

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 13, 2025

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue,
N.W. Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump,

We are writing to express deep concern about your politically motivated and rash decision to fire Erika McEntarfer, the commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Your decision comes without evidence of any misconduct and should send a chill down the spine of every American. It calls into question the integrity of government statistics and will have detrimental consequences for our country's economy. It is a clear attempt to hide the reality of your failed policies from the American people.

The BLS has worked for decades to create and improve procedures that allow it to understand over 250 million Americans in the economy, many of whom are moving in and out of the labor force, changing jobs, and changing homes. BLS is committed to doing the best it can given the resources it has available.

The key to their work is to make the data collection process as transparent as possible. This means setting up procedures that external people can use to evaluate their claims.¹ They actively solicit input from those who have suggestions for improving their procedures. In fact, until March, when the Department of Government Efficiency eliminated them, BLS had two volunteer advisory committees, one for business and one for labor, that were explicitly established to provide suggestions for improving the Bureau's methods.

Once the methods are set in place, there really is no room for Dr. McEntarfer or anyone else to arbitrarily make a particular piece, like the monthly jobs numbers, higher or lower. The data are available for anyone who cares to examine them. There are thousands of researchers around the country and the world who would quickly uncover any tampering by someone at the BLS.²

For these reasons, BLS statistics have been considered a gold standard. Your politically motivated actions mean people in business and finance across the country and around the world may no longer rely on U.S. government data as an unquestioned source about the state of the economy. Businesses rely on government data to make decisions about hiring, wage setting and investment. If businesses can no longer trust this data, then this can harm the creation of jobs and reduce investment in America.

You used erroneous arguments to smear Dr. McEntarfer and the BLS. Your complaint about Dr. McEntarfer releasing jobs data that were revised down after the election is wrong. The revision to which you referred was made on August 21, 2024, more than two months before the election.³ The revision was widely discussed and noted in many news articles discussing the state of the economy.⁴

¹ "Handbook of Methods," U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, <https://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/home.htm>.

² "Bad sign": Purge of data experts raises alarms over economic reports," *Politico*, March 21, 2025, <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/03/21/labor-commerce-department-economy-data-doge-00241559>.

³ "2024 Preliminary Benchmark Revision to Establishment Survey Data to be released on August 21, 2024," U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, July 5, 2024, <https://www.bls.gov/ces/notices/2024/2024-preliminary-benchmark-revision-release-date.htm>.

⁴ "U.S. Added 818,000 Fewer Jobs Than Reported Earlier," *New York Times*, August 21, 2024, <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/08/21/business/economy/us-jobs-economy.html>.

Moreover, the July jobs numbers, which were the immediate target of your anger, are in fact very much in line with both other government data and also reports from the private sector. For example, the payroll taxes collected by the Internal Revenue Service, rose just 0.4 percent over the two months from April to June. The average weekly wage rose by 0.37 percent over this period, slightly less than inflation. This implies a slowdown in job growth. In terms of private sources, the payroll service ADP actually projected a loss of 33,000 jobs in June.⁵ Many other surveys gave similar pictures of a weak labor market. In short, there is solid evidence that the labor market has been quite weak in the spring and summer.

It is clear you have decided to fire Dr. McEntarfer in an attempt to keep the real, harmful impact of your policies from the American people. The weakened state of our labor market is due to your administration's own policies, including an erratic and self-interested trade war and devastating spending cuts.

As early as March, ahead of your initial round of “liberation day” tariffs, one in four U.S. businesses reported scaling back their hiring plans because of the turmoil unleashed by your trade war.⁶ As Scott Anderson, chief U.S. economist at BMO Capital Markets said, “Cracks in the façade of labor market resilience are now starting to show and the longer the tariff uncertainty and government spending cuts continue, the worse the labor market reports are bound to be.”⁷ These warning signs have not stopped your administration’s trade war. You just issued an executive order placing new additional steep tariffs on nearly 70 countries, including trading partners.⁸ Nor have they stopped your administration from doubling down on massive spending cuts through the passage of the “One Big Beautiful Bill”⁹ and a harmful and unprecedented bill to rescind previously authorized federal spending.¹⁰

These brutal jobs reports should serve as a wake-up call to your administration. Your policies are harming Americans. You must immediately reverse course on these policies, hire back Dr. McEntarfer, and apologize for absurdly impugning her integrity for your political gain.

