



AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION

Promoting the Practice and Profession of Statistics®

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November 28, 2017

The Honorable Jefferson B. Sessions  
Attorney General of the United States  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Attorney General,

The American Statistical Association welcomes the White House announcement of President Trump's intent to nominate Jeffrey Anderson as director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). While we will support any director of this important agency, we are concerned that Mr. Anderson may not have the crucial skills we outlined in a May 1 letter to you from four previous BJS directors and me. In that letter, we urged the appointment of a director with "strong leadership, management, and scientific skills; experience with federal statistical agencies; familiarity with BJS and its products; visibility in the nation's statistical community; ability to interact productively with Congress and senior DOJ staff; and acceptance of the National Academies' *Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency*."

As one of the thirteen primary federal statistical agencies, the BJS is vital to the Department of Justice and the country because of its mission to "collect, process, analyze, and disseminate accurate and timely information on crime and the administration of justice and to assist States and localities to improve criminal justice record-keeping." BJS data provide a strong foundation for DOJ policy development and program administration; at the same time, they contribute significantly to the safety of our country and its people.

We look forward to learning more about Mr. Anderson and how his qualifications reflect those urged in our earlier letter. And of course if Mr. Anderson is appointed to this critical position, we stand ready to welcome him to the federal statistical community and be a resource to him as he leads the BJS.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Barry D. Nussbaum

President, American Statistical Association

Cc: Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee