



April 16, 2019

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

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jose Serrano
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert B. Aderholt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Moran, Senator Shaheen, Congressman Serrano and Congressman Aderholt,

As you prepare to consider the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) Appropriations bill, we, the member and affiliated organizations comprising The Census Project (www.thecensusproject.org), **urge the subcommittee to appropriate \$8.45 billion for the U.S. Census Bureau, including at least \$7.58 billion in direct funding for 2020 Census operations, in FY 2020.**

A year from now the 2020 Census will be in full swing, with most American households receiving their census materials in mid-March 2020. Fiscal Year 2020 is the last opportunity Congress has to provide the Census Bureau with the resources necessary to conduct a successful 2020 Census. Insufficient, delayed, or uncertain full-year funding for the 2020 Census at the start of FY 2020 jeopardizes the agency's ability to meet its constitutional mandate to conduct the decennial census and to do so inclusively, accurately, and cost effectively.

In its FY 2020 budget submission, the Trump Administration suggests it is requesting \$7.2 billion for the Census Bureau. For several reasons, this figure obscures and fails to meet the Census Bureau's true funding needs. First and foremost, the request is insufficient in large part because it assumes a \$1 billion carry over from FY 2020 of needed FY 2019 funds. As a result, the Administration is requesting only \$6.2 billion in direct new funding for the Census Bureau.

Congress did not direct the Census Bureau to hold any funds available in FY 2019 in reserve (that is, as a carry over) for FY 2020, as it explicitly did in report language accompanying the FY 2018 CJS appropriations bill. Instead, census stakeholders were pleased that in the report accompanying H. J. Res. 3, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2019, Congress clearly directed the Bureau to spend available funding on priority activities that "maximize self-response to the 2020 Census," including increasing partnership program staff, expanding targeted communications activities, and opening local Questionnaire Assistance Centers in hard-to-count communities.

Stakeholders believe strongly that the Census Bureau should be spending all of the funding available in FY 2019 (\$3.015 billion in direct funding and \$1.056 billion in "forward funding" from the FY 2018

appropriations law) to help address growing risks facing the 2020 Census, such as cyber threats, disinformation campaigns, the digital divide, and distrust of government. Further, the Bureau should be using this funding **now** to mobilize states, localities, and community-based organizations to ensure that vulnerable populations, such as young children, low-income urban and rural households, and people of color, are not undercounted in the 2020 Census. The Bureau also needs the resources available in FY 2019 to support a contingency fund, as Commerce Secretary Ross recommended, which will allow it to prepare for and address potential disruptions to census operations, including natural disasters, IT failures, and other unanticipated events.

Setting aside the proposed carry-over from FY 2019 (which Congress did not support), the Administration's FY 2020 request also falls far short of the projected funding needs set forth in the Commerce Department's revised census lifecycle cost estimate (\$15.6 billion). That in-depth assessment of the decennial census budget estimated a FY 2020 funding level of \$7.4 billion. Contrary to the Census Bureau's current assertion that it needs less money now because it faces less risk, challenges to a successful census have only grown since the Secretary Ross released that estimate in October 2017. Those include a tighter labor market, recent natural disasters (such as tornadoes in the South, flooding in the Plains, hurricanes in coastal areas, and wildfires in the West) and the mass cancellation of field testing in rural areas, military communities, and American Indian reservations.

Finally, the Administration's request doesn't reflect two historical census funding trends: 1) about half of the census lifecycle costs is spent in the census year; and 2) census year funding for the decennial census is at least twice the funding level of the prior fiscal year.

Given these factors, census stakeholders urge the subcommittee to provide the Census Bureau with \$8.45 billion in FY 2020, including \$7.58 billion in direct funding for the 2020 Census. Stakeholders support this increased funding, which represents approximately \$2 billion in direct funding above the Administration's request, to ensure the Bureau can support its other essential survey and data collection efforts, including the American Community Survey and Survey of Income and Program Participation—two surveys adversely affected by the Administration's request. A meaningful and substantial increase above the Administration's request is imperative to fully fund 2020 Census operations, enhance outreach activities to maximize participation in the 2020 Census, and support other vital ongoing surveys and programs that the Census Bureau conducts.

