



November 16, 2017

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

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

Senator Jeanne Shaheen  
Ranking Member  
Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations  
Subcommittee  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear Senators Shelby and Shaheen and Congressmen Culberson and Serrano:

As you consider the final Fiscal Year 2018 funding measure, we urge you to support the increased funding request submitted by the Secretary of Commerce for an additional \$187 million to support 2020 Census activities—an important initial down payment towards the additional \$3.3 billion the Administration says the Census needs over the next three years to conduct a fair, complete, accurate and successful 2020 Census.

In his recent testimony, Secretary Ross indicated the bulk of the proposed \$187 million increase for the next fiscal year will be devoted to the ongoing planning and buildout of the IT systems needed to make the next decennial less costly to the American taxpayer. We support this action; however, we believe the Congress should add to the Department's request.

No funds are included in the revised FY 2018 Census Bureau budget for timely development of the full advertising campaign, launch of the Partnership Program, restoring cancelled field tests in rural areas, or to adapt operations to remedy the impact of disasters in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and California that increase the risk of an incomplete census count in those communities. The new request does not include sufficient funding for historic numbers of partnership specialists, who help state and local officials and trusted community leaders support census operations through focused outreach and promotion to their constituencies. These operations help reduce costs by boosting self-response and increase accuracy by targeting messages to historically hard-to-count communities. We strongly urge additional funding for these important activities in the final Omnibus funding measure for Fiscal 2018.

As members and supporters of the Census Project (<http://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 have previously expressed the need for greater investment in planning for the decennial census. Our diverse coalition has urged Congress to provide the Census Bureau with “robust” funding to support critical Census

2020 preparations in FY 2018—including the End to End Readiness tests which were cut back by Census leadership after earlier funding requests were not fulfilled.

The FY 2018 appropriations process is a just-in-time opportunity to remedy these oversights and get our Constitutionally-mandated 2020 census back on track. Thank you for considering our views in these important matters.

Sincerely,

AcademyHealth

Advancement Project California CA

American Educational Research Association

Alaska Community Action on Toxics AK

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Mathematical Society

American Sociological Association

American Statistical Association

Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum

Asian American Federation New York NY

Asian American Resource Workshop Boston MA

Asian Americans Advancing Justice - AAJC

Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote

Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO (APALA)

Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations

Association of Population Centers

Association of Public Data Users (APDU)

Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

Canary Consulting IL

Capital District Regional Planning Commission NY

Community Action Human Resources Agency Eloy AZ

Consortium of Social Science Associations

Cornell University Program on Applied Demographics NY

Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER)

Council of Michigan Foundations MI

Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics

Crescent City Media Group LA

Decision Demographics

Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC)

Equality California CA

Family Equality Council

Forefront IL

Fund for Cities of Service

Homage Senior Services	Everett	WA
Housing Consortium of Everett & Snohomish County	Everett	WA
Housing Vermont		VT
Human Development Services of Westchester	Mamaroneck	NY
Indivisible Hawaii		HI
Insights Association		
Interfaith Association of Northwest Washington	Everett	WA
Japanese American Citizens League		
Jewish Council for Public Affairs		
Laotian American National Alliance		
Long Island Housing Services, Inc.	Bohemia	NY
MACS 2020 - Minnesotans for the American Community Survey and 2020 Census		MN
Massachusetts Voter Table		MA
MassVOTE		MA
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger		
Mercy Housing Northwest		WA
Mi Familia Vota		
Michigan League for Public Policy		MI
Michigan Nonprofit Association		MI
Michigan's Children		MI
Minnesota State Demographic Center		MN
Minnesotans Standing Together to END Poverty and Homelessness (MNSTEP)		MN
NAACP		
NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, Inc.		
National Asian Pacific American Bar Association		
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)		
National Association of Counties		
National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund		
National Coalition on Black Civic Participation		
National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA)		
National Disability Rights Network		
National Employment Law Project		
National Housing Conference		
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund		
National Low Income Housing Coalition		
National Multifamily Housing Council		
Nazareth Housing Services	Pittsburgh	PA
Neighbor to Neighbor Massachusetts		MA
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice		
New Jersey Policy Perspective		NJ
Nielsen		
OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates		

Partnership for America's Children		
PathWays PA	Folsom	PA
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children		PA
PeopleForBikes		
PFLAG National		
Philadelphia Association of Community Development Corporations	Philadelphia	PA
PICO California		CA
Population Association of America		
Prison Policy Initiative		
Public Justice Center		MD
Ramsey County	Saint Paul	MN
Research Advisory Services, Inc.	Phoenix	AZ
Ribbon Demographics, LLC		
Right to the City Boston	Boston	MA
RLS Demographics, Inc.		
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)		
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center		
Southeast Michigan Census Council	Southfield	MI
State Voices		
Sunlight Foundation		
The Farmworker Association of Florida, Inc.		FL
The Minnesota Foundation		MN
Urban and Regional Information Systems Association		
West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy		WV

cc: Senator Thad Cochran  
 Senator Patrick Leahy  
 Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen  
 Congresswoman Nita Lowey