



December 4, 2017

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Culberson
Chairman
Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Vice Chairwoman
Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jose Serrano
Ranking Member
Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shelby, Vice Chairwoman Shaheen, Chairman Culberson, and Ranking Member Serrano:

On November 16th, approximately 100 organizations signed a letter organized by The Census Project (www.thecensusproject.org), expressing support for, at a minimum, the additional \$187 million in funding Commerce Secretary Ross has requested the Census Bureau receive in FY 2018. As you know, Secretary Ross requested this increase mainly to support planning and buildout of the 2020 Census IT systems; however, many other aspects of the 2020 Census preparations are either on hold or delayed because of funding shortfalls.

As the current continuing resolution (CR) deadline looms and the prospect of a new, potentially lengthy CR arises, we are writing to express support for providing the Census Bureau with a true funding anomaly. We believe such an anomaly should provide the Census Bureau with funds, including the administration's requested increase, to ensure the Bureau can support essential IT planning and development activities as well as fully implement the 2018 End-to-End Readiness Test in Providence, Rhode Island, in which all 2020 Census operations and technologies will be fully tested in a true census-like environment.

Thank you for considering our request for that the Census Bureau receive a funding anomaly in the next CR Congress may be considering.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read 'Phil Sparks'.

Phil Sparks
Co-Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read 'Mary Jo Hoeksema'.

Mary Jo Hoeksema
Co-Director