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Carol Rowan, BLS Clearance Officer,
Division of Management Systems, Bureau of
Labor Statistics, Room 4080,
2 Massachusetts Avenue NE.
Washington, DC 20212

FAX 202-691-5111


August 25, 2014

Dear Ms. Rowan:

I am writing in support of the three additional questions that are proposed to be added to the Current Population Survey in January 2015 that will identify whether respondents have a currently active professional certification or license; whether any of those credentials were issued by the Federal, State, or local government; and whether the credential is required for an individual's main job. With estimates of the growth of occupational licensing to almost 30 percent of the workforce in 2008 according to a survey completed by the Westat organization called the Princeton Data Improvement Initiative (PDII), it is important to track whether occupational licensing is continuing to grow as a labor market phenomenon. The ability to track the growth of occupational licensing both as a labor market institution and its effects on wages and employment is important now and will continue to be so in the future. The ability to have this information as part of the Current Population Survey will benefit the graduate students at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota, who will use this data for their graduate education. In addition, it will benefit researchers at the Center for Labor Policy who provide labor market information on the costs and benefits of labor market regulation for local, state, and national leaders on issues of certification and licensing.

I urge the Bureau of Labor Statistics to add these questions on professional certification or licensing, whether any of those credentials were issued by the Federal, State, or local government, and whether the credential is required for an individual's main job on the Current Population Survey.

Sincerely,



Morris M. Kleiner

Director