



April 24, 2017

Dear Representative:

As you consider the final FY 2017 appropriations bills and the FY 2018 bills, the multisector, nonpartisan Census Project¹ urges you to consider the upcoming increased expenditures that will be needed to plan and then implement the U.S. Census Bureau's 2018 End-To-End field test of new, innovative and cost-saving techniques for the 2020 Census.

This large-scale field test of 700,000 targeted households next year in Rhode Island, Washington state and West Virginia will be needed to test all elements of the Census Bureau's plans before taking the 2020 Census. The resources for implementing this critical test are substantial both this fiscal year and next.

Therefore, either in your omnibus FY 2017 appropriations for the Census Bureau or in an anomaly, if you proceed with a Continuing Resolution for the balance of this fiscal year, we call upon Congress to provide the 2020 Census with as close as possible to the Census Bureau's FY 2017 budget request of \$1.35 billion for Periodic Censuses and Programs, but no less than the \$1.25 billion level for this account recommended by the Senate Committee on Appropriations (S. 2837).

The 2020 Census will need a steady ramp-up of funds, without sacrificing the scope and quality of other large scale surveys like the American Community Survey. The budget for FY 2018 therefore must provide another substantial increase in funds over the FY 2017 amounts originally requested.

The Periodic Censuses and Programs (PCP) account covers final planning and early preparations for the 2020 Census, as well as vital support activities such as development of a new IT architecture (CEDCaP) and updating the Master Address File and digital maps (Geographic Support Services). In addition, the PCP account funds the American Community Survey (ACS), the ongoing portion of the census that updates important data to guide decision-making and resource allocation throughout the decade. The Census Bureau has indicated that failure to adequately fund the PCP account in FY2017 will force suspension of ACS data collection for at least one month this year, jeopardizing the quality and reliability of data for all communities, but especially for rural and less populous areas and small population groups, such as veterans and persons with disabilities.

Failure to fund this cyclical ramp-up for the 2020 Census would severely jeopardize the fairness and accuracy of the next decennial census.

Sincerely,

¹ The Census Project (www.thecensusproject.org) is a long-standing coalition of diverse census stakeholders that includes state and local governments, business and industry, civil rights and labor groups, housing and child advocates, and research and professional organizations that support an accurate and comprehensive census and ACS.

Advocates for Children and Youth	Baltimore	MD
Advocates for Children of New Jersey	Newark	NJ
American Educational Research Association		
American Sociological Association		
American Statistical Association		
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee		
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum		
Asian American Federation	New York	NY
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - AAJC		
Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies		
Association of Population Centers		
Association of Public Data Users (APDU)		
Capital District Regional Planning Commission	Albany	NY
Center for Asian American Media		
Child and Family Policy Center	Des Moines	IA
Child Care Aware of America		
Children Now	Oakland	CA
Connecticut Association for Human Services	Hartford	CT
Connecticut Voices for Children	New Haven	CT
Consortium of Social Science Associations		
Cornell Institute for Social and Economic Research	Ithaca	NY
Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER)		
Decision Demographics		
FairVote		
Forefront	Chicago	IL
Housing Consortium of Everett & Snohomish County	Everett	WA
Indiana Business Research Center, Kelley School of Business	Bloomington	IN
Insights Association		
Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research		
Kansas Action for Children	Topeka	KS
Laotian American National Alliance		
Latino Census Network		
League of United Latin American Citizens		
Long Island Housing Services, Inc.	Bohemia	NY
MACS 2020 - Minnesotans for the American Community Survey and the 2020 Census	Minneapolis	MN
Michigan Disability Rights Coalition	East Lansing	MI
Michigan Forward Urban Affairs Group, LLC	Detroit	MI
Michigan Nonprofit Association	Lansing	MI
Minnesota Council on Foundations		MN
Minnesota State Demographic Center	St. Paul	MN
Montgomery County Community Action Board		MD

NAACP		
NAKASEC		
NALEO Educational Fund		
Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization	Nashville	TN
National Association for Business Economics		
National Association of Social Workers		
National CAPACD		
National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA)		
National Institute for Latino Policy (NiLP)		
National Low Income Housing Coalition		
Nazareth Housing Services	Pittsburgh	PA
NC Child	Raleigh	NC
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice		
New Jersey Public Health Association	Piscataway	NJ
New Mexico Voices for Children	Albuquerque	NM
Partnership for America's Children		
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children	Harrisburg	PA
Philanthropy Ohio	Columbus	OH
Population Association of America		
Prison Policy Initiative		
Public Justice Center	Baltimore	MD
Quorum	Washington	DC
Ramsey County	Saint Paul	MN
Research Advisory Services, Inc.	Phoenix	AZ
Ribbon Demographics, LLC		
RLS Demographics	Rensselaerville	NY
SER Jobs for Progress National Inc.		
Social IMPACT Research Center at Heartland Alliance	Chicago	IL
Social Science Research Institute, Duke University	Durham	NC
Southeast Michigan Census Council		MI
SSTI		
State Voices		
Sugar Law Center for Economic & Social Justice		
Tangible Consulting Services	Minneapolis	MN
The Center for Asian Pacific American Women		
Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA)		
Voices for Vermont's Children	Montpelier	VT
West Virginia Healthy Kids and Families Coalition	Charleston	WV
ZERO TO THREE		