

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 19, 2016

The Honorable Tom Perez  
Secretary, Department of Labor  
200 Constitution Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20210

The Honorable Erica Groshen  
Commissioner, Bureau of Labor Statistics  
2 Massachusetts Avenue NE  
Washington, DC 20212

Dear Secretary Perez and Commissioner Groshen,

As New Democrats, we are committed to growing our economy by investing in innovative technologies, facilitating entrepreneurship, and building a competitive 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce. Because of our commitment to these goals, we write to encourage you to address key questions in the Contingent Worker and Alternative Work Arrangement Supplement (CWS) to the Current Population Survey (CPS).

In the last decade, our economy has not only endured the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression but also changed through the development of technology that makes it easier than ever for consumers to connect with providers of goods and services. The past five years alone have seen an explosion of new technologies that possess the power to shape the way people find work and conduct business. However, before enacting regulations with uncertain consequences, we need more recent and targeted data on trends in our economy to best consider policies that support workers, foster innovation, and spur entrepreneurship.

Despite increasing growth in the contingent workforce, we still lack adequate data that fully reflects the number and nature of workers in the on-demand economy. Accordingly, we were pleased that you recently announced the Department of Labor (DOL) will re-launch the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) Contingent Worker Supplement to the CPS. As you know, it has been more than ten years since the supplement was conducted and updated information is long overdue.

We believe the CWS will help provide a more accurate, up-to-date picture of the workforce in the modern economy. As you design and conduct the survey, we ask that you keep in mind the on-demand economy and include questions that will help researchers study this increasingly important segment of our economy. Specifically, we encourage you to differentiate, when appropriate, between contingent workers and those who work in the on-demand economy, which is often considered limited to business conducted on mobile devices. Additionally, we ask that you include data, to the extent possible, that helps answer the following questions:

- What proportion of the population engages in contingent or on-demand work? What portion of this work is found through the Internet or other mobile applications?
- Are there regional or demographic differences in the individuals who offer services or work in the on-demand economy?
- What proportion of this workforce relies on contingent work as a primary – or exclusive – source of income?
- What are the primary reasons people offer services through the on-demand economy?

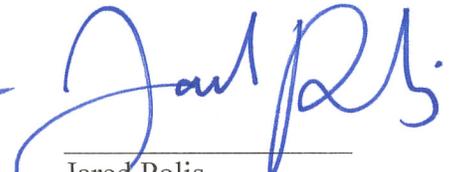
- With what frequency do people in the on-demand economy offer services through on-demand platforms?
- What types of benefits do workers have when they consistently engage in on-demand work for 30 hours per week or more? Do individuals receive these benefits through another source such as a different job or a spouse?
- How long do individuals plan to work in the on-demand economy?
- Regardless of Internal Revenue Service (IRS) classification, do individuals in the on-demand economy consider themselves independent contractors, self-employed, or another categorization? Do these individuals have multiple jobs, either traditional or in on-demand sectors of the economy?

As our economy continues to change to meet the demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, so will the on-demand workforce. To keep pace with the rate of change, fully understanding this fluid segment of our economy will only become more important. In accordance with all applicable rules and regulations, we urge you to give our request every consideration and look forward to working with you in the future.

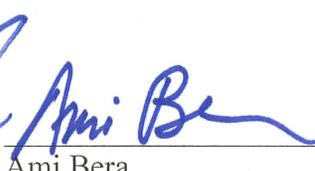
Sincerely,

  
Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress

  
Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress

  
Jared Polis  
Member of Congress

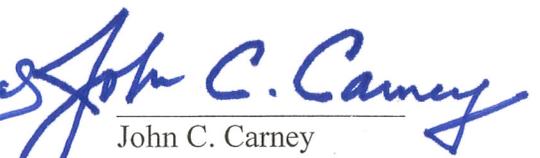
  
Brad Ashford  
Member of Congress

  
Ami Bera  
Member of Congress

  
Donald S. Beyer, Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress

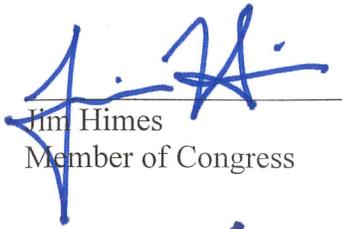
  
Tony Cardenas  
Member of Congress

  
John C. Carney  
Member of Congress

  
Gerry E. Connolly  
Member of Congress

  
Elizabeth Esty  
Member of Congress

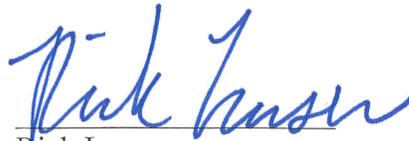
  
Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

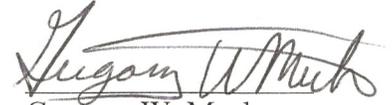
  
Jim Himes  
Member of Congress

  
Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress

  
Ron Kind  
Member of Congress

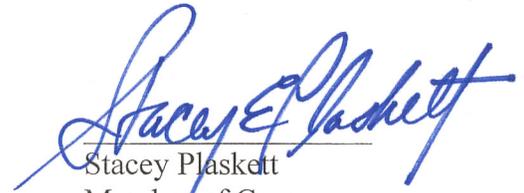
  
Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress

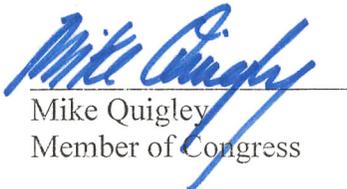
  
Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress

  
Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress

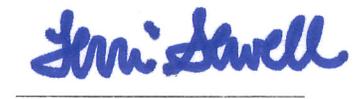
  
Beto O'Rourke  
Member of Congress

  
Scott Peters  
Member of Congress

  
Stacey Plaskett  
Member of Congress

  
Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress

  
Kathleen M. Rice  
Member of Congress

  
Terri Sewell  
Member of Congress