



AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION  
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August 23, 2022

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chair, Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education, and Related Agencies  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor,  
Health and Human Services,  
Education, and Related Agencies  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Murray and Ranking Member Blunt,

Thank you for the strong support for the backbone of the US data infrastructure in the FY23 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations. We are grateful for the FY23 levels for the Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Center for Education Statistics, and National Center for Health Statistics, and urge at least these levels be enacted. We also appreciate the wise investments in the National Institutes of Health and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

The BLS funding level would help the agency [improve its programs](#) monitoring and reporting our nation’s workforce, work conditions, productivity, and inflation. The \$10 million in additional funding for the statistics line of NCES could be put to immediate use to help families, schools, and administrators make better decisions and help reverse a 14% cut in purchasing power over the last decade. We also applaud the explanatory-statement language stating the committee’s belief that “the Secretary, Commissioner and Director of IES should take swift action to support NCES as an independent Federal statistical agency...”

The additional funding for NCHS could be put to immediate and effective use to improve the timeliness, frequency, and granularity of health statistics, thereby helping our country better track and address issues in health and healthcare.

Sincerely,

Ron Wasserstein  
Executive Director