



October 30, 2018

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney
Director
Office of Management and Budget
Executive Office of the President
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Director Mulvaney:

We are writing to you in our capacities as co-directors of [The Census Project](http://www.TheCensusProject.org), a broad-based, nonpartisan network of national, state, and local organizations representing the private, public, academic, and non-profit sectors whose members rely on accurate, timely, and comprehensive data produced by the U.S. Census Bureau. The Census Project members are united in supporting robust funding for the Census Bureau and, especially, the decennial census.

As you know, the Commerce-Justice-Science (CJS) Appropriations bill, which funds the Census Bureau, is one of the remaining unresolved Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 appropriations bills. Currently, the Census Bureau is operating under a continuing resolution (CR) until December 7 with additional carry over funding provided in the FY 2018 omnibus appropriations measure. However, the outlook for the CJS bill is uncertain—particularly given Congress' intention to pair the bill with the controversial FY 2019 Homeland Security appropriations measure. There is widespread speculation that disagreements between Congress and the Administration over the FY 2019 Homeland Security bill could trigger a partial government shutdown after the current CR expires.

Census 2020 operations are at a critical juncture. The Census Bureau is perfecting IT systems and other innovations tested during the 2018 End-to-End Readiness Test. The agency is also pursuing final design decisions and preparations for the 2020 Census, which will be the nation's first digital decennial census. FY 2019 is the Bureau's last opportunity to ensure the next decennial is accomplished inclusively, cost effectively, and successfully and to prepare for unique cybersecurity threats and self-response challenges confronting the 2020 Census.

Given the uncertainty surrounding the final FY 2019 CJS deliberations, and the delicate, consequential state of Census 2020 preparations, we encourage you to exercise your authority and ensure uninterrupted funding for the Census Bureau if a partial government shutdown occurs. Census Data are vital to America's economy and local planning, as well as countless investment decisions made every day. Ensuring the timely delivery of the 2020 data should be a national priority.

Thank you for considering our views. We look forward to working with the Administration and Congress to help resolve the FY 2019 CJS appropriations bill and to conduct a successful 2020 Census.

Sincerely,



Phil Sparks
Co-Director



Mary Jo Hoeksema
Co-Director



Howard Fienberg
Co-Director