

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 18, 2025

The Honorable Lori Chavez-DeRemer
Secretary of Labor
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20210

Loretta Greene
Acting Director, Women's Bureau
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Chavez-DeRemer and Acting Director Greene,

As Members of the Congressional Caucus on Black Women and Girls (CCBWG), we write to express our deep concern over the alarming rise in unemployment among Black women since the start of the Trump Administration and the subsequent weakening of the federal systems built to protect them that has followed in its wake.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Black women have experienced the most significant percentage-point increase in unemployment of any demographic group for which monthly data is reported since January 2025. In April alone, 106,000 Black women lost jobs, contributing to their unemployment rising from 5.1 to 6.1 percent, even as the national rate remained stable over the same time frame. Since then, reports estimate that more than 300,000 Black have been pushed out of public service in less than a year.¹

These numbers represent more than statistics — they reflect a crisis of economic displacement for thousands of Black women leaders — including CEOs, executives, professionals, and heads of households. Yet even as these losses mount, the federal government's capacity to fully understand and address them is shrinking.

The BLS, a cornerstone for reliable data on employment trends, has faced sustained budget and political attacks that risk undermining its ability to provide accurate, disaggregated information on race and gender.² Without dependable data, policymakers cannot see or respond to the full scale of the challenges facing Black women workers.

At the same time, the Administration has effectively dismantled the Women's Bureau, which stood as the only federal agency dedicated to advancing the rights and economic opportunities of women workers.³ Its regional offices have been closed, staff reduced, and data functions weakened. The Bureau once played a central role in documenting the wage gap, tracking childcare costs, and supporting women in high-wage, nontraditional occupations, all functions that are essential for advancing economic security for Black women and girls.

Taken together, the erosion of these agencies leaves a dangerous gap: Black women are being left without jobs, without data, and without federal accountability. This dismantling of infrastructure is not coincidental. These actions reflects deliberate policy choices by the Trump Administration that have rolled back diversity, equity,

¹ **Bureau of Labor Statistics**, *Employment status of the civilian population by race, sex, and age*, Table A-2, accessed October 29, 2025, <https://www.bls.gov/web/empsit/cpseea04.htm>.

² **Friends of BLS**, *Letter to Congress Supporting BLS Funding*, 2023.

³ **Library of Congress**, *The Women's Bureau – Rosie the Riveter*, <https://guides.loc.gov/rosie-the-riveter/womens-bureau>.

and inclusion initiatives, defunded programs that supported women- and minority-owned businesses, and stripped away oversight mechanisms designed to advance fairness in the labor market.⁴

We respectfully request that the Department of Labor review these troubling trends, consider a comprehensive assessment of their impact on Black women in the workforce, and determine what remedial actions may be necessary, specifically:

1. Reaffirm the importance of accurate, disaggregated labor data on Black women and other underrepresented groups;
2. Ensure that the data collection and analysis functions previously housed within the Women's Bureau continue robustly within DOL; and
3. Identify policy actions to mitigate the disproportionate job losses among Black women workers.

Black women's labor has long been the backbone of our classrooms, hospitals, and communities. To ignore the economic crisis facing them now would be to disregard the very foundation of our nation's progress.

We appreciate your consideration of this matter and look forward to your response by December 15, 2025.

Sincerely,



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress

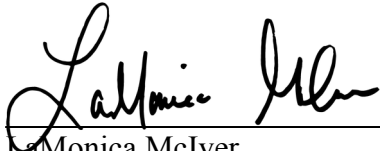


Jennifer L. McClellan
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Rashida Tlaib
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⁴ U.S. Census Bureau, *Income in the United States: 2023 (P60-282)*, September 2024.



LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



Summer L. Lee
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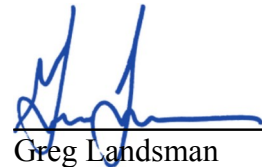
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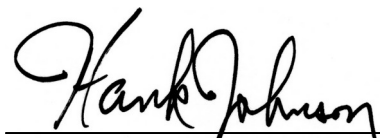
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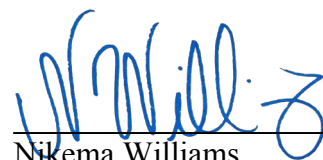
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Member of Congress



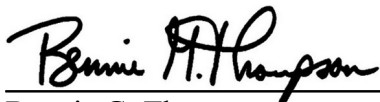
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Member of Congress



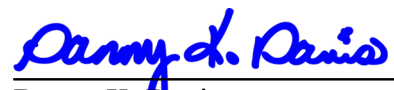
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Danny K. Davis
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Joyce Beatty
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