



November 17, 2020

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Chairman
Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Subcommittee
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Ranking Member
Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Subcommittee
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Moran and Ranking Member Shaheen,

On behalf of the coalitions and thousands of census stakeholders in the public, private, non-profit, and academic sectors that we represent, we are writing to express our strong support for your subcommittee's proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 bill and accompanying report regarding the U.S. Census Bureau. We enthusiastically support the funding level (\$1.79 billion) that your bill proposes for the Census Bureau as well as numerous provisions in the accompanying report.

As you know, the Census Bureau is struggling to overcome numerous challenges to complete the 2020 Census and deliver reliable decennial census data. We are pleased that the subcommittee recognizes these challenges by providing the 2020 Census with an additional \$122 million (above the budget request) in FY 2021 to help the Bureau address the consequences of pandemic-related delays in field operations. The additional funding your bill provides is consistent with the Department of Commerce's own FY 2021 Independent Cost Estimate for Decennial Census operations and will provide essential support for the Bureau as they conclude 2020 Census operations and work to deliver high quality decennial census data products.

While the additional funding would be extremely helpful, the Bureau still needs confirmation, that only the Congress can provide, regarding the final statutory reporting deadlines. To that end, we urge your subcommittee to consider including language in the bill, which the U.S. House of Representatives approved earlier this year, that would authorize a 120-day extension of the statutory reporting deadlines for delivering apportionment and redistricting data to Congress and the states, respectively. Unless Congress pushes back the statutory reporting deadlines for apportionment and redistricting data, the time for these vital activities will be cut in half, from 26 weeks in 2000 and 21 weeks in 2010 to just 11 weeks in 2020, despite a larger, more diverse population and a disrupted 2020 Census. We urge conferees on the FY 2021 Commerce, Justice,

Science (CJS) appropriations bill to heed [the request](#) that almost 400 national, state, and local organizations communicated to the Senate last month, and similar requests in August (from [87 business groups and companies](#), and from [nearly 900 national, state and local organizations](#)) and include a provision to extend the statutory reporting deadlines.

In addition to the Census Bureau funding, census stakeholders appreciate the report language that accompanied your subcommittee's bill, especially the language regarding the American Community Survey (ACS) and the role of stakeholders in shaping the Bureau's disclosure avoidance system. We hope these provisions emerge in the final explanatory statement accompanying the conference report.

We congratulate you and your staff on your hard work! Please do not hesitate to contact us if our communities can be of assistance to you and your colleagues as you work to reconcile a final FY 2021 CJS appropriations bill.

Sincerely,



Jill Boxler, Chief of Staff
Council for a Strong America



Jeffrey Connor-Naylor, Deputy Director
ReadyNation



Howard Fienberg
Co-Director, The Census Project



Vanita Gupta, President and CEO
Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights



Mary Jo Hoeksema
Co-Director, The Census Project



Arturo Vargas, Chief Executive Officer
NALEO Educational Fund



John C. Yang, President and Executive Director
Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC

cc: The Honorable Richard Shelby
 The Honorable Nita Lowey
 The Honorable Jose Serrano

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
The Honorable Kay Granger
The Honorable Robert Aderholt