

April 29, 2020

The Honorable Matt Cartwright  
Chairman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science & Related Agencies  
H-310  
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-310  
The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cartwright and Ranking Member Aderholt:

As you consider appropriations for Fiscal Year 2022, we respectfully urge you to provide at least \$2 billion in funding for the U.S. Census Bureau. This amount is \$335 million above the Census Bureau's total FY 2021 allocation of \$1.65 billion.

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. Complete and accurate data has been and will continue to be essential as our nation continues to combat and recover from the coronavirus pandemic.

The Census Bureau is at a critical juncture as it works to process and finalize data sets pursuant to the 2020 Decennial Census while also pursuing groundbreaking technical innovations and preparing for the 2030 Census. The coronavirus pandemic imposed unprecedented challenges to the execution of the 2020 Census, forcing the delay of apportionment and redistricting data into FY 2021. The Bureau has acknowledged that these delays have also forced the postponement of other subsequent 2020 census data sets including the Demographic Profile, Demographic & Housing Characteristics File, Congressional District Demographic and Housing Characteristics File, and Population and Housing Tables into FY 2022. These delays mean the Bureau needs additional funding above what has historically been allocated in "Year 2" following a decennial census in order to finalize and deliver the remaining data related to 2020 Census operations.

In addition to closing out operations and finalizing delivery of 2020 Census data products, the Bureau requires additional funding for FY 2022 initiatives that will position the Bureau for more efficient and accurate data collection, processing, and delivery throughout the remainder of the decade. These planned initiatives include modernizing the Bureau's data infrastructure for improved efficiency; expanding the sample size of the American Community Survey by 1 million households; stabilizing the Survey of Income and Program Participation; extending Pulse Surveys which provide timely data on the economic, social, and health impacts of the Coronavirus pandemic; and launching the Economic Census.

We recognize the challenges the Committee is facing in determining funding for FY 2022. We hope that the Committee will carefully consider the challenges and opportunities facing the Census Bureau and provide \$2 billion to ensure our national statistical system is comprehensive, efficient, and accurate, while setting the foundation for lawmakers to engage in data-driven, evidence-based policymaking through the new decade.

Thank you for considering our views on this important matter.

Sincerely,

**Carolyn B. Maloney**  
Member of Congress

**Raúl M. Grijalva**  
Member of Congress

**Ruben Gallego**  
Member of Congress

**Grace F. Napolitano**  
Member of Congress

**Jackie Speier**  
Member of Congress

**Jimmy Gomez**  
Member of Congress

**Frank Pallone, Jr.**  
Member of Congress

**Jamie Raskin**  
Member of Congress

**Stacey E. Plaskett**  
Member of Congress

**Mark DeSaulnier**  
Member of Congress

**Eleanor Holmes Norton**  
Member of Congress

**Ilhan Omar**  
Member of Congress