

April 21, 2017



The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515



The Honorable Thad Cochran
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

State and Local Governments Urge Funding Support for Census Planning and American Community Survey in Appropriations Process



Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen, Ranking Member Lowey, Chairman Cochran and Vice Chairman Leahy,

On behalf of the national organizations representing state and local officials, we respectfully urge you to support robust budgets for the FY 2017 and FY 2018 planning process for the 2020 Census, including the 2018 End-to-End field test, and we urge continued support for the comprehensive American Community Survey (ACS).



The 2018 End-to-End field activity is needed to test new, innovative and cost-saving techniques to implement the next decennial census. Approximately 700,000 households in Rhode Island, Washington State and West Virginia will be surveyed. The ACS is a statistical survey that samples the population annually in order to provide communities with the information they need to plan investments and services. It is the most relied upon source of current socio-economic, housing and financial information in the country. The federal government, states and local communities all depend on this survey's essential data.



State and local policymakers rely on both the Constitutionally-required decennial census and the annual ACS to provide detailed, high-quality data. Insufficient funding would degrade this irreplaceable statistical information that state and local leaders need to make informed decisions for their citizens and communities.

We look forward to working with you to support robust funding in FY 2017 and FY 2018 for both the 2020 Census and the comprehensive ACS in your deliberations on the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies appropriations bills.

Sincerely,

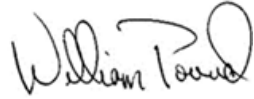
David Adkins
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Scott Pattison
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William T. Pound
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Tom Cochran
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Marc Ott
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