

## **Better Labor Statistics Act**

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Endorsing Organization: AFL-CIO

### **Background**

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) collects and publishes employment statistics data for the United States, serving as a critical institution for oversight and innovation. Government officials, businesses, and the public alike all analyze this data to understand the labor market and economic situation in the nation. However, the laws governing this institution and its data collection have not been updated in decades, leaving room for political influence of what data is published, when that data is published, and whether that data is published at all. BLS provides important data broken down by race and ethnicity, gender, geography, and industry, making it important to codify BLS' current publication practices.

In October 2025, for the first time in BLS history, the Trump Administration did not publish monthly employment data.<sup>1</sup> Previously, monthly data was published during federal government shutdowns, economic recessions, and a global pandemic. With Trump Administration firings of government officials when he doesn't like the data they publish<sup>2</sup> and attacks on diversity data,<sup>3</sup> there is an urgent need for legislation to codify transparency of unemployment data.

### **The Better Labor Statistics Act**

- Requires the collection and publication of unemployment data disaggregated by gender, race, and geography, at a minimum;
- Requires publication of employment data by the first Friday of each month, publicly and made available online; and
- Modernizes terminology used to describe the role of the Secretary publishing such data to be gender neutral

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<sup>1</sup> *Employment Situation Archived News Releases*, BLS, <https://www.bls.gov/bls/news-release/empsit.htm> (last visited Mar. 2, 2026).

<sup>2</sup> *BLS Commissioner Reacts to Trump Firing*, The Hill (Aug. 3, 2025), <https://thehill.com/blogs/blog-briefing-room/5434174-bls-commissioner-mcentarfer-response/>.

<sup>3</sup> *Trump Gleeefully Celebrated the End of DEI at the SOTU. But Has it Really Ended?*, The Griot (Feb. 25, 2026), <https://thegriot.com/2026/02/25/trump-gleefully-celebrated-the-end-of-dei-at-the-sotu-but-has-it-really-ended/>.