

Statement of Joyce Meyer
Nominee for Under Secretary of Commerce for Economic Affairs
Before the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation
September 17, 2025

Thank you, Chairman Cruz, Ranking Member Cantwell, and members of the committee for the opportunity to appear before you today.

I am honored to be here as President Trump's nominee for Undersecretary of Economic Affairs at the Department of Commerce, which oversees the BEA (Bureau of Economic Analysis) and the Census Bureau.

Before I begin, I would like to thank President Trump for nominating me to serve this great country and Secretary Lutnick for his support of my nomination.

I also want to recognize those who are supporting me today:

First, my husband, Donald Meyer. Don and I met in college at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and it has been an adventure of a lifetime since then.

Our daughter, Evangelina, made that adventure even better. Eva is missing class today with approval from her professors. I am beyond grateful to Don and Eva for their constant love and support.

I appreciate too the support of my family and friends who are here today and watching online.

I also want to recognize my late brother, Michael Yamat. Mikey died when we were teenagers, but his legacy continues to inspire me.

Finally, I want to thank the first people who believed in me – my mom, Evelyn Yamat, a retired accountant, and my dad, Miguel Yamat, a retired engineer.

My mom has entrusted to me an important family heirloom, which I bring here today – our family's American flag.

She received this flag when she was sworn in as a naturalized U.S. Citizen many years ago.

It has always been placed next to the front door of our homes – first in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where I was born, and again in Franklin, Wisconsin where I grew up. It was and is a daily reminder of how blessed we are to live in the United States. It was also placed by the front door with reverence so it could easily be retrieved in case of a house fire.

This deep love of country is what led me to a 25-year career in public service.

I was honored to serve in many roles on Capitol Hill, including as a professional staff member of the now Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee; as Staff Director of the House Ways and Means Committee; and as Deputy Chief of Staff in the Office of the Speaker of the House.

I also had the honor of serving in President Trump's first White House as Deputy Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs for the House.

Throughout my public service, carrying out constitutional responsibilities depended on many critical components – including accurate, reliable data from the BEA and the Census Bureau.

If confirmed, I will rely on my decades of service as an end user of this data. I will rely on the analytical skills I gained earning my Executive MBA at Georgetown University. I will rely on my extensive experience leading large, complex teams. And finally, I will rely on the impressive expertise within the BEA and Census.

In the Speaker's office, as Deputy Chief of Staff, overseeing the institutional responsibilities required careful focus to support more than 10,000 House employees in the DC area and throughout the country.

The BEA and the Census Bureau also focus on every area of the country at the local, state, regional, and national level, as outlined by the Constitution and statute.

For example, BEA data informs work on Capitol Hill - from the CBO baseline to the maximum annual rental rate for your home state Senate offices. And, of course, BEA's calculation of the GDP informs decisions by policy makers and the business community.

The Census Bureau carries out the decennial census, and does vital work throughout each decade, including the well-known American Community Survey (ACS), which informs key economic indicators.

If confirmed, I want to build upon the good work of both bureaus by focusing on three goals:

1. **Ensuring the integrity & accuracy of data:** The economy is always changing with new markets emerging at a rapid pace. For data to be relevant, it must continue to accurately capture all dimensions of the economy.
2. **Leveraging technology to improve speed of data and analysis:** Data needs to be timely and relevant. Optimizing the existing analytical talent will require faster data.
3. **Achieving efficiency:** The federal government has multiple statistical offices. We owe it to American taxpayers to strive for better ways to deliver data and analysis efficiently and not overlook any technological capabilities to do so.

If confirmed, I look forward to these opportunities and for the honor to serve a country whose greatness endures as symbolized by our family's American flag.

Thank you for the opportunity to be here. I look forward to your questions.