



July 24, 2019

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Vice Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies  
142 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies  
125 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Shelby, Vice Chairman Leahy, Chairman Moran, and Ranking Member Shaheen:

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

As you know, the U.S. House of Representatives recently passed H.R. 3055, which allocated \$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 less than a year, 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.

[www.TheCensusProject.org](http://www.TheCensusProject.org)

To meet these operational challenges, we urge the Committee also to provide the Census Bureau with \$8.45 billion in FY 2020. This funding level would enable the Bureau to invest in strengthening key activities — such as information technology, cybersecurity, and outreach to hard-to-count populations — necessary to conduct a successful 2020 Census. This recommended funding level would also support a contingency fund that the Commerce Department previously said it needs to address unforeseen circumstances that threaten the completion of a successful census, including natural disasters that occur during peak census operations

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 enactment of a final bill by the start of the fiscal year, or, if necessary, a full-year funding anomaly, at the funding level we recommended, that enables the agency to support 2020 Census activities while Congress and the Administration negotiate the final FY 2020 CJS bill. 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 a successful 2020 Census.

Sincerely,

**National**

- Academic Pediatric Association
- African American Health Alliance
- African American Ministers In Action
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American Anthropological Association
- American Association for Public Opinion Research
- 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
- Americans for Indian Opportunity
- Arab American Institute
- Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)
- Asian Americans Advancing Justice - AAJC

Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote  
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance  
ASPIRA Association, Inc.  
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs  
Association of Population Centers  
Association of Public Data Users (APDU)  
Autistic Self Advocacy Network  
Center for Data Innovation  
Chispa  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Common Cause  
Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA)  
Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics  
Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC)  
Fair Immigration Reform Movement (FIRM)  
FairVote Action  
Faith in Public Life  
Feeding America  
Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)  
Government Information Watch  
Hispanic Federation  
Human Rights Campaign  
Insights Association  
Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection  
International Business Machines  
International Council of Shopping Centers  
Laotian American National Alliance  
League of Conservation Voters Education Fund  
League of Women Voters of the United States  
Mi Familia Vota  
NAACP  
NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund Inc.  
NALEO Educational Fund  
National Association for Business Economics  
National Association of Counties  
National Association of REALTORS®  
National Association of Regional Councils  
National Black Child Development Institute  
National Coalition for Literacy  
National Community Development Association

National Congress of American Indians  
 National Disability Rights Network  
 National Education Association  
 National Health Law Program  
 National Immigration Law Center  
 National League of Cities  
 National Low Income Housing Coalition  
 National WIC Association  
 National Women's Law Center  
 NEO Philanthropy  
 NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
 Nielsen  
 Partnership for America's Children  
 Pediatric Policy Council  
 People For the American Way  
 PeopleForBikes  
 Population Association of America  
 Prison Policy Initiative  
 Protect Democracy  
 ReadyNation  
 Seattle Indian Health Board  
 Service Employees International Union (SEIU)  
 Shepherding the Next Generation  
 Sierra Club  
 Society for Pediatric Research  
 Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)  
 State Voices  
 The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights  
 The National Association for Bilingual Education  
 United We Dream  
 Univision Communications Inc.  
 Urban and Regional Information Systems Association  
 Voices for Progress

**State/Local/City/Regional**

#WeCountOregon		OR
Advancement Project California		CA
Asian American LEAD	Washington	DC
Asian American Organizing Project	St. Paul	MN
Asian Services In Action, Inc.		OH
Black Children's Institute of Tennessee		TN

Blue Mountain Action Council	Walla Walla	WA
California Calls Education Fund		CA
Center for Civic Policy		NM
Center for Pan Asian Community Services, Inc.	Atlanta	GA
City Life Vida Urbana	Boston	MA
CivicGeorgia		GA
Community Action, Inc.	Greater Haverhill	MA
Cornell Program on Applied Demographics		NY
Crescent City Media Group		LA
Entre Hermanos	Seattle	WA
Equality California		CA
Faith Action Network		WA
Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials (GALEO)		GA
Georgia Coalition for the Peoples Agenda		GA
House of Matthew Permanent & Supportive Housing for the Homeless	Tacoma	WA
Hunger Free Vermont		VT
Indivisible Hawaii	Honolulu	HI
Kentucky Youth Advocates		KY
Latino Community Fund (LCF Georgia)		GA
League of Women Voters of Virginia		VA
LEAP MO		MO
MACS 2020 - Minnesotans for the ACS and 2020 Census		MN
Michigan Nonprofit Association		MI
Minnesota Census Mobilization Partnership		MN
Minnesota Council of Nonprofits		MN
Minnesota Council on Foundations		MN
Montgomery County, Maryland Community Action Board	Rockville	MD
NC Counts Coalition		NC
Nevada Minority Health and Equity Coalition (NMHEC)	Las Vegas	NV
New York Counts 2020		NY
Oklahoma Policy Institute		OK
OneAmerica		WA
PathWays PA	Folsom	PA
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children		PA
Philanthropy Ohio		OH
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission	Springfield	MA
Research Advisory Services		AZ
Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness	Seattle	WA
Silicon Valley Community Foundation	Mountain View	CA

Silver State Equality-Nevada		NV
Southeast Michigan Census Council	Southfield/Detroit Metro Area	MI
Stronger North Carolina, Inc.		NC
Tangible Consulting Services		MN
Texas Progressive Action Network		TX
United Way of Columbia County	Columbia County	OR
United Way of Pierce County	Tacoma	WA
United Way of Pullman	Pullman	WA
United Ways of the Pacific Northwest		WA
Virginia Civic Engagement Table		VA
VOICES For Alabama's Children		AL
Voices for Virginia's Children		VA
WA State Community Action Partnership		WA
Washington Census Alliance		WA
Washington Nonprofits		WA
West Virginia Healthy Kids and Families Coalition		WV
Win Win Network		WA
Wisconsin Voices		WI