

The Honorable Roy Blunt, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services and Education
Washington, DC 2051

The Honorable Patty Murray, Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services and Education
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole, Chair
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services and Education
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services and Education
Washington, DC 20515

April 12, 2018

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

As chair and co-chair of the Friends of BLS, and the undersigned Friends of BLS, we write to thank you for your support for the Bureau of Labor Statistics in the FY18 omnibus funding bill. As you know, BLS provides enormous value to the U.S. economy, for small businesses and large businesses alike, and for policymakers. No other agency provides the labor market, workforce and consumer price data upon which we, our members, and so many more rely.

We appreciate your recognition of the importance of BLS by providing the agency with some additional funding, over both the FY 2017 enacted level and the administration's request. As we are sure you're aware, BLS faces many challenges as it continues to produce high quality labor and economic data, including the need to invest in staff development, improve information technology, and modernize its data collection efforts. Even a small cut in funding would have hurt the agency's ability to carry out its mission. With the funding for FY 2018, BLS will be able to maintain current programs and surveys for one more year.

We look forward to working with you again on FY 2019. Thank you for supporting this crucial agency and its role in evidence-based policy making.

With sincere gratitude,

Erica Groshen
Chair

John Thompson
Co-Chair

Organizations

APB Associates
American Psychological Association
American Sociological Association
American Statistical Association
Association of Population Centers
Association of Public Data Users

California Center for Population Research at UCLA
Council for Community and Economic Research
Council of Professional Associations for Federal Statistics
Haver Analytics
Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research
National Association for Business Economics
National Association of Home Builders
Population Association of America
Workforce Data Quality Campaign

Personal

Maurine Haver, Haver Analytics
Raymond Stone, Rutgers University
Kelly Musick, Director of the Cornell Population Center