Sincerely,



 Greg Casar
 Member of Congress

⁵ “ADP National Employment Report: Private Sector Employment Shed 33,000 Jobs in June; Annual Pay was Up 4.4%,” ADP Media Center, July 2, 2025, <https://mediacenter.adp.com/2025-07-02-ADP-National-Employment-Report-Private-Sector-Employment-Shed-33,000-Jobs-in-June-Annual-Pay-was-Up-4-4>.

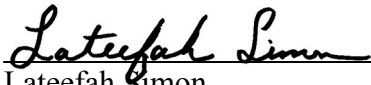
⁶ “Trump’s tariff threats are hurting your job prospects,” CNN, March 26, 2025, <https://www.cnn.com/2025/03/26/economy/trump-tariffs-trade-war-jobs-economy>.

⁷ “U.S. job growth slows as tariff uncertainty leaves businesses in limbo,” Reuters, June 6, 2025, <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-job-growth-slows-may-unemployment-rate-steady-42-2025-06-06/>.

⁸ “Trump issues order imposing new global tariff rates effective Aug. 7,” Politico, July 31, 2025, <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/07/31/trump-executive-order-higher-tariff-rates-00487913>.

⁹ “What’s in the tax and spending bill that Trump has signed into law,” Associated Press, July 4, 2025, <https://apnews.com/article/what-is-republican-trump-tax-bill-f65be44e1050431a601320197322551b>.

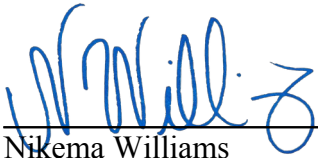
¹⁰ “House passes Trump's request to rescind foreign aid, public media funding after Epstein fallout delays vote,” CBS News, July 18, 2025, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/house-rescissions-foreign-aid-public-media/>.



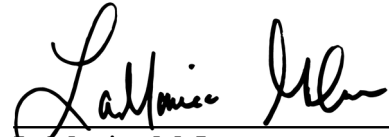
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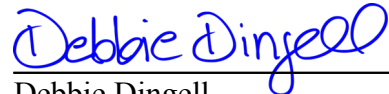
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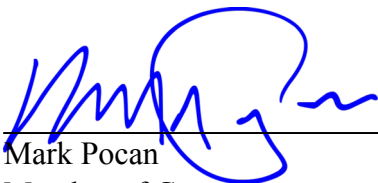
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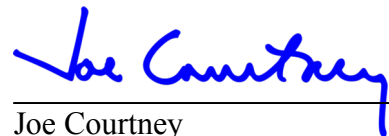
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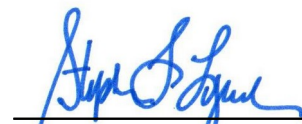
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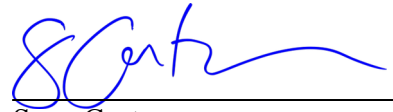
Cleo Fields
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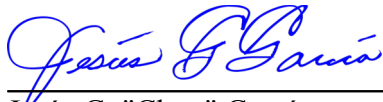
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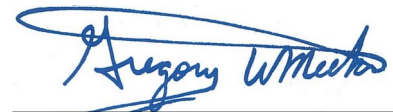
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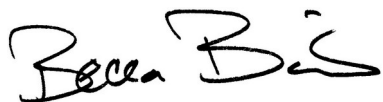
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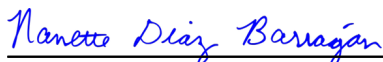
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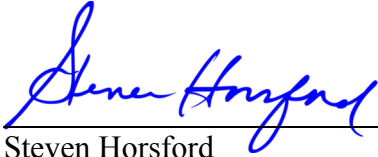
Madeleine Dean
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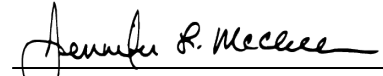
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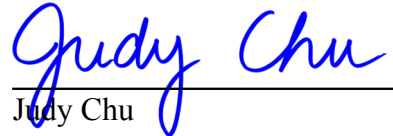
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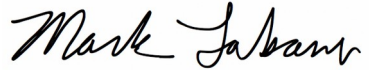


