

Opening Statement of Brett Matsumoto  
Nominee for Commissioner, Bureau of Labor Statistics,  
U.S. Department of Labor  
before the  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
United States Senate  
June 10, 2026

Good morning.

Chairman Cassidy, Ranking Member Sanders, and Members of the Committee, it is an honor to appear before you as the nominee to be Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. It is an honor to have been nominated by President Trump for this important position.

Before beginning, I would like to thank all of the people who are responsible for getting me to where I am today: my parents and my older brothers, as well as other relatives, teachers, and mentors. I would also like to thank everyone who made positive statements regarding my nomination. When President Trump announced the intention to nominate me for this position, there was a lot of media interest. Although reading news stories about myself is something I'm still getting used to, I was humbled by the positive reactions of economists across the political spectrum.

I grew up in Delaware and attended college at the University of Delaware. After graduating with degrees in Philosophy, History, Economics, and a Masters in Economics, I went to the University of North Carolina for a PhD in Economics, where I specialized in Applied Microeconomics. After completing my PhD, I got a job at the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

I have worked for the Bureau of Labor Statistics since 2015 on economic measurement topics. I have published on topics relating to inflation and consumption measurement. I have also worked on projects to support the production offices, mainly the Consumer Price Index program. These include work on alternative data projects, most notably a project to replace traditionally collected data with insurance claims data for the medical price indexes. In September 2024, I was promoted to a supervisory position, where I oversee a small team of economists.

In the first Trump Administration, I did a detail at the Council of Economic Advisors (CEA) where I worked on labor and health topics. In early 2025, I was asked to do another detail by the incoming chairman of the CEA, and I have been in that role since. While working at the CEA, I have gained a great appreciation for the official economic statistics from the perspective of a data user. Much of the analysis done at the CEA would be impossible without the official data

and having timely and accurate data is extremely important in the process of developing good economic policies.

I believe strongly in the mission of the BLS to produce “objective, quality measures and analyses of labor market activity, working conditions, price changes, and productivity in the U.S. Economy to support public and private decision making”. To achieve this mission, it is important for the public to be confident that decisions at the BLS are being driven by science rather than politics. If confirmed, I will commit to maintain the integrity and independence of the BLS. Also, any changes to data or methods will be approved by career staff at the agency and communicated to the public ahead of time along with research supporting the change.

If confirmed, I would be leading the BLS at a pivotal moment. Our statistical system is built upon surveys of businesses and households. The continued decline in response rates threatens the future reliability of a survey-based statistical system and may already be having impacts on sample sizes, the variability of data, and revisions. My priority as Commissioner would be pursuing efforts to mitigate the decline in response rates while pursuing a research agenda into alternative data sources that can be used to supplement or replace traditional survey data. I will also focus on improving transparency and communication with data users. Finally, I have a great interest in working to improve our measurement of the impact of new technologies such as Artificial Intelligence.

It is a privilege to be here today, and I look forward to your questions.