

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 14, 2026

Commissioner Brett Matsumoto
U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
4600 Silver Hill Road
Washington, D.C. 20212-0002

Dear Commissioner:

As the Ranking Member of the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging, I am focused on protecting seniors from the erosion of their essential purchasing power, particularly at a time of soaring cost-of-living, including in economic categories heavily impactful on older Americans: housing, utilities, food, and health care.

I am a proud champion of the *Boosting Benefits and COLAs for Seniors Act*ⁱ, legislation to direct the Social Security Administration to calculate the annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) using the Consumer Price Index for Americans Aged 62 and Older (CPI-E). The CPI-E index takes into account more of the actual costs, through enhanced weighting, incurred by older Americans, such as medical and prescription drug expenses—making it an overall more reflective index to use when adjusting benefits for seniors.

However, the CPI-E continues to suffer from various methodological constraints and resource limitations, particularly notably its small survey data sampling size. Given the importance of the annual COLA to the approximately 3.8 million Social Security recipients in New York, and over seventy million beneficiaries across the country, I am troubled by the Administration's actions to reduce staffing numbers and seek tightened funding levels at BLS, as called for under the Department of Labor's FY27 requestⁱⁱ, that together will serve to further jeopardize the thorough research needed for the CPI-E to appropriately capture older Americans' spending.

Against a backdrop of adults age 65 and older constituting 18.9 percent of the U.S. population as of 2025ⁱⁱⁱ, and projected to reach 23.4 percent by 2060, it is imperative that our federal programs and statistics precisely measure and calculate senior economic activity and security. Accordingly, I urge you in your leadership role to reverse course and to strategically advocate for a viable CPI-E.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Special
Committee on Aging

ⁱ [S. 3059, introduced in the first session of the 119th Congress](#)

ⁱⁱ [U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Statistics, FY2027 Congressional Budget Justification](#)

ⁱⁱⁱ [An Aging World: 2025, U.S. Census Bureau, August 2026](#)