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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6300

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November 29, 2011

William M. Daley
Chief of Staff
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Chief of Staff Daley:

I write to inquire about the status of the president's nominee for commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics at the U.S. Department of Labor.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics provides essential economic information to support public and private decision-making, including the monthly unemployment numbers, average hourly earnings, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and labor productivity. The BLS commissioner leads the agency and ensures independence and objectivity in communicating information to the public.

The current commissioner's term, however, expires in early January 2012, yet no nominee has been sent forward to date despite the importance of the position. Accordingly, I would like to know when the Administration intends to nominate a commissioner. A copy of a separate letter to Secretary Solis noting concerns with an apparent attempt by the Department to circumvent the Senate's constitutional role of advice and consent with respect to the BLS is also enclosed for reference.

Thank you for assistance in this important matter. Please have your staff contact Frank Macchiarola, Staff Director, Senate HELP Committee at (202) 224-6770 if you should have any questions.

Sincerely,



Michael B. Enzi
U.S. Senator

cc: The Honorable Tom Harkin, Chairman
The Honorable Hilda Solis
The Honorable Keith Hall