

March 13, 2020

The Honorable José E. Serrano
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science & Related Agencies
H-305
The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science and Related Agencies
H-305
The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Serrano and Ranking Member Aderholt:

As you consider appropriations for Fiscal Year 2021, we respectfully urge you to provide at least \$1.681 billion in funding for the Census Bureau. This amount is \$9 million above the Administration's FY 2021 request of \$1.672 billion for the Bureau.

The decennial census is a cornerstone of our constitutional system of government. It is used to apportion seats in the House of Representatives and the electoral college. Census data helps the private sector make sound investments by identifying unsaturated or emerging growth markets and developing business plans and loan applications. The data also helps guide the distribution of over \$1.5 trillion in federal funding for healthcare, roads and bridges, education, first responders, rural businesses, and other vital services.

In FY 2021, the Census Bureau must close out operations around the largest and most technically advanced census in our nation's history. The Bureau must process 2020 Census data and send it to the President for apportionment by the end of the year, conduct a post-enumeration survey to measure the quality of this data, develop and test tools to ensure data confidentiality, close area census offices, and decommission equipment and devices.

We are asking the Committee to restore \$9.135 million in funding for the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) that was cut from the President's FY 2021 budget request. The Census Bureau's FY2021 budget estimate explains that SIPP is a critical program, explaining:

The SIPP is crucial to the measurement of the effectiveness of existing Federal, state, and local programs. The data are used to estimate the future costs and coverage for government programs, such as food stamps, and to provide improved statistics on the distribution of income in the country. In FY21, this survey will provide a broader context for analysis by adding questions on a variety of topics not covered in the core section, such as childcare, wealth, program eligibility,

child support, utilization and cost of health care, disability, school enrollment, taxes, and annual income.¹

The information collected through SIPP is essential to Congress' legislative work on behalf of the American people. For this reason, we ask that you restore \$9 million to SIPP so that it can continue to function effectively.

Thank you for considering our views on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Steven Horsford
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

Jim Cooper
Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

André Carson
Member of Congress

Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress

Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress

¹ U.S. Census Bureau's Budget Fiscal Year 2021 (Feb. 2020) (online at www.commerce.gov/sites/default/files/2020-02/fy2021_census_congressional_budget_justification.pdf).

Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

Dina Titus
Member of Congress

David Price
Member of Congress

Mark Takano
Member of Congress

Alma Adams
Member of Congress

TJ Cox
Member of Congress

Stephen F. Lynch
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Pramila Jayapal
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Katie Porter
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Joe Courtney
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Angie Craig
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Kathleen Rice
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Gregory Meeks
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John Sarbanes
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Antonio R. Delgado
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Jan Schakowsky
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