



May 31, 2017

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

**A Fair and Accurate Census is Essential:  
The 2020 Census Must be Well-Funded with a Highly Qualified and Established  
Leader as Census Bureau Director**

Dear President Trump:

On behalf of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, a coalition charged by its diverse membership of more than 200 national organizations to promote and protect the civil and human rights of all persons in the United States, and the 168 national, state, and local undersigned organizations, we write to **urge your prompt nomination of a highly qualified and widely respected professional to serve as the next Director of the U.S. Census Bureau.** Strong leadership at the Census Bureau is of paramount importance now, when the Bureau needs the stature and clout to advocate for the resources necessary to ensure a successful census.

An accurate and fair census, and the collection of useful, objective data about our nation's people, housing, economy, and communities, is among the most important civil rights issues of our day. The resignation (effective June 30, 2017) of the current Census Director, John Thompson, will leave the premier U.S. statistical agency with a leadership vacuum less than three years before the start of the nation's largest, most complex peacetime mobilization and less than one year before a critical "dress rehearsal" of the full census process. Failure to fill this vacancy quickly could delay final design decisions and impair preparations for the 2020 Census. The Census Director also must oversee the conduct of the 2017 Economic Census, the source of all baseline data for our economic indicators and national income accounts, as well as efforts to strengthen and streamline the American Community Survey (ACS), which updates the census throughout the decade.

The strength of our civic and economic institutions depends on the success of these activities and other irreplaceable surveys and data programs. Since 1787, the U.S. Constitution has required a census every ten years to apportion seats in the U.S. House of Representatives among the States and to uphold the Constitution's guarantee of equal representation. State and local governments rely on the census for their own allocation of political representation in accordance with constitutional principles. Census-derived data guide the prudent distribution of more than \$600 billion annually in federal assistance to states, localities, and individuals in need. Businesses and entrepreneurs use census data to locate new facilities, understand the strengths and needs of the labor force, and target services and goods where customers need them, thereby spurring economic growth and job creation in communities across the country. **Accordingly, the Census Bureau requires an established leader at the helm who will provide stability through the final years of this decade, explain the**

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**importance of its mission compellingly, address Congress’s fiscal concerns, and be ready for full immersion in the important tasks at hand.**

The candidate for this position also must meet the qualifications set forth in the Presidential Appointment Efficiency and Streamlining Act of 2011. That law, which established a five-year renewable term for the director, envisions a nonpartisan candidate with “demonstrated ability in managing large organizations and experience in the collection, analysis, and use of statistical data.” **It is imperative that all members of Congress, state and local officials from both political parties, the Census Bureau’s professional staff, and — most importantly — the American people have full confidence in the objectivity, integrity, and capability of the next Census Director.**

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss qualified candidates with appropriate officials in your administration. Thank you for your attention to our concerns. If you have any questions regarding this issue, please contact Corrine Yu, Leadership Conference Managing Policy Director at 202-466-5670.

Sincerely,

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights  
9to5, National Association of Working Women  
A. Philip Randolph Institute  
ACCESS  
Advancement Project California  
AFGE Council 241  
American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE)  
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees  
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee  
Americans for Democratic Action (ADA)  
Andrew Goodman Foundation  
APANO (Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon)  
APAPA Austin TX Chapter  
Asian American Federation  
Asian American Federation of Florida - South Region  
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)  
Asian American Organizing Project  
Asian American Psychological Association  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - AAJC  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles  
Asian Americans United  
Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote  
Asian & Pacific Islander American Vote - Michigan  
Asian Community Development Council (ACDC)  
Asian Counseling and Referral Service  
Asian Law Alliance  
Asian Pacific American Senior Coalition  
Asian Pacific Community in Action  
Asian Pacific Development Center

Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association  
Asian Pacific Islander Americans for Civic Empowerment Votes (APACEvotes)  
Asian Pacific Islanders for Civic Empowerment (APACE)  
Asian Services In Action  
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO)  
Association of Population Centers  
AZ APIA VOTE TABLE  
Bayside Community Center  
Bend the Arc Jewish Action  
Caribbean-American Advancement Foundation, Inc.  
Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good  
The Center for Asian Pacific American Women  
Center for Community Change Action  
Center for Pan Asian Community Services, Inc (CPACS)  
The Center for Popular Democracy  
CHANGE Illinois  
Charles Houston Bar Association  
Children's Defense Fund  
Children's Defense Fund-Ohio  
Chinese American Citizens Alliance, Portland Lodge  
Coalition of Black Trade Unionists  
Common Cause  
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, US Provinces  
CT Commission on Equity and Opportunity  
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund  
Economic Policy Institute  
Empowering Pacific Islander Communities  
Equal Justice Society  
Equal Rights Advocates  
Equality California  
Every Voice  
Faith Coalition of Southern Nevada  
Families USA  
Family Equality Council  
Forefront  
Four Freedoms Forum  
Franciscan Action Network  
Friends of the Earth  
Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials (GALEO)  
Global Justice Institute  
GLSEN  
Hindu American Foundation  
Hip Hop Caucus  
Human Rights Campaign  
Indian Horizon of Florida  
Institute for Science and Human Values  
International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies  
International Association of Women in Radio and Television USA (IAWRTUSA)

Japanese American Citizens League  
Jewish Council For Public Affairs  
Justice in Aging  
La Maestra Family Clinic, Inc  
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement  
Lambda Legal  
Laotian American National Alliance  
Latino Academy of Workforce Development  
LatinoJustice PRLDEF  
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law  
League of United Latin American Citizens  
League of Women Voters  
Loretto Kansas City  
Main Street Alliance  
Massachusetts Voter Table  
Metropolitan Community Churches  
Mi Familia Vota  
MinKwon Center for Community Action  
MomsRising  
NAACP  
NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, Inc.  
NALEO Educational Fund  
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National Action Network  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE)  
National Association of Human Rights Workers  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Bar Association  
National Black Justice Organization  
National Center for Transgender Equality  
National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development - CAPACD  
National Coalition on Black Civic Participation  
National Congress of American Indians  
National Consumer Law Center, on behalf of its low-income clients  
National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA)  
National Council of La Raza (NCLR)  
National Council on Independent Living  
National Disability Rights Network  
National Domestic Workers Alliance  
National Education Association  
National Employment Law Project  
National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA)  
National Health Law Program  
National Hispanic Media Coalition  
National Immigration Law Center  
National Institute for Latino Policy (NiLP)

National LGBTQ Task Force  
National Network for Arab American Communities  
National Organization for Women  
National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA)  
National Tongan American Society  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
New York City for CEDAW  
North Carolina Asian Americans Together  
OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates  
OCA South Florida Chapter  
Ohio Organizing Collaborative  
Ohio Voice  
Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance  
PFLAG National  
PICO California  
PICO National Network  
PolicyLink  
Population Association of America  
Pride at Work  
Prison Policy Initiative  
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada  
ProgressNow  
Public Citizen  
SALDEF  
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law  
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)  
Silver State Voices  
Southeast Asian Educational Development of Wisconsin, Inc.  
State Voices  
The Trevor Project  
Union for Reform Judaism  
Upsilon Alpha Omega Chapter of AKA Sorority, Inc.  
Vision New American  
Voices for Progress  
The Voter Participation Center  
Voting Rights Institute  
Voto Latino  
The Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law  
Women Watch Afrika, Inc.  
Women's City Club of New York  
YWCA South Hampton Roads  
YWCA USA

cc: Honorable Wilbur Ross, Secretary of Commerce  
Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader, U.S. Senate  
Honorable Charles Schumer, Minority Leader, U.S. Senate