

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 25, 2005

Commissioner Kathleen P. Utgoff  
Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Postal Square Building  
2 Massachusetts Ave., NE  
Washington, DC 20212-0001

Dear Commissioner Utgoff:

**We are writing to express our concern about the Bureau of Labor Statistics' recently announced decision to discontinue data collection on women workers in the Current Employment Statistics (CES) survey after July 2005.**

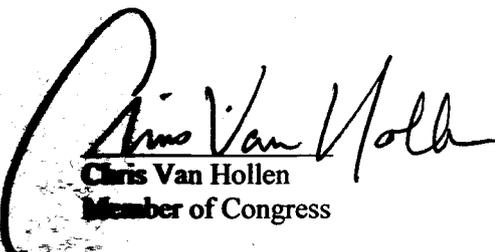
As you know, the CES survey of payroll records covers over 300,000 businesses and provides detailed industry data on employment, hours, and earnings of non-farm workers on a monthly basis. As such, it represents a critical, ongoing source of employment information for policymakers and researchers. With a gender breakdown, the payroll survey is capable of painting a reliable picture of where women are working across industries and business cycles. Without a gender breakdown, that picture becomes far more difficult to obtain.

In that regard, we do not believe the Current Population Survey (CPS) is an adequate substitute for the CES in this area. While the CPS is valuable for other types of information, its smaller sampling size produces a greater margin for error than the CES survey, as the Bureau itself has noted. Moreover, the CPS' reliance on household interviews introduces the possibility of subjective reporting bias that does not exist with the payroll survey.

While we appreciate the Bureau's interest in continuously evaluating and improving the data it collects, as well as reducing respondent burden, we believe the compilation of women worker data in the CES survey represents a critical component of the Bureau's work. Therefore, we respectfully request that you reconsider this decision and continue publishing women worker information in the CES after July 2005.

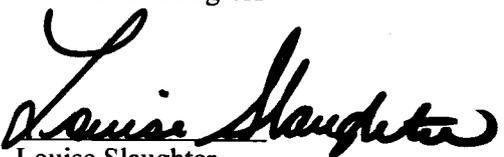
Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

  
Chris Van Hollen  
Member of Congress

  
Shelley Moore Capito  
Member of Congress

  
Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress

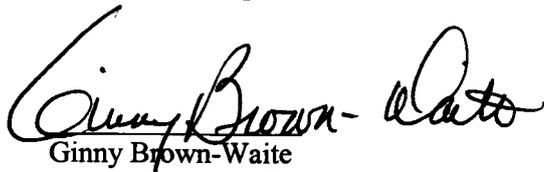
  
Louise Slaughter  
Member of Congress



Nancy Pelosi  
Member of Congress



Heena Ros-Lehtinen  
Member of Congress



Ginny Brown-Waite  
Member of Congress



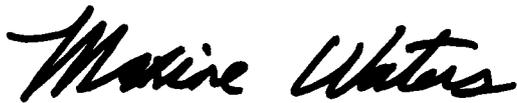
John Dingell  
Member of Congress



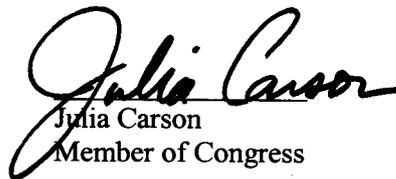
George Miller  
Member of Congress



Steve Israel  
Member of Congress



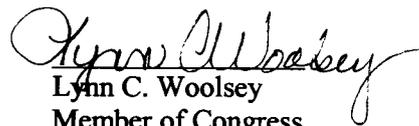
Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress



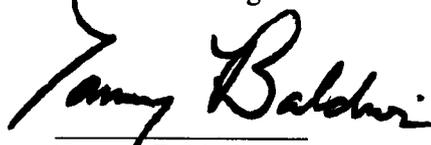
Julia Carson  
Member of Congress



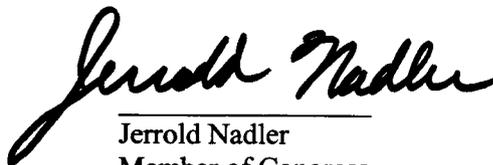
Carolyn McCarthy  
Member of Congress



Lynn C. Woolsey  
Member of Congress



Tammy Baldwin  
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



Anthony D. Weiner  
Member of Congress



Dale E. Kildee  
Member of Congress



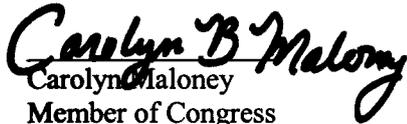
Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



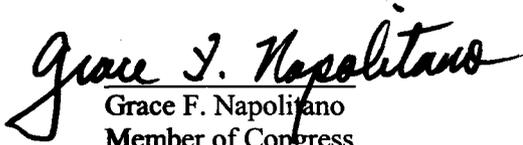
Neil Abercrombie  
Member of Congress



Pete Stark  
Member of Congress



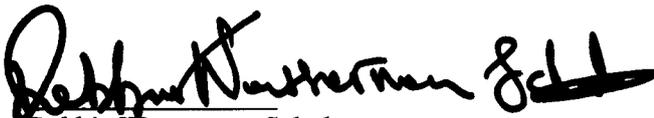
Carolyn Maloney  
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress



