June 17, 2019

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THE 2020 CENSUS IS HERE!
WILL YOUR DISTRICT BE COUNTED ACCURATELY?
Support the Census Bureau's Funding Level in the FY 2020 CJS Appropriations Bill

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Dear Representative,

As the House prepares to consider the Fiscal Year 2020 Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations bill, members and affiliates of The Census Project (www.thecensusproject.org) urge you to support the robust funding level for the constitutionally required 2020 Census in the House Appropriations Committee bill. ***The Census Bureau has one chance to get the count right in all communities — there are no do-overs!***

H.R. 3055 allocates $8.45 billion for the Census Bureau, which includes $7.5 billion in dedicated funding for the 2020 Census. This funding recommendation reflects what stakeholders believe the Census Bureau needs to conduct a successful 2020 Census, enabling the agency to meet unique challenges facing the nation's first "high-tech census."

In eight months, the decennial census will be in full swing. By all accounts, the 2020 Census will be the largest, most difficult enumeration in our nation's history. The U.S. population is increasingly diverse — geographically, culturally, and linguistically — with households becoming more complex, and a greater share of residents falling into "harder to reach" categories. Further complicating preparations and implementation, extreme natural disasters (e.g., hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires, and flooding) will require modified, more costly census methods to ensure an accurate enumeration in recovering communities. In addition, the focus on Internet response will be challenging for communities without reliable broadband service and households lacking internet access or familiarity. *The Census Bureau must have the resources to make internet response available in more communities and to offer paper questionnaire and telephone response options to anyone who prefers those methods. It also must be able to hire enough census takers to collect information in person and on time from all households that don't self-respond.*

The bill and committee report include robust funding and language empowering the Bureau to invest in key activities — such as information technology, cybersecurity, and outreach to hard-to-count populations — necessary to conduct a successful 2020 Census. The appropriation includes a contingency fund that the Commerce Department previously said it needs to address unforeseen circumstances that threaten the completion of a successful census. Finally, the committee directs the Bureau to spend more of its available resources this year (FY 2019) on expanded targeted promotion, outreach to vital local partners, and scaling and securing vulnerable IT systems, instead of holding back on critical preparations in order to carry over funding to FY 2020. Money spent wisely now will help keep overall costs down by boosting the likelihood of cost-effective self-response and reducing the possibility of dangerous cyberattacks.

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www.TheCensusProject.org

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The nation's largest peacetime mobilization and very first responsibility under our Constitution requires substantial resources. An underfunded census would jeopardize the availability and validity of data used to make essential economic, political, and planning decisions in the nation's private, public, and non-profit sectors over the next decade. To this end, we urge the House of Representatives to ensure a 2020 Census that is equally successful in all communities by supporting the proposed Census Bureau funding level in the FY 2020 CJS bill, and by working to enact a final bill by the start of the fiscal year. Insufficient, delayed, or uncertain full-year funding for the 2020 Census could disrupt a smooth, expansive ramp-up to the start of counting operations in January, impeding the Census Bureau's ability to meet its constitutional mandate to conduct the decennial census and to do so inclusively, accurately, and cost effectively.

Thank you for considering our views and for supporting the 2020 Census.

Sincerely,

National
Academic Pediatric Association
AcademyHealth
African American Health Alliance
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Civil Liberties Union
American Educational Research Association
American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
American Library Association
American Pediatric Society
American Planning Association
American Sociological Association
American Statistical Association
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - AAJC
Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote (APIAVote)
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association of Population Centers
Association of Public Data Users
Children's Advocacy Institute
Church World Service
Coalition on Human Needs
Common Cause
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER)
Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics
Decision Demographics
Demos
Economic Policy Institute
Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC)

Faith in Public Life
Feeding America
Hispanic Federation
Insights Association
League of Women Voters of the United States
Mi Familia Vota
NAACP
National Apartment Association
National Association for Business Economics
National Association of Counties
National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Educational Fund
National Black Child Development Institute
National Community Development Association
National Congress of American Indians
National Disability Rights Network
National League of Cities
National Multifamily Housing Council
National WIC Association
Native American Community Academy Inspired Schools Network (NISN)
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Nielsen
Partnership for America's Children
Pediatric Policy Council
PFLAG National
Population Association of America
Prison Policy Initiative
ReadyNation
RESULTS
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Shepherding the Next Generation
Society for Pediatric Research
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)
State Voices
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
United States Conference of Mayors
Urban and Regional Information Systems Association
Voices for Progress
WKF Giving Fund
World Education

State/Local/City/Regional

Advancement Project California	CA
Alliance for Addiction and Mental Health Services, Maine	ME
American Indian Center	IL
Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families	AR

Asian Services In Action, Inc. (ASIA, Inc.)		OH
Association of Chinese Americans, Inc.		MI
Black Mesa Water Coalition	Flagstaff	AZ
California Native Vote Project		CA
California Tribal TANF Partnership-Amador Co		CA
Children First for Oregon		OR
Children's Advocacy Alliance		NV
Children's Defense Fund-New York		NY
Children's Defense Fund-Ohio		OH
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)		DC
Community Action, Inc.	Haverhill	MA
Connecticut Voices for Children		CT
Cornell University Program on Applied Demographics		NY
Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development	Athens	OH
Crescent City Media Group		LA
Equality California		CA
Equality Ohio		OH
Fair Count		GA
Faith Action Network		WA
Groundwork Ohio		OH
Hmong Ohio Of Tomorrow	Akron	OH
Housing Action Illinois		IL
Indivisible Hawaii		HI
Kentucky Youth Advocates		KY
Kids Forward		WI
MACS 2020 - Minnesotans for the American Community Survey & 2020 Census		MN
Maine Children's Alliance		ME
Marion County Commission on Youth, Inc.		IN
MinnCAP		MN
Montgomery County, Maryland Community Action Board	Rockville	MD
National Association of Social Workers - Ohio Chapter		OH
NC CHILD		NC
New York Counts 2020		NY
North Montgomery Citizens United for Prosperity	Duck Hill	MS
Northwest Harvest		WA
Ohio CDC Association		OH
Ohio Environmental Council		OH
Ohio Mayors Alliance	Columbus	OH
Ohio Women's Public Policy Network		OH
PathWays PA	Folsom	PA
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children		PA
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission	Springfield	MA
Public Justice Center		MD

Research Advisory Services, Inc.	Phoenix	AZ
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT		RI
Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness	Seattle	WA
Silicon Valley Community Foundation	Mountain View	CA
Silver State Equality		NV
Southeast Michigan Census Council	Southfield	MI
Tangible Consulting Services	Minneapolis	MN
Texans Care for Children		TX
United Way of Greater Cleveland	Cleveland	OH
Virginia Civic Engagement Table		VA
VOICES for Alabama's Children		AL