



September 1, 2017

Dear Representative:

We are writing to urge Congress to allocate at least \$300 million above the funding level for the Census Bureau in the FY 2018 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations bill (H.R. 3267), which will be incorporated into an omnibus spending measure. This funding level is necessary not only to ensure a sufficient funding ramp up two years ahead of the 2020 Census, but also to enable the Bureau to sustain other key economic and demographic programs and surveys. Simply put, more funding is required to ensure a fair and accurate 2020 Census in all communities and to avoid large cost increases for the decennial census in the final years of the decade. This funding is also necessary to preserve the quality of other vital data sets the agency produces to inform evidence-based policy making in the public and private sectors.

As members and supporters of The Census Project (www.thecensusproject.org), a diverse network of census stakeholders, including business, civil rights, state and local government, education, housing, health, labor, and human services interests, we are writing to communicate our strong support for funding the Census Bureau when the House of Representatives considers the Make America Secure and Prosperous Appropriations Act, the proposed fiscal year (FY) 2018 omnibus spending bill, in September. In addition, if and when Congress considers a FY 2018 continuing resolution, we ask Congress to provide a full funding anomaly for the Census Bureau that exceeds the President's budget request and the current House Appropriations Committee mark on an annualized basis.

H.R. 3267 allocates \$1.507 billion for the Census Bureau, roughly \$37 million more than the agency's FY 2017 spending level and \$10 million above the Administration's FY 2018 request. Nevertheless, the amount is **woefully inadequate and unrealistic given the significant resources the Census Bureau needs to put Census 2020 preparations back on track and to ensure an accurate, inclusive, and cost-effective decennial census.** The proposed funding ramp-up is also significantly smaller than what both Republican and Democratic Administrations have approved between years seven and eight for past decennial censuses. (<https://thecensusproject.org/2017/05/25/trump-census-budget-too-little-too-late/>).

The current House FY 2018 recommendation is insufficient and, if enacted, will not allow the Census Bureau to move forward with a robust advertising campaign and Partnership Program. These activities are essential to ensuring an accurate count of historically hard-to-enumerate populations, including low-income households, people of color, immigrants, and young children. Particularly at risk are rural and remote communities, because funding constraints have forced the Bureau to cancel all field tests in rural areas. For example, the Bureau has canceled two of three test sites for the 2018 End-to-End Census Test—the only integrated test-run of new technologies and operations in a census-like environment. Canceling the 'dress rehearsal' in Pierce County, WA, and several West Virginia counties limits the evaluation of complex new counting methods and IT systems. That is a recipe for an undercount and cost increases.

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The proposed funding level also jeopardizes other key surveys and programs that the Census Bureau conducts, such as the 2017 Economic Census, Survey of Income and Program Participation, and American Community Survey.

Further, if and when Congress considers a FY 2018 Continuing Resolution, we support granting the Census Bureau a funding anomaly that provides the agency with funding above the President's request, on an annualized basis, to restore comprehensive, rigorous 2020 Census preparations and to meet its obligation to conduct the next decennial census as required by the U.S. Constitution.

Thank you for considering our views regarding this important matter.

Sincerely,

American Educational Research Association
 American Mathematical Society
 American Planning Association
 American Sociological Association
 American Statistical Association
 Arizona Housing Coalition, Phoenix, AZ
 Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, AR
 Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
 Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)
 Asian Americans Advancing Justice - AAJC
 Asian Law Alliance, San Jose, CA
 Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance
 Association of Population Centers
 Association of Public Data Users
 Capital District Regional Planning Commission, NY
 Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York, NY
 Center for the Study of Social Policy
 Child Care Aware of America
 Children's Advocacy Institute
 Children's Alliance, WA
 Children's Leadership Council
 Children's Mental Health Network
 Citizen's Immigration & Refugee Action Committee, Lancaster, PA
 Coalition on Human Needs
 Community Action Human Resources Agency, Eloy, AZ
 Community Action, Inc., Haverhill, MA
 Community Home Trust, Chapel Hill, NC
 CommUnity Zone, Lewisburg, PA
 Consortium of Social Science Associations
 Council for Community and Economic Research
 Council of Michigan Foundations, MI

Crescent City Media Group, LA
 Decision Demographics
 Every Child Matters
 FairVote
 Family Focused Treatment Association
 Forefront, IL
 Forum for Youth Investment
 Fridays with(out) Fitzpatrick, Newtown, PA
 Groundcover News, Ann Arbor, MI
 Human Development Services of Westchester, Mamaroneck, NY
 Indivisible Hawaii, HI
 Indivisible NW Philly, Philadelphia, PA
 Indivisible PA - Bux-Mont, Bucks and Montgomery Counties, PA
 Indivisible PA - Bux-Mont, Plymouth Meeting (PA-07), PA
 Insights Association
 Jewish Council for Public Affairs
 Kansas Action for Children, KS
 KIDS COUNT in Delaware, DE
 Long Island Housing Services, Inc., Bohemia, NY
 MACS 2020 - Minnesotans for the American Community Survey & 2020 Census, MN
 Maine Children's Alliance, ME
 Massachusetts Voter Table, MA
 Maxfield Research and Consulting LLC
 Michigan Nonprofit Association, MI
 Midwest Political Science Association
 Minnesota Council on Foundations, MN
 Minnesota State Demographic Center, MN
 Mount Washington Alliance, Haverhill, MA
 Mt. Lebanon Rise Up, Mt. Lebanon/Pittsburgh, PA
 NAACP
 NADC, Batesville, AR
 NALEO Educational Fund
 National Apartment Association, VA
 National Association of Counties
 National Association of Home Builders
 National Association of REALTORS®
 National Association of Regional Councils
 National Association of Towns and Townships
 National CAPACD
 National Congress of American Indians
 National Housing Conference
 National Low Income Housing Coalition
 National Multifamily Housing Council
 National WIC Association
 Nazareth Housing Services, Pittsburgh, PA
 New Jersey Policy Perspective, NJ

New Mexico Voices for Children, NM
Nielsen
Partnership for America's Children
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children, PA
Pennsylvania Together, PA
PeopleForBikes
PFLAG National
Population Association of America
Prison Policy Initiative
Public Justice Center, MD
Ramsey County, MN, MN
Research Advisory Services, Inc., Phoenix, AZ
Research Allies for Lifelong Learning
Ribbon Demographics, LLC
RLS Demographics, Inc.
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
Seattle Pacific University
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)
Southeast Michigan Census Council, Southfield, MI
State Voices
The Jewish Federations of North America
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA)
Virginia Civic Engagement Table, VA
Voice of Westmoreland, Greensburg, PA
VOICES for Alabama's Children, AL
Voices for Virginia's Children, VA
Westchester Children's Association, White Plains, NY
Woodstock Institute
ZERO TO THREE