

January 29, 2018

We are writing to express our support for the United States federal statistical system and the work it performs to provide data that are critically important to the functions of our economy, society, and democracy. The U.S. economy is more dependent upon data than ever before, particularly as we prepare for the 2020 Census and Congress evaluates the benefits of evidence-based policymaking legislation.

Members of the statistical community, both within and outside the government, have worked for many years to improve public appreciation of the importance, reliability, and trustworthiness of federal data. Because agencies are limited in their ability to defend against attacks to the system, others must elevate public discourse about the integrity of government data and the value of the federal system. Especially in the current political environment, this defense is greatly needed.

In the coming days, the American Statistical Association (ASA) will launch an education campaign to engage journalists, business organizations, legislative and policy contacts, and others about the importance of the federal statistical system. The newly-created [Count on Stats](#) initiative will consistently reaffirm the value of the federal agencies that comprise the system and of the work they do.

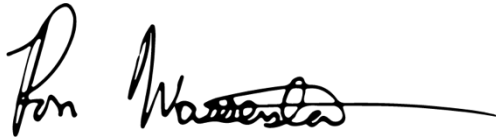
ASA is in a unique position to provide a strong, independent, and non-partisan voice in support of the system. Such independence also ensures that no attack on agencies or their work goes unanswered. Among the organizations partnering with ASA in this effort are:

- American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR)
- American Educational Research Association (AERA)
- Association of Public Data Users (APDU)
- American Sociological Association (ASA)
- Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC)
- Council of Professional Associations of Federal Statistics (COPAFS)
- National Association for Business Economics (NABE)

The group will announce the **Count on Stats** campaign on January 30th. We feel it is important for you to be aware of this in advance of the public announcement.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss the challenges and opportunities to foster renewed trust in the federal statistical system. If you have questions, please contact Ron Wasserstein, ASA's Executive Director, at ron@amstat.org, or Steve Pierson, ASA's Director of Science Policy, at spierson@amstat.org. More information can be found at countonstats.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Wasserstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

Ronald L. Wasserstein

Executive Director

American Statistical Association

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