



AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION
Promoting the Practice and Profession of Statistics®

732 North Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-1943
(703) 684-1221 ■ www.amstat.org ■ asainfo@amstat.org
f www.facebook.com/AmstatNews t www.twitter.com/AmstatNews

March 16, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair, Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Chair, Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member, Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education, and
Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Ranking Member, Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education, and
Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington DC, 20510

Dear Chair DeLauro, Chair Murray, Ranking Member Cole, and Ranking Member Blunt,

Thank you for your strong support for the US data infrastructure that undergirds our economy, workforce, health, and education in the enacted FY22 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations. Specifically, we are grateful for and commend the FY22 levels for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), and National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). We also appreciate the wise investments in the National Institutes of Health and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality that will serve well the country's health for years to come.

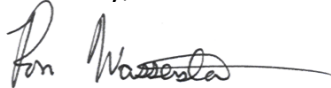
We are especially grateful for the provision to address the [NCES staffing crisis](#), which has impaired its nimbleness and caused it to cut and cut back programs. Your leadership will allow the agency to build in-house capacity and expertise and reduce its over-reliance on contractors,

which will help yield more timely, reliable, and relevant statistics. The additional funding for the agency will also help improve the timeliness and extent of its widely used programs.

The additional funding for NCHS will be put to immediate and effective use to improve health statistics broadly while also providing the agency [critical funds to maintain current programs](#), thereby helping our country better track, and therefore address issues in, health and healthcare. We also applaud the House language for NCHS to be fully integrated in the Data Modernization Initiative (DMI). As a critical part of the CDC's data infrastructure, NCHS would benefit immensely from DMI funds. Further, the CDC tapping NCHS' considerable expertise would also benefit DMI overall.

The BLS funding level will help the agency [improve its programs](#) monitoring and reporting our nation's workforce, work conditions, productivity, and inflation. For example, it will be able to better track the effect of such advances as the gig economy, AI, robotics, and automation on our economy and workforce.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Wasserstein", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ron Wasserstein
Executive Director

CC: Members of the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies