

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 21, 2026

The Honorable Jerry Moran  
Chair  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, Education, and Related  
Agencies  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, Education, and Related  
Agencies  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Moran, Vice Chair Van Hollen, Chair Capito, and Ranking Member Baldwin:

Artificial intelligence (AI) has the potential to rapidly reshape the U.S. labor market, changing job tasks, hiring patterns, and in-demand skills across industries. While private-sector and academic research point to meaningful shifts already underway, federal data systems are not currently equipped to capture these changes in real time or at the level of detail needed to fully understand how AI is reshaping the workforce. As you prepare the Fiscal Year 2027 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies and Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bills, we respectfully request \$10 million to expand the Current Population Survey (CPS) sample, \$20 million for CPS modernization, \$8 million to support enhanced AI data collection through the Census Bureau's Business Trends and Outlook Survey (BTOS), and accompanying report language to bring these surveys up to speed.

Limitations in federal data collection are especially concerning for younger and early-career workers. Research shows that AI is beginning to substitute for certain routine and entry-level tasks while complementing more experienced workers.<sup>1</sup> At the same time, recent Federal Reserve analysis finds declining employment shares and job-finding rates for younger workers in AI-exposed occupations, suggesting growing challenges for new entrants into the labor market.<sup>2</sup> Together, these trends underscore the need for more precise and timely data to understand how

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<sup>1</sup> David Autor et al., "New Frontiers: The Origins and Content of New Work, 1940–2018," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* (2022), <https://www.nber.org/papers/w30389> Erik Brynjolfsson et al., "Generative AI at Work," National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper (2023), <https://www.nber.org/papers/w31161>.

<sup>2</sup> Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, "AI Exposure and Labor Market Outcomes for Younger Workers" (2026). <https://www.dallasfed.org/research/economics/2026/0106>.

technological change is affecting job entry, career pathways, and long-term workforce participation so education partners, workforce development systems, and job seekers can appropriately plan for the future.

The Current Population Survey (CPS), conducted jointly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Census Bureau, remains the federal government's primary and most timely tool for measuring labor force dynamics and serves as a cornerstone of the monthly jobs report.<sup>3</sup> However, its current sample size limits the ability to produce reliable estimates across detailed occupations and demographic groups, particularly for younger workers and emerging trends tied to AI.

To address these limitations, we urge the Committee to include the following bill language:

*“For an additional amount for the Bureau of Labor Statistics, for the Current Population Survey, \$10,000,000 shall be available to increase the CPS sample size by not fewer than 10,000 households, in coordination with the Census Bureau, to improve the reliability of labor force estimates across occupations and demographic groups, including younger workers.”*

Expanding the CPS sample size will strengthen BLS and Census' ability to produce more reliable, detailed data across occupations and improve our understanding of how AI is affecting workers at different stages of their careers.

At the same time, modernization of the CPS is necessary to ensure that the survey can effectively capture a changing workforce. As currently structured, CPS data collection relies heavily on interviewer-administered methods, including in-person interviews and telephone follow-up, which can limit accessibility and contribute to lower response rates, particularly among younger populations.<sup>4</sup> Enabling secure internet response options and updating survey methodology would improve participation across the board while strengthening the timeliness and quality of federal labor market data.

We therefore urge the Committee to include the following bill language:

*“For an additional amount for the Bureau of Labor Statistics, \$20,000,000 shall be available for the modernization of the Current Population Survey, including the development and implementation of secure internet response options and the necessary survey design, testing, and methodological updates required to support such capabilities,*

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<sup>3</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics, “Current Population Survey: Data Sources.” <https://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cps/data.htm>.

<sup>4</sup> American Economic Association, Committee on Economic Statistics, “CPS Modernization Plan to Address Declining Response Rates: Questions and Comments.” <https://www.aeaweb.org/forum/4198/modernization-address-declining-response-questions-comments#:~:text=CPS%20is%20making%20this%20update,to%20the%20survey%20in%202027>.

*in coordination with the Census Bureau, in order to improve response rates and data quality across populations.”*

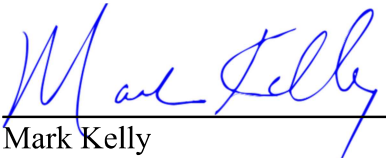
In addition, the Census Bureau’s Business Trends and Outlook Survey (BTOS) provides a valuable, near real-time view of how businesses are adopting and deploying AI. The Census Bureau fielded an AI-focused supplemental to BTOS in March 2024, demonstrating the usefulness of these targeted data collections.<sup>5</sup> Data from a second AI supplement will be released in the coming weeks. More frequent AI-focused supplements would help policymakers better track AI adoption, workforce impacts, and emerging economic trends.

We therefore encourage the Committee to include the following bill language:

*“For an additional amount for the Census Bureau, \$8 million shall be available to support the development and administration of recurring artificial intelligence supplemental questions within the Business Trends and Outlook Survey (BTOS), to improve the timeliness and frequency of data on AI adoption, workforce impacts, and related business trends.”*

These targeted investments will strengthen the federal government’s ability to measure and respond to the evolving impacts of AI on the American workforce and ensure that policymakers, industry, and researchers have access to reliable, timely data as these changes continue.

Sincerely,



Mark Kelly  
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator

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<sup>5</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, “Census Bureau Releases Business Trends and Outlook Survey Data With Artificial Intelligence Supplement,” March 28, 2024. <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2024/business-trends-outlook-survey-artificial-intelligence-supplement.html>.

**Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Group Letter Table**  
**LHHS\_Kelly\_Group\_260421-030945[LetterID 26447]**

ID	Sub	Request Agency or Account	Request Project Name	Request (\$000)
232570	LHHS Group	[Title I]/[DOL]/[Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)]/[Labor Market Information] <b>[Member Staff]</b> - Sydney Hess sydney_hess@kelly.senate.gov 202-224-4571	Current Population Survey (CPS) Sample Size Increase	\$10,000
232579	LHHS Group	[Title I]/[DOL]/[Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)]/[Labor Market Information] <b>[Member Staff]</b> - Sydney Hess sydney_hess@kelly.senate.gov 202-224-4571	Current Population Survey (CPS) Modernization	\$20,000