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For More Information Contact:

Howard Fienberg: (202) 570-7312, howard.fienberg@insightsassociation.org

Mary Jo Hoeksema: (703) 298-6818, maryjo@popassoc.org

Broad Coalition of Census Experts and Data Users Urge Appropriators to Support Funding Anomaly for Census Bureau In Next CR

Washington, D.C. – With news of a compromise deal to extend the current Continuing Resolution to fund the government through February 18, 2022, a broad coalition of national, state, and local census experts wrote to Congress today to ensure the Census Bureau is provided an anomaly against flat line funding in any future CR, to avoid grave risks to important survey work, including the twice-a-decade Economic Census that happens next year.

The nation's largest and most diverse Census stakeholder organization, the Census Project, was joined by over 50 organizations representing American business, government, non-profit, and academic interests today [in a letter](#) to House and Senate appropriations committee leaders urging them to ensure the Bureau has the funding necessary to continue vital data collection and dissemination work for the nation.

The proposed CR extension does not include a Census Bureau anomaly. The census experts reported to the Congressional leaders that: "...Prior to the beginning of Fiscal Year 2022, the Census Bureau instituted new spending strategies to maintain stable funding for all of its programs and surveys, including the Periodic Census programs account, 2022 Economic Census, and the Data Ingest and Collection for the Enterprise (DICE) program..."

These efforts pushed the critical date for any anomaly into February next year, so another CR in 2022 will definitely require an anomaly as, "the Bureau must have a spending anomaly to keep these programs, and the agency's other mission-critical surveys and programs, afloat. Without such an anomaly, funding for these activities will be depleted, rendering the Bureau unable to sustain their essential operations..." the census experts wrote in their letter.

Census Project co-director Howard Fienberg stressed that, "...the Census Bureau career staff have planned ahead for uncertain funding, but their efforts are understandably limited, and Congress must pass full FY22 funding before February or, if there is another CR, provide an exception to flat line funding for the Bureau to ensure the continued delivery of this vital data."

"We urge the Appropriators to make sure there is a continuous, uninterrupted delivery to the nation of the Bureau's trusted data, particularly in these challenging times of an economic downturn paired with a pandemic," said Census Project co-director Mary Jo Hoeksema.

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 900+ 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.