

March 10, 2009

The Honorable Barack H. Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As representatives of professionals from a variety of fields, and as a group that is concerned about the accuracy and completeness of the census count, we write to express our concern about the delay in nominating an experienced director of the Census Bureau.

We fully understand the Administration's focus on the current challenges of the Department of Commerce. We would like to emphasize, however, that the appointment of a Census Bureau Director as soon as possible is imperative because of the need for strong and decisive leadership in the decisions now being made in preparation for the 2010 Census. Further, we highly recommend a director with strong management and scientific skills, an understanding of the bureau's programs and surveys, and experience interacting with the Administration, Congress and the various Census stakeholders.

*The Washington Post* recently cited the Census Bureau's expert staff as having a "well-earned reputation for integrity and political independence." *The Wall Street Journal* called the Bureau one of the "most rigorously nonpartisan operations in government." We urge you to continue the tradition of respecting the Census Bureau's political independence, in both reality and perception, to guard against diminished public confidence in the census process and outcome.

If we can be of any assistance to your administration as you consider individuals for this position, please let us know.

Respectfully yours,



Lynne Crossman  
President  
Southern Demographic Association



Kathleen Harris  
President  
Population Association of America



Howard Fienberg  
Director of Government Affairs  
The Marketing Research Association



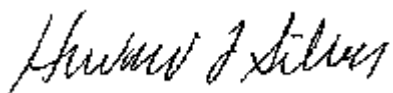
Richard A. Kulka  
President  
American Association for Public Opinion  
Research



Felice J. Levine  
Executive Director  
American Educational Research Association



Sally C. Morton  
President  
American Statistical Association



Howard J. Silver  
Executive Director  
Consortium of Social Science Organizations



Ed Spar  
Executive Director  
Council of Professional Associations on  
Federal Statistics