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**Business/Industry Associations Urge Congress to Support
American Community Community Survey**

WASHINGTON – A large and influential group of business and industry associations today [urged congressional leadership](#) to fully support the FY 2017 budget for the Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS). Further, the group declared support for continuing mandatory participation in the survey.

“The ACS is a key program that businesses across America use to promote economic development, identify potential customers and create jobs,” said the industry group.

The Census Bureau’s request of \$251 million for FY 2017 represents a modest increase over current year funding. In FY 2017, the Census Bureau will continue to implement improvements to the ACS, including ways to reduce respondent burden and strengthen the quality and usefulness of data products.

“The ACS data are required by federal law and are an irreplaceable tool for business and industry in every American community. There are simply no other sources of high-quality, detailed socio-economic information that are comparable across time and geography. The data allow us to analyze current and trending demographic and economic shifts, and to plan future investments accordingly,” said the business/industry associations.

Business and industry associations co-signing the [congressional letter](#) included the National Association of REALTORS®, the International Council of Shopping Centers, the Market Research Association, the National Automobile Dealers Association and the Internet Association.

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