's economic performance; and
- Monthly data on changes in the prices of imported and exported goods traded between the U.S. and the rest of the world, which help track trends in international competitiveness.

In addition to swift appointment of a talented and qualified BLS Commissioner, we urge appropriate funding levels for the Bureau. BLS has

been flat funded since FY2010, resulting in a 12% cut to its purchasing power due to inflation. We urge that you prioritize and work to ensure that BLS funding returns to levels sufficient to cover its varied and vital statistical programs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Advance CTE	Council of Professional Associations
American Association for Public Opinion Research	on Federal Statistics
American Statistical Association	Industry Studies Association
Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations	National Association for Business Economics
Association of Population Centers	National Association of Home Builders
Association of Public Data Users	National Association of State Workforce Agencies
Association of University Business and Economics Research	National Association of Workforce Boards
American Sociological Association	National League of Cities
Center for Data Innovation	National Skills Coalition
Consortium of Social Science Associations	Population Association of America
Council for Community and Economic Research	State International Development Organizations
	Workforce Data Quality Campaign

Cc: R. Alexander Acosta, Secretary of Labor
Gary Cohn, Director, National Economic Council
Mick Mulvaney, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Reince Priebus, Chief of Staff, The White House