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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND  
URBAN AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6075

October 2, 2025

Russell Vought  
Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
725 17th St NW  
Washington, DC 20503

William Wiatrowski  
Acting Commissioner  
Bureau of Labor Statistics  
4600 Silver Hill Road  
Washington, DC 20212

Dear Director Vought and Acting Commissioner Wiatrowski:

I write to ask that you release the September Employment Situation report tomorrow, October 3, as scheduled. The Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) monthly jobs data is essential to the Federal Reserve's (Fed) decision-making process as it gets ready to meet this month to decide on interest rates that will impact every American household.

On September 26, the Department of Labor released its contingency plan indicating that key economic reports – including monthly jobs data from BLS – would not be published in the event of a government shutdown.<sup>1</sup> According to experts, however, the data for Friday's report is likely ready for public release. As former BLS Commissioner Bill Beach, appointed by President Trump, wrote yesterday, "the September data ... have been completely collected and processed. The jobs report is likely written in final draft and could be released on Friday."<sup>2</sup> The Administration had sufficient time to plan for this critical data release. Indeed, when preparing for a potential shutdown in 2021, the Department of Labor's contingency plan explicitly stated that "[a]s part of orderly shutdown activities, data scheduled to be released will be posted as scheduled."<sup>3</sup> So while the data has been processed and there was time to prepare for the data's release in the event of a government shutdown, the Administration is choosing not to release Friday's jobs report.

The Fed depends on timely employment data to fulfill its statutory dual mandate of managing inflation and maximizing employment. Fed Chair Jay Powell has stated explicitly that the

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Labor, "Plan for the Continuation of Limited Activities During a Lapse in Appropriations," September 26, 2025, <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/general/plans/dol-contingency-plan.pdf>.

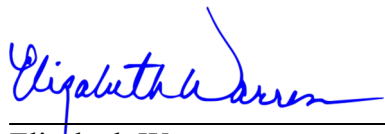
<sup>2</sup> The Fiscal Lab on Capitol Hill, "Q&A on How the Government Shutdown Will Affect Reports from the Bureau of Labor Statistics," William Beach, October 1, 2025, <https://fiscallab.org/financial-markets/qa-on-how-the-government-shutdown-will-affect-reports-from-the-bureau-of-labor-statistics/>.

<sup>3</sup> The Wayback Machine, U.S. Department of Labor, "Plan for the Continuation of Limited Activities During a Lapse in Appropriations," December 1, 2021, <https://web.archive.org/web/20220709203619/https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/general/plans/dol-contingency-plan.pdf>.

Federal Open Market Committee, which sets interest rates, is currently “in a meeting-by-meeting situation” and reliant on monthly data.<sup>4</sup> The September report is particularly consequential given current economic conditions. The Fed is navigating elevated economic uncertainty along with increasing inflation and rising unemployment.<sup>5</sup> As one economist observed, “[t]his is probably the worst time for the Fed to be flying blind ... The economy could be at an inflection point.”<sup>6</sup> Withholding this data would undermine the Fed’s ability to make informed decisions that affect every American household through interest rates, the job market, and price stability.

I urge you to authorize the release of the September Employment Situation report without delay. The American people deserve transparency about the state of our economy.

Sincerely,



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Elizabeth Warren  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Banking,  
Housing, and Urban Affairs

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<sup>4</sup> Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, “Transcript of Chair Powell’s Press Conference,” September 17, 2025, <https://www.federalreserve.gov/mediacenter/files/FOMCpresconf20250917.pdf>.

<sup>5</sup> The AP, “Fed’s favored inflation gauge accelerates slightly in August,” Paul Wiseman, September 26, 2026, <https://apnews.com/article/federal-reserve-inflation-trump-tariffs-prices-consumer-0a10b8f245eb90115c84026d7061d2b0>; Reuters, US unemployment rate near 4-year high as labor market hits stall speed,” Lucia Mutikani, September 5, 2025, <https://www.reuters.com/business/us-unemployment-rate-near-4-year-high-labor-market-hits-stall-speed-2025-09-05/>.

<sup>6</sup> ABC News, “Government shutdown halts release of economic data. The Fed may be ‘flying blind’ on interest rates, experts say,” Max Zahn, October 1, 2025, <https://abcnews.go.com/Business/government-shutdown-halts-release-economic-data-fed-flying/story?id=126110753>.