



June 4, 2018

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

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen  
Vice Chairwoman  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations  
Subcommittee  
Washington DC 20510

Dear Chairman Moran and Vice Chairwoman Shaheen,

As you prepare to mark up the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) appropriations bill, we are writing on behalf of The Census Project ([www.thecensusproject.org](http://www.thecensusproject.org)), a broad-based network of business, civic, and academic groups committed to a full, fair, complete, and accurate 2020 Census, to express support for funding the U.S. Census Bureau. Specifically, we urge the Subcommittee to match the funding level that the House Appropriations Committee approved in its version of the FY 2019 CJS bill.

After years of delayed and insufficient funding, Census stakeholders are grateful for both the generous appropriation and flexible spending authority the Census Bureau received in the FY 2018 omnibus appropriations bill. Further, we are pleased that the House Appropriations Committee has prioritized funding for the Census Bureau in FY 2019, allocating \$4.799 billion for the Census Bureau, almost \$2 billion above the FY2018 appropriation, \$999 million above the administration's request, and almost \$70 million more than census stakeholders recommended.

FY 2019 is a pivotal year for 2020 Census preparations and the last opportunity the Bureau has to ensure information technology systems and new operations are in place for a successful decennial census. Additional investments are necessary for the Bureau to build upon momentum that the FY 2018 omnibus bill provided and fully launch all operational and administrative aspects of the 2020 Census. These activities include completing all address canvassing operations, opening Area Census Offices, finalizing IT systems readiness and security, and recruiting and hiring approximately 76,000 personnel.

The additional funding that the House Appropriations Committee recommended would allow the Bureau to initiate and expand other activities that have lingered as a result of recent budget cutbacks and delays. These activities would include increasing the number of partnership specialists or assistants from 1,000 to 2,000; expanding targeted advertising and promotion to hard-to-count communities as part of the Communications Campaign; and broadening the agency's '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

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question to the 2020 Census—which could discourage participation among certain hard-to-count communities. The additional funding should also enable 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 \$800 billion in federal assistance annually, industry investments, and state and local government planning.

In closing, we thank you once again for working with your colleagues in the House in FY 2018 and recognizing the significance of the Census Bureau’s work as it prepares for the 2020 Census. We urge you to continue making key investments in the Census Bureau by providing the agency with \$4.8 billion in FY 2019.

Thank you for considering our views and working with census stakeholders to ensure the Census Bureau has the resources and spending flexibility it needs to conduct an inclusive, accurate, and efficient 2020 Census.

Sincerely,

ABG Consulting LLC  
AcademyHealth  
Advancement Project California CA  
African American Health Alliance  
Alabama Arise AL  
Alaska Community Action on Toxics AK  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Association for Public Opinion Research  
American Educational Research Association  
American Library Association  
American Mathematical Society  
American Sociological Association  
American Statistical Association  
Americans for Indian Opportunity  
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)		
Associated General Contractors of America		
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 Native American Youth at the Aspen Institute		
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
Common Cause		
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		
FairVote Action		
Faith in Public Life		
Families USA		
Family Equality Council		
Family Focused Treatment Association		
First Nations Development Institute		
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 Association of Regional Planning Agencies (MARPA)		MA
Massachusetts Census Equity Fund		MA
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 Chapter, American Planning Association		MI
Michigan League for Public Policy		MI
Michigan Nonprofit Association		MI
Michigan's Children		MI
Midwest Political Science Association		IN
Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center	Minneapolis	MN
Minnesota State Demographic Center		MN

Montgomery County (MD) Department of Health and Human Services	Montgomery County	MD
Montgomery County Community Action Board	Rockville	MD
NAACP		
NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, Inc.		
National Apartment Association		
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		
National Multifamily Housing Council		
National Urban Indian Family Coalition		
National WIC Association		
Nazareth Housing Service	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		
Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans	San Diego	CA
PathWays PA	Folsom	PA
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children		PA
PeopleForBikes		
PFLAG National		
PICO California		CA

PICO National Network		
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC)	Springfield	MA
PolicyMap		
Population Association of America		
Prison Policy Initiative		
Public Justice Center		MD
Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Coalition		
Research Advisory Services, Inc.	Phoenix	AZ
Research Allies for Lifelong Learning		
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT		RI
Ribbon Demographics, LLC		
Right to the City Boston	Boston	MA
RLS Demographics, Inc.		
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy		NY
Seattle Indian Health Board		
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)		
Silicon Valley Community Foundation		
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)		
United Indians of All Tribes Foundation	Seattle	WA
Univision Communications Inc.		
Urban and Regional Information Systems Association		
Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition		VT
Voice of the Experienced		LA
VOICES for Alabama's Children		AL
Voices for Virginia's Children		
WKF Fund		
Women Donors Network		
ZERO TO THREE		