Thank you for considering our views regarding this important constitutional responsibility and for making the Census Bureau a high priority in the FY 2020 CJS Appropriations bill. We thank you for your past support and look forward to working with you during the subcommittee's deliberations.

Sincerely,

ABG Consulting LLC	
AcademyHealth	
Advancement Project California	CA
Advocates for Children and Youth	MD
Advocates for Children of New Jersey	NJ
African American Health Alliance	
Alabama Arise	AL
American Anthropological Association	
American Association for Public Opinion Research	
American Educational Research Association	
American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)	

American Library Association		
American Planning Association		
American Sociological Association		
American Statistical Association		
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee		
Americans for Indian Opportunity		
Arab American Institute		
Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families		AR
Asian American Federation	New York	NY
Asian American LEAD	Washington	DC
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)		
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - AAJC		
Asian Counseling and Referral Service	Seattle	WA
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA)		
Asian Pacific Islander Coalition of Washington		WA
Association of Population Centers		
Association of Public Data Users (APDU)		
Cabarrus Rowan Community Health Centers	Concord	NC
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network		CA
Center for Public Policy Priorities		TX
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)		DC/CA
Community Action, Inc.	Haverhill	MA
Connecticut Voices for Children		CT
Consortium of Social Science Associations		
Cook Inlet Housing Authority		AK
Council for Community and Economic Research		
Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics		
DataHaven		CT
Decision Demographics		
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc Fayetteville Alumnae Chapter		
Demos		
Economic Policy Institute		
Education Equals Making Community Connections		TX
Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC)		
Entre Hermanos	Seattle	WA
Equality California		CA
Equality North Carolina		NC
FairVote Action		
FCBCP		FL
Florida Asian Services	North Miami	FL
Free Government Information		
Housing Action Illinois		IL
IBM		
Insights Association		
International Children Assistance Network	Milpitas	CA
Japanese American Citizens League		
Kentucky Youth Advocates		KY
Laotian American National Alliance		
Latino Community Fund of WA State		WA
MACS 2020 - Minnesotans for the ACS and 2020 Census		MN

Maine Children's Alliance		ME
Marion County Commission on Youth, Inc.		IN
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition		MA
Massachusetts Nonprofit Network		MA
Metropolitan Area Planning Council	Greater Boston	MA
Michigan Nonprofit Association		MI
Michigan's Children		MI
Minnesota Census Mobilization Partnership		MN
Minnesota Council on Foundations		MN
MN Community Action Partnership		MN
NAACP		
NALEO Educational Fund		
National Association for Business Economics		
National Association of Counties		
National Association of Regional Councils		
National Coalition on Black Civic Participation		
National Community Development Association		
National Congress of American Indians		
National League of Cities		
National Urban Indian Family Coalition		
Nazareth Housing Services	Pittsburgh	PA
NC Child		NC
NEO Philanthropy		NY
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice		
New Mexico Voices for Children		NM
New York Counts 2020		NY
Nielsen		
Northwest Harvest		WA
OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates		
Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy		OK
Partnership for America's Children		
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children		PA
PFLAG National		
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission	Springfield	MA
Planned Parenthood Federation of America		
Population Association of America		
Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina		NC
Prison Policy Initiative		
Progreso Latino Progress Alliance		WA
Region Nine Development Commission	Mankato	MN
Research Advisory Services, Inc.	Phoenix	AZ
RLS Demographics, Inc.		
San Diego Grantmakers	San Diego	CA
Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness	Seattle	WA
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)		
Silicon Valley Community Foundation	Mountain View	CA
Silver State Equality		NV
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)		
Southeast Michigan Census Council	Southfield	MI

State Voices		
Stronger North Carolina, Inc.		NC
Tangible Consulting Services		MN
Tennessee Immigrant & Refugee Rights Coalition		TN
Texans Care for Children		TX
The Children's Partnership		CA
The Foraker Group		AK
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights		
The New Florida Majority Education Fund		FL
The Office of New Americans of Miami Dade, Inc.	Miami	FL
U.S. Conference of Mayors		
Urban and Regional Information Systems Association		
Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition		VT
Virginia Civic Engagement Table		VA
VOICES for Alabama's Children		AL
Voices for Progress		
Voices for Virginia's Children		VA
Washington Nonprofits	Seattle	WA
Xaverian Brothers	Baltimore	MD