



SEP 3 0 2019

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Ranking Member Murray:

The Department of Labor (Department) has received your letter about the reorganization of the Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA). This reorganization changes the reporting structure for thirteen of EBSA's Directors, all of whom are high-level career personnel that head an EBSA office. It will be effective on October 1, 2019. This new organizational structure is designed to make EBSA an even stronger and more effective organization.

Here is how. Under the reorganization, three offices that play a large role in implementing employee benefits policy will now report to the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary. This will help ensure EBSA's critical policy work—including research, economic analysis, and regulatory work—is better integrated and will foster collaboration. EBSA's Regional Directors—a group consisting of eight members of the Senior Executive Service (SES) and two GS-15 career employees—will report to a newly-created career Deputy Assistant Secretary. This new structure will give the Regional Offices a greater voice in the National Office, help to ensure that enforcement activities are consistent nationwide, and provide expanded opportunity for career advancement. A new career Deputy Assistant Secretary will provide leadership, guidance, and assistance to the Regional Offices as they carry out EBSA's mission.

The Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 provides federal agency heads—including the Secretary of Labor—with the authority to establish and abolish positions and to reassign career executives to manage program and mission requirements. The Department used an SES allocation for the purpose of establishing the new career SES Deputy Assistant Secretary position. The newly-established position and reassignment does not have an impact on any EBSA employee pay, grade, or duty location, nor does it impact any employees covered by the Department's collective bargaining agreements, who will continue to have the same Rating and Reviewing Officials. If you have further questions, please contact the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 693-4600.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe Wheeler".

Joe Wheeler
Deputy Assistant Secretary