



Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics

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Dear Mr. Secretary,

I write to you on behalf of the federal statistics-dependent members of the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS) to urge actions that either reappoint Dr. Erica Groshen as Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) or otherwise maintain her leadership of BLS well into 2017.

Dr. Groshen has been doing a magnificent job maintaining the accuracy, timeliness, accessibility and integrity of BLS statistics, even as budget stagnation has made it necessary to do this with decreased purchasing power. The thought of starting out a new Administration with uncertain BLS leadership makes many of us who rely on accurate and timely employment, wage, consumer price, and other statistics reliably produced by the BLS very nervous, indeed.

As you know, Dr. Groshen's term expires January 29, 2017. Because its expiration occurs 9 days after the end of the Obama Administration, I am unsure whether you can propose her reappointment at this time, though that would be the ideal situation for assuring continued high performance of the agency through what could be a lengthy transition period.

If her reappointment is not permissible before January 29, 2017, I hope you will consider other administrative actions that can keep her in place until she or someone else is nominated. Could she relinquish her appointment before January 20, 2017, and be appointed by your office as Acting Commissioner of BLS until nominations by the new Administration are successfully realized?

Thank you for your consideration of this concern and your innovation in preventing an unfortunate gap in BLS leadership.

Most sincerely,

Katherine Smith Evans
Executive Director

cc: Heather Boushey, Washington Center for Equitable Growth
Christopher P. Lu, Deputy Secretary, Department of Labor
Heidi Shierholz, Chief Economist to U.S. Secretary of Labor
Katherine Wallman, Chief Statistician, Office of Management and Budget