

May 1, 2017

The Honorable Jefferson B. Sessions
Attorney General of the United States
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Sessions,

We write to encourage you to expedite the appointment of a director for the Bureau of Justice Statistics. We urge giving serious consideration to individuals who have strong leadership, management, and scientific skills; experience with federal statistical agencies; familiarity with BJS and its products; visibility in the nation's statistical community; ability to interact productively with Congress and senior DOJ staff; and acceptance of the National Academies' *Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency*.

The National Academies' *Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency* represents years of accumulated wisdom and experience by its Committee on National Statistics (CNSTATS) observing, advising, and evaluating the federal statistical agencies. This document lays out the four principles required for an effective statistical program: (1) policy relevance; (2) credibility among data users; (3) trust among data providers; and (4) a strong position of independence. We believe you and your staff will benefit from the lessons learned that form the foundation of this document and its recommendations.

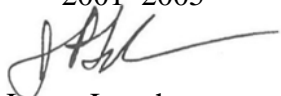
The Bureau of Justice Statistics plays an increasingly vital role in the Department of Justice, supporting evidence-based, data-driven policy making. We believe a director with the above qualities who is guided by *Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency* will further strengthen that role and distinguish your tenure. If you would find it helpful, we would be happy to suggest names for you to consider for this important position.

Thank you for your consideration.

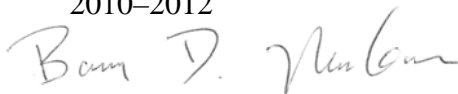
Sincerely,



Lawrence Greenfeld
Director, Bureau of Justice Statistics,
2001–2005



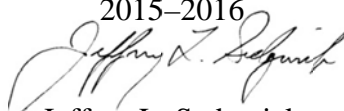
James Lynch
Director, Bureau of Justice Statistics,
2010–2012



Barry D. Nussbaum
President, American Statistical
Association



William Sabol
Director, Bureau of Justice Statistics,
2015–2016



Jeffrey L. Sedgwick
Director, Bureau of Justice Statistics,
2006–2008

Cc: Alan Hanson, Acting Assistant Attorney General, Deputy Assistant Attorney
General, Office of Justice Programs

Members of the House and Senate judiciary committees