

**From:** DOL-PRA-Public <DOL-PRA-Public@dol.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 25, 2025 2:08 PM  
**To:** Kincaid, Nora - BLS  
**Cc:** Bouchet, Nicole - OASAM OCIO; Hernandez, Nora - OASAM OCIO; Howell, Michael D - OASAM OCIO; Rodriguez Vega, Harry - OASAM OCIO  
**Subject:** FW: comment on ATUS extension

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Regards.

**Harry Rodriguez Vega**

**IT Specialist**

OASAM/OCIO

U.S. Department of Labor

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**From:** Melanie Wasserman

**Sent:** Thursday, July 24, 2025 20:39

**To:** DOL-PRA-Public

**Subject:** comment on ATUS extension

You don't often get email from [melanie.wasserman@anderson.ucla.edu](mailto:melanie.wasserman@anderson.ucla.edu). [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Nicole Bouchet,

As an Associate Professor of Economics at the UCLA Anderson School of Management with expertise in labor economics, I strongly support the continuation of the American Time Use Survey (ATUS). ATUS is the only comprehensive source of data on how people in the U.S. spend their time. These data provide valuable insight into activities that are central to people's daily lives such as work, sleep, eating, and

time with others. They also offer a flexible mechanism for studying crucial topics that are difficult to examine using other data sources, such as time spent in caregiving (for children and adults), working, and commuting.

In my recent research entitled "The Summer Drop in Female Employment," we used the ATUS to document how parents of young school-age children change their time use between the school year and the summer months. In particular, we found a rise in primary and secondary time use on childcare related activities during the summer months, with the rise larger among mothers than among fathers. This result was essential for understanding why women transition away from work during the summer.

The ATUS equips policymakers, researchers, journalists, community and business leaders, and the public with a critical and irreplaceable resource to understand and support uses of time that promote social and economic well-being for communities and individuals across the United States.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,  
Melanie Wasserman

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Melanie Wasserman  
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UCLA Anderson School of Management  
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