
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, DC

November 23, 2016

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

Dear Ms. Rowan,

I am pleased to provide comments on the 2017 Contingent Worker Supplement (CWS) to the Current Population Survey (CPS) proposed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), as described in the *Federal Register* on September 30, 2016 [FR Doc. 2016–23639]. As a research professor at the George Washington Institute of Public Policy, George Washington University, I focus on federal policies that promote competitiveness and innovation. I also serve on the Department of Labor’s Workforce Information Advisory Council, as the representative of research entities, and the BLS Data Users Advisory Committee. From these perspectives, I strongly support the BLS proposal to conduct the 2017 CWS.

U.S. economic competitiveness depends on well-functioning labor markets. To that end, it is important for policymakers, businesses, and researchers to have access to data on the emergence of new forms of work arrangements. As BLS has not conducted the CWS since 2005, the most recent federal data on the subject is woefully out of date.

I recognize, and appreciate, that BLS has conducted extensive outreach to stakeholders regarding the design of the 2017 CWS, including the agency’s Technical Advisory Committee. I also recognize that BLS proposes a design that retains consistency with the 2005 survey, to facilitate time series analysis, while adding questions on work obtained through electronic media. So that the Office of Management and Budget can make an informed decision on the proposed 2017 CWS, I suggest it is important for OMB to fully appreciate the breadth of BLS outreach and the nature of the feedback. However, this information is currently not in draft Supporting Statement Part A, Section 8b (Consultation Outside the Agency). Consequently, I request that, prior to OMB submission, BLS revise its Supporting Statement to include a description of its external consultation efforts and an attachment that summarizes the primary points of view received.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed CWS and hope you find these thoughts helpful.

Sincerely,



Andrew Reamer
Research Professor