Hilda L. Solis  
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



Ellen O. Tauscher  
Member of Congress



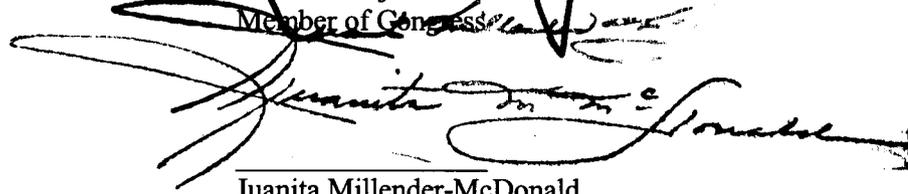
Michael H. Michaud  
Member of Congress



Steven R. Rothman  
Member of Congress



Raul M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



Juanita Millender-McDonald  
Member of Congress



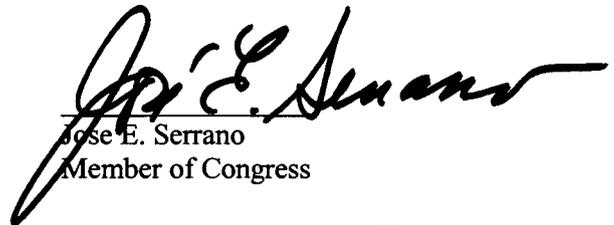
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



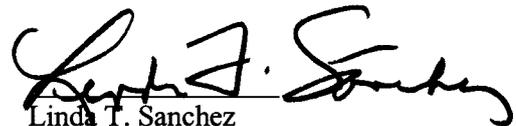
Loretta Sanchez  
Member of Congress



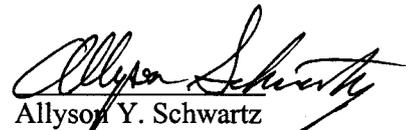
Diane E. Watson  
Member of Congress



Jose E. Serrano  
Member of Congress

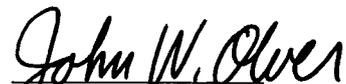


Linda T. Sanchez  
Member of Congress

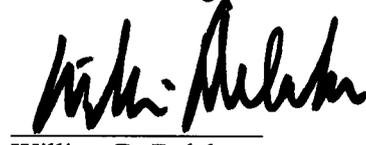


Allyson Y. Schwartz  
Member of Congress

  
Martin T. Mehan  
Member of Congress

  
John W. Olver  
Member of Congress

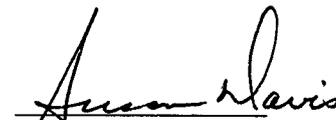
  
Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress

  
William D. Delahunt  
Member of Congress

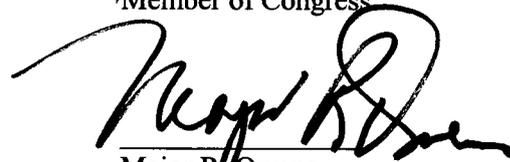
  
Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress

  
Danny D. Davis  
Member of Congress

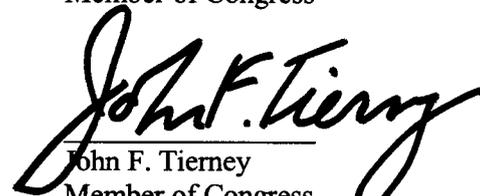
  
Ben Chandler  
Member of Congress

  
Susan Davis  
Member of Congress

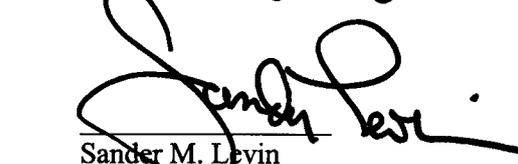
  
Janice D. Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

  
Major R. Owens  
Member of Congress

  
Timothy H. Bishop  
Member of Congress

  
John F. Tierney  
Member of Congress

  
Robert E. Andrews  
Member of Congress

  
Sander M. Levin  
Member of Congress

  
Dennis J. Kucinich  
Member of Congress

  
Ron Kind  
Member of Congress



Rush D. Holt  
Member of Congress



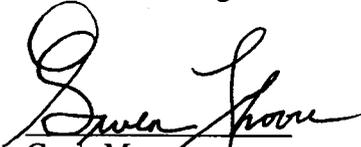
Sam Farr  
Member of Congress



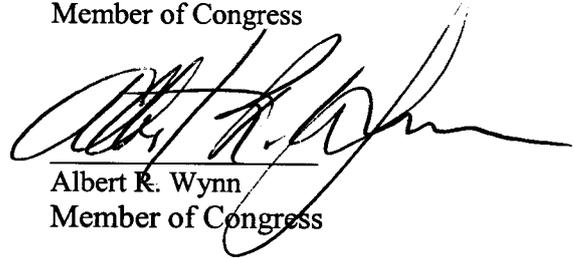
Barney Frank  
Member of Congress



Ruben Hinojosa  
Member of Congress



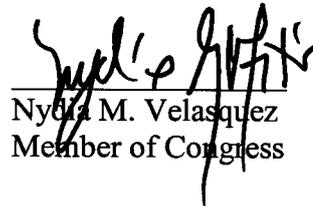
Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress



Albert R. Wynn  
Member of Congress



Brian Baird  
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velasquez  
Member of Congress



Judy Biggert  
Member of Congress



Lois Capps  
Member of Congress