

Census Project Urges Full Funding of Census Budget in Letter to Senate

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For More Information Contact:

Phil Sparks: 703-548-9371 or [psparks@ccmc.org](mailto:psparks@ccmc.org)

Terri Ann Lowenthal: 202-258-2425 or [TerriAnn2K@aol.com](mailto:TerriAnn2K@aol.com)

**Senate to Act Next on Census Bureau Budget  
Census Project Stakeholders Urge Restoration from Drastic House Cuts**

WASHINGTON--The U.S. House of Representatives last week slashed almost \$500 million from the proposed FY 2016 Census Bureau budget. In response, the Census Project (<http://www.thecensusproject.org/>) sent a letter signed by more than 100 stakeholder organizations to Senate policymakers, calling the cuts “ill-advised” and urging full funding of the Census Bureau to support planning of the 2020 decennial census and the American Community Survey (ACS). The House actions, the letter states, would “seriously threaten the Census Bureau’s ability to continue modernizing the 2020 Census and preserve the availability of American Community Survey (ACS) data for all communities.” The Senate Appropriations Committee begins its own consideration of the Census Bureau’s budget this week.

“The President requested \$1.5 billion for the Census Bureau, including a ramp-up of \$317 million (\$663m total) for 2020 Census planning, a modest increase of \$15 million (\$257m total) for content and methodological improvements to the ACS, and a ramp-up of \$13 million (\$135m total) to prepare for the 2017 Economic Census. The House bill cuts the funding request for the Periodic Censuses and Programs account by 40 percent (- \$495 m), and wipes out the entire proposed increase completely, a reduction that is unsustainable at this point in both the decennial census and Economic Census cycles,” the letter continued.

Organizations co-signing the letter

(<http://www.thecensusproject.org/letters/fy16budget/CensusProject-LtrToSenateAppropriations-FY16CJS-June2015.pdf>) include the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National Association of Realtors, the NAACP, the National Women’s Law Center and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

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