

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 18, 2016

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education, and
Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, District of Columbia 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education, and
Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, District of Columbia 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

We write to urge you to fully fund the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in the Department of Labor (DOL) at \$640.9 million for FY 2017, the level set out in the President's FY 2017 budget.

As New Democrats, we are committed to growing our economy by investing in innovative technologies, facilitating entrepreneurship, and building a competitive 21st century workforce. To best do so, we need the most recent, most accurate data possible to understand the rapidly changing nature of our economy, especially with respect to the on-demand economy. Despite the immense economic upheaval in the past decade, we still lack adequate data from BLS on the state of many parts of our economy.

Unlike many other agencies, BLS faces a unique problem when it receives lower levels of funding. To accurately conduct workforce surveys and measure trends in our economy, BLS cannot afford to cut corners or operate without critical staff. Because of this reality, without a full budget, BLS may have no choice but to cut entire surveys to preserve accuracy in others. Forcing BLS to choose between multiple studies of important economic indicators undermines productivity in a 21st century workforce and prevents our economy from growing as efficiently as it otherwise could.

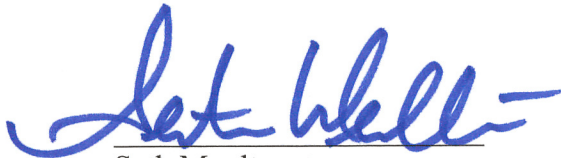
Specifically, we believe this level of funding is vital to continue the Contingent Worker and Alternative Work Arrangement Supplement (CWS) to the Current Population Survey (CPS), which will be conducted in the next year for the first time in a decade. The CWS captures the frequently changing nature of those employed in contingent and on-demand jobs. With the significant increase in mobile users and the rise of technology as a means of conducting business, the CWS has become increasingly important to understanding the shape of our economy. In particular, we believe a robustly-funded CWS will be a key component of fully grasping the power of innovation in this sector of our economy.

In addition to the CWS, BLS conducts important surveys that gather information on multiple economic metrics, such as the unemployment rate and workplace productivity. In the coming fiscal year, funding BLS at the President's request would help advance priorities such as a Survey of Employer-Provided Training, which would help measure how employers provide on-the-job skills training, and a Supplemental Statistical Poverty Measure, which would

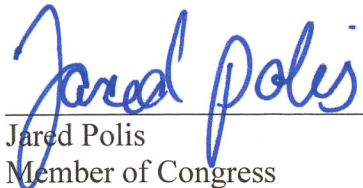
complement the standard measure of poverty the Census Bureau has used for the past several decades.

Again, we urge you to fully fund BLS in FY 2017 to ensure we understand the continually changing dynamics of our modern workforce. Thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



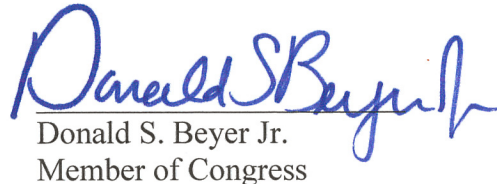
Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



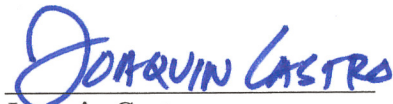
Jared Polis
Member of Congress



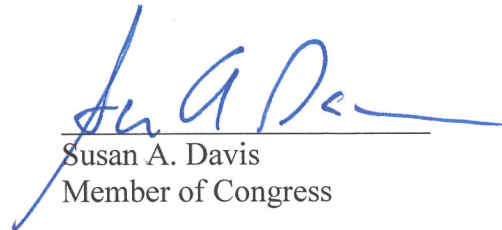
Ami Bera
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



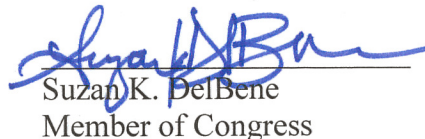
Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Susan A. Davis
Member of Congress



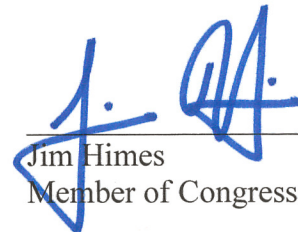
John Delaney
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



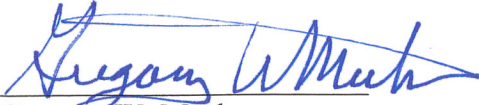
Jim Himes
Member of Congress



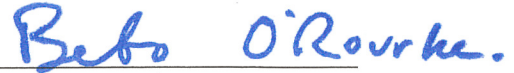
Ron Kind
Member of Congress



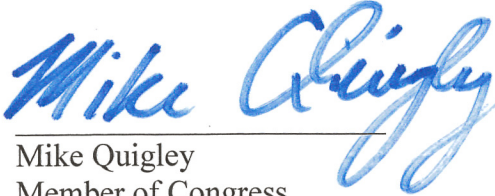
Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



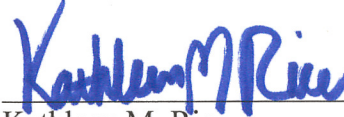
Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



Beto O'Rourke
Member of Congress



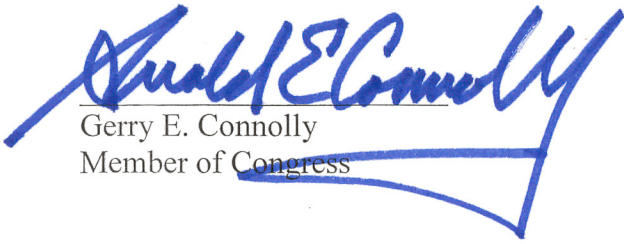
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress



Terri Sewell
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Gerald E. Connolly". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "G" and a long, horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Gerry E. Connolly
Member of Congress