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Census Stakeholder Leaders Support FY 2021 Senate Funding Levels for Census Bureau

Washington, D.C. – Leaders of a broad range of Census stakeholder groups today released [a letter](#) to the bipartisan leadership of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, & Science in support of the proposed FY 2021 funding level of \$1.79 billion for the U.S. Census Bureau.

The massive 2020 Census operation has been delayed months as a result of Covid-19 related disruptions and is mired in legal challenges all the way up to the U.S. Supreme Court, extending the cost of operations to complete deeper into the new fiscal year. Just last week the Census Bureau reported they need more time to address “data anomalies” in processing the 2020 results under a compressed time frame.

“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...” wrote the census leaders.

The letter signers represent a diverse array of census data users, including marketers, business executives, scientists, and civil rights groups, including Jill Boxler, Chief of Staff of ReadyNation, Jeffrey Connor-Naylor, Deputy Director of Council for a Strong America, Howard Fienberg, Co-Director, The Census Project, Vanita Gupta, President and CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, Mary Jo Hoeksema, Co-Director of The Census Project, Arturo Vargas, Chief Executive Officer of NALEO Educational Fund and John C. Yang, President and Executive Director of Asian Americans Advancing Justice (AAJC).

The letter also urged the Senate Subcommittee to take action to give the Census Bureau additional time to meet deadlines for the delivery of 2020 Census data: “...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.”

www.TheCensusProject.org

The Census Project (<https://thecensusproject.org>) is a broad-based coalition of national, state, and local organizations and companies that support an inclusive and accurate 2020 Census and American Community Survey (ACS) (the modern version of the census “long form”). Its 800+ member organizations and companies, representing the private, public, non-profit, and academic sectors, rely on objective data that the Census Bureau produces to inform evidence-based investment, policy and planning decisions.