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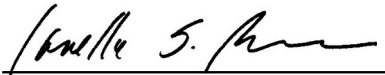


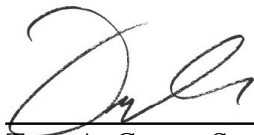
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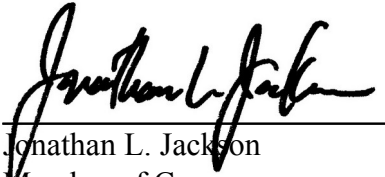

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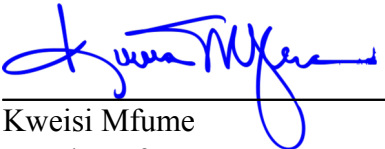

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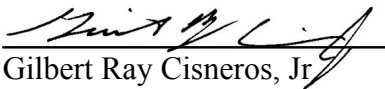

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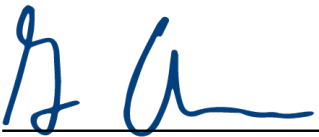

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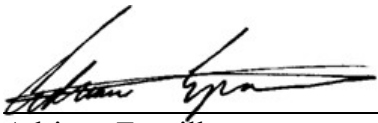

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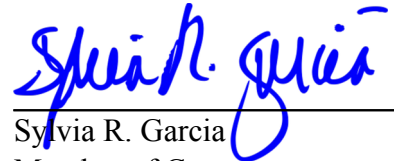
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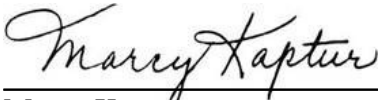
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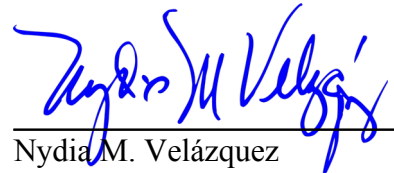
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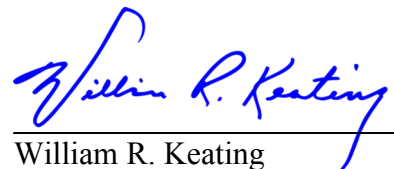
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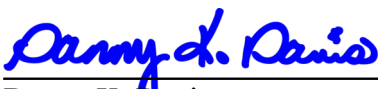
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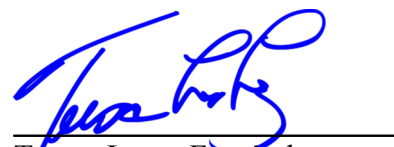
Ritchie Torres
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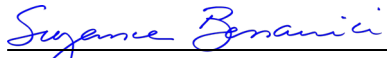
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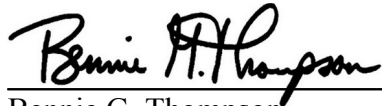
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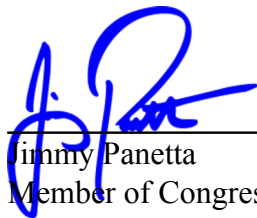
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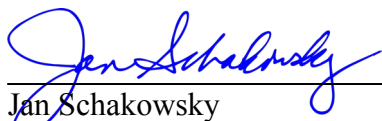
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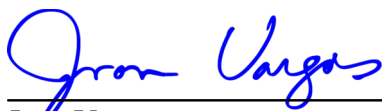
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Kelly Morrison
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Juan Vargas
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Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ES' or 'Emilia', positioned above a horizontal line.

Emilia Strong Sykes
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, clearly legible as 'Julie Johnson', positioned above a horizontal line.

Julie Johnson
Member of Congress

CC: Secretary Lori Chavez-DeRemer