



May 1, 2018

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Chairman
Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jean Sheehan
Vice Chairwoman
Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Culberson
Chairman
Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jose Serrano
Ranking Member
Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Moran, Vice Chairwoman Sheehan, Chairman Culberson, and Ranking Member Serrano,

On behalf of The Census Project (www.thecensusproject.org), a broad-based network of business, civic, and academic groups committed to a full, fair, complete, and accurate 2020 Census, we are writing to express support for sufficient funding for the U.S. Census Bureau and, in particular, 2020 Census activities in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019.

We respectfully recommend that the committee allocate \$4.735 billion for the Census Bureau in FY2019 —\$933.50 million above the Administration’s request for the agency, and \$912.5 million above the request of \$3.015 billion for the 2020 Census.

We appreciate the generous appropriation Congress provided the Census Bureau in the final Fiscal Year 2018 bill. Despite this support, however, funding for the Census Bureau, and especially 2020 Census preparations, remains below necessary levels, including the Commerce Department’s own revised decennial census cost projection for FY2019. Funding shortfalls and delays throughout the decade have adversely affected Census 2020 planning, compelling the Bureau to (among other revised plans) cancel two of three originally planned 2018 End-to-End Census Test sites (sacrificing tests in rural West Virginia and suburban Washington State counties), cancel all site tests in 2017 (including on two American Indian reservations), delay development of the Integrated Partnership and Communications Campaign, and revert to a paper-based Group Quarters counting operation. While the significant funding ramp-up Congress provided in FY2018 is helping the Census Bureau reset decennial preparations, many technical and operational challenges remain, making FY2019 the last opportunity for Congress to ensure

that IT systems, innovative methodologies, and new operations are in place for a successful 2020 Census.

With the funding the Administration has requested for FY2019, the Census Bureau would have resources to conduct essential 2020 Census activities, such as:

- completing all address canvassing operations;
- opening Area Census Offices across the country;
- finalizing IT systems readiness and security;
- recruiting and hiring approximately 76,000 personnel for “in field” address canvassing this Summer/Fall;
- launching the first phase of the communications campaign and making initial advertising buys; and
- developing the Census 2020 website.

Our enhanced funding recommendation would allow the Bureau the flexibility to increase the number of partnership specialists or assistants from 1,000 to 2,000; expand targeted advertising and promotion to hard-to-count communities as part of the Communications Campaign; and broaden its ‘field footprint’ through more local census offices or questionnaire assistance centers, thus ensuring a greater presence in every region of the country in light of a lower projected self-response rate. Support for these additional outreach and education activities is particularly important, given Commerce Secretary Ross’ recent decision to add an untested citizenship question to the 2020 Census—which could discourage participation among certain hard-to-count communities.

Finally, our funding recommendation also enables the Bureau to continue its other activities, which include conducting the ongoing American Community Survey and other demographic and economic surveys, and to establish a \$300 million plus contingency fund as it has for past decennials in the event of IT failures or natural disasters, including hurricanes and wildfires, related to the 2020 Census.

Fiscal Year 2019 is a critical year on the path toward the decennial census—our nation’s largest, most complex peacetime mobilization. The census is one of the federal government’s few constitutionally required activities and is the basis for apportioning seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. Decennial census data are the foundation of our democracy, influencing a wide range of decisions in the private and public sectors. These decisions include the allocation of more than \$600 billion in federal assistance annually, industry investments, and state and local government planning.

In closing, we thank you for recognizing the significance of the Census Bureau’s work as it prepares for the 2020 Census and continues its mandate to collect, disseminate, and share data regarding the changing demographic, economic and social composition of the U.S. population. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues to ensure the Census Bureau has robust funding in FY2019 to fulfill its vital mission and meet its constitutional obligation to conduct an inclusive and accurate decennial census.

