



AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION  
Promoting the Practice and Profession of Statistics®

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December 20, 2019

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Chair, Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education, and Related Agencies  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member, Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, Education, and  
Related Agencies  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Blunt and Ranking Member Murray,

Thank you for your strong support for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in the enacted FY20 package that includes Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies. The increase of \$13 million along with the funding for relocation will help BLS better track dramatic changes in our labor force including those due to robotics, AI, and the digital economy. We also greatly appreciate the \$50 million for the Public Health Data Surveillance and IT Systems Modernization that will help the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) better track public health trends. Thank you also for the support for the National Institutes of Health and the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).

BLS, NCES, and NCHS—three of the 13 primary federal statistical agencies—are critical components of our data infrastructure. Their data help our economy, workforce, and families thrive. The enacted levels help address critical challenges the agencies face due to their nearly 15 percent loss of purchasing power since FY10. This in turn will help our current and future employees, their families, and employers meet the challenges and opportunities for the coming decades.

Sincerely,

Ron Wasserstein  
Executive Director