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NATIVE AMERICAN CAUCUS,
CO-CHAIR

November 20, 2018

Hon. Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H204 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader Pelosi:

As you engage in final negotiations on the remaining appropriations bills for fiscal year 2019, I write to offer my strong support for legislative action to prohibit the Trump administration from adding a citizenship question to the 2020 Census. Whether the FY19 Commerce, Justice, Science appropriations bill moves alone or as part of a mini-bus, the 2020 Census must be fully funded and any effort to undermine a full and complete count, such as the inclusion of a citizenship question, should be prohibited.

The political and legal controversy surrounding the decision by the Secretary of Commerce to include a citizenship question in the 2020 Census is a clear indicator that there was intent to suppress a complete count by instilling fear in immigrant and vulnerable populations. This harmful and completely unnecessary citizenship question will almost certainly result in a significant undercount and distorted census data.

It is in our nation's interest to have a complete count in which ever person residing in the United States in counted, regardless of citizenship or immigration status. In Minnesota, a broad partnership of units of government, non-profits, communities of color, immigrant communities, business leaders, and the faith community have united to inform, educate, and reach out to all Minnesotans about the importance of being counted in the 2020 Census. Minnesota is determined to achieve a complete count. Having the citizenship question removed from the 2020 Census by legislative action or by the courts will help to mitigate fear and increase participation.

Leader Pelosi, thank you for championing the integrity of the 2020 Census.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Betty McCollum".

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress