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U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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August 6, 2025

The Honorable Tim Walberg  
Chair  
Committee on Education and Workforce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Walberg:

We write to request that you schedule a hearing to examine the firing of Commissioner Erika McEntarfer, which comes without evidence of any misconduct after the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported that the economy showed poor job growth for three consecutive months. Given the abrupt termination, Committee Members deserve the opportunity to understand why the termination took place and examine whether this abrupt firing will impact operations.

BLS has always served as a nonpartisan, data-driven federal agency that provides key information vital to the United States economy. BLS has delivered bad news, as well as good news, across Presidents and Congresses. Nobel-prize winning economist, George Akerlof, commented on BLS in an op-ed responding to the Commissioner's firing, "Their job is to report what is, not what the White House wishes were true."<sup>1</sup> These crucial insights support both public and private decision making. No comparable comprehensive resource exists in the private or public sphere.

Every month, with the release of new initial data, two months of prior data are revised to account for additional survey responses and other information. In addition, on an annual basis, benchmarking allows for a lookback to ensure the data are reflective of the economy over time.<sup>2</sup> The process of regularly revising data improves the quality of data. Republicans questioning the integrity of the most recent revisions cheered when BLS announced on August 21, 2024 that as many as 818,000 *fewer* jobs were created under former President Biden than previously

<sup>1</sup> George A. Akerlof, *What to Do When the President Acts Like a 5-Year-Old?*, N.Y. Times (Aug. 3, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/08/03/opinion/trump-bls-fired-labor-jobs-data.html>.

<sup>2</sup> *Benchmarking*, Bureau of Labor Statistics, <https://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/topic/benchmarking.htm> (last visited Aug. 5, 2025).

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estimated.<sup>3</sup> For investors, businesses, researchers, and policymakers, it is the quality of these data that matters most in the long-term, and regular revisions by authoritative and independent statisticians ensure that BLS's releases are genuinely reflective of economic realities.

While the President is within his rights to fire the BLS Commissioner, the timing—mere hours after a disappointing report on job creation during the President's term which included downward revisions—is alarming. The President publicly asserted, "In my opinion, today's Jobs Numbers were RIGGED in order to make the Republicans, and ME, look bad."<sup>4</sup> This statement is only one of many the President has made that seeks to undermine the public's confidence in BLS's objectivity, and this explicitly retaliatory action suggests the President is unconcerned with ensuring the economic realities facing families are accurately reflected in the numbers. The President's assertions about the strong state of the economy will never convince Main Street that their communities are thriving when that is not the case. BLS's mission is to reflect the genuine realities faced by workers and business owners.

The American public and policymakers alike have an interest in ensuring we are not flying blind when it comes to the economic challenges facing America's families. BLS has long provided relevant and timely data, and we must ensure neither political influence nor a lack of resources disrupts the quality of these important data releases. We ask that you schedule a hearing this month so that Committee Members can discuss the facts surrounding Commissioner McEntarfer's dismissal and the importance of maintaining BLS's independence from political interference.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



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**ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT**  
Ranking Member



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**MARK DeSAULNIER**  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and  
Pensions

cc: The Honorable Rick Allen, Chair, Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor,  
and Pensions

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<sup>3</sup> *CES Preliminary Benchmark Announcement*, Bureau of Labor Statistics, <https://www.bls.gov/web/empsit/cesprelbmk.htm> (last visited Aug. 5, 2025).

<sup>4</sup> Truth Social, <https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/114955222046259464> (last accessed Aug. 5, 2025).