



American Statistical Association

732 North Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 USA
(703) 684-1221 • Fax: (703) 683-2307 • asainfo@amstat.org
www.amstat.org

November 10, 2009

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy, Chair
The Honorable Jeff Sessions, Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Sessions,

As president of the American Statistical Association with its 18,000 members, I write to support the nomination of Dr. James P. Lynch as director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and to urge his swift confirmation.

Having chaired the ASA's Committee on Law and Justice Statistics and served on numerous panels of the National Academies on crime statistics, Lynch is very familiar with BJS and the broader criminology issues. Indeed, he served on the National Academies panel that recently evaluated BJS programs in addition to publishing three books and scores of book chapters and refereeing papers on pertinent topics. With his experience in the private sector, where he managed the redesign of the National Crime Survey; in the academic community, where he was a department chair; and on the boards of the American Society of Criminology and numerous journals, Lynch has the skills, leadership ability, and stature to head this important statistical agency.

I strongly recommend that you confirm Lynch and hope you will do so promptly.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sally C. Morton".

Sally C. Morton, PhD