Sincerely,

ABG Consulting LLC		
AcademyHealth		
Advancement Project California		CA
American Educational Research Association		
Alaska Community Action on Toxics		AK
American Academy of Pediatrics		
American Association for Public Opinion Research		
American Library Association		
American Mathematical Society		
American Sociological Association		
American Statistical Association		
APA Florida		FL
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund		
Asian American Resource Workshop	Boston	MA
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - AAJC		
Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote		
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO (APALA)		
Association of Chinese Americans, Inc.		MI
Association of Population Centers		
Association of Public Data Users (APDU)		
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials		
Canary Consulting		IL
Capital District Regional Planning Commission		NY
Center for Data Innovation		
Center for Public Policy Priorities		TX
Child Care Aware of America		
Children's Advocacy Alliance		NV
Children's Defense Fund		
Children's Defense Fund - Minnesota		MN
Children's Defense Fund - New York		NY
Children's Defense Fund - Ohio		OH
Children's Leadership Council		
Children's Mental Health Network		
Cities of Service		
Claritas		
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)		CA
Coalition on Human Needs		
Colorado Children's Campaign		CO

Community Home Trust	Chapel Hill	NC
Connecticut Association for Human Services		CT
Consortium of Social Science Associations		
Cornell University Program on Applied Demographics		NY
Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER)		
Council of Michigan Foundations		MI
Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics		
Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments	Kelso	WA
Crescent City Media Group		LA
Decision Demographics		
Economic Policy Institute		
Education Equals Making Community Connections		TX
Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC)		
Equality California		CA
Every Child Matters		
Faith in Public Life		
Families USA		
Family Equality Council		
Family Focused Treatment Association		
Forefront		IL
Hilmer, Douglas		
Idaho Voices for Children		ID
Indiana Philanthropy Alliance		IN
Indivisible Hawaii		HI
Insights Association		
Interfaith Association of Northwest Washington		WA
Japanese American Citizens League		
Jewish Council for Public Affairs		
Kentucky Youth Advocates		KY
KIDS COUNT in Delaware		DE
Kids Forward		WI
Laotian American National Alliance		
Long Island Housing Services, Inc.	Bohemia	NY
MACS 2020 - Minnesotans for the American Community Survey and 2020 Census		MN
Maine Children's Alliance		ME
Massachusetts Voter Table		MA
MassVOTE		MA
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger		
Mercy Housing Northwest		WA

Metro St. Louis Coalition for Inclusion and Equity, M-SLICE	St. Louis	MO
Metropolitan Area Planning Council	Boston	MA
Mi Familia Vota		
Michigan Nonprofit Association		MI
Michigan's Children		MI
Midwest Political Science Association		IN
NAACP		
NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, Inc.		
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)		
National Association for Business Economics		
National Association of Counties		
National Association of Development Organizations		
National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund		
National Association of Regional Councils		
National Association of Towns and Townships		
National Community Development Association		
National Congress of American Indians		
National League of Cities		
National Low Income Housing Coalition		
Nazareth Housing Services	Pittsburgh	PA
NC Child		NC
Neighbor to Neighbor Massachusetts		MA
NEO Philanthropy		
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice		
New Mexico Voices for Children		NM
Nielsen		
Nollie Jenkins Family Center, Inc.	Durant	MS
Nonprofit VOTE		
Northwest Harvest		WA
NYS Council on Children and Families		NY
OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates		
Opportunity Finance Network		
Partnership for America's Children		
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children		PA
PeopleForBikes		
PFLAG National		
PICO California		CA
PICO National Network		
PolicyMap		

Population Association of America		
Prison Policy Initiative		
Public Justice Center		MD
Research Advisory Services, Inc.	Phoenix	AZ
Research Allies for Lifelong Learning		
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT		RI
Right to the City Boston	Boston	MA
RLS Demographics, Inc.		
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy		NY
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)		
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center		
Southeast Michigan Census Council	Southfield	MI
State Voices		
Sunlight Foundation		
Tangible Consulting Services	Minneapolis	MN
The Children's Partnership		
The Farmworker Association of Florida, Inc		FL
The Jewish Federations of North America		
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights		
The Minnesota Foundation		MN
The National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE)		
Univision Communications Inc.		
Urban and Regional Information Systems Association		
Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition		VT
VOICES for Alabama's Children		AL
Voices for Virginia's Children		VA
Women Donors Network		
ZERO TO THREE		