

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 29, 2022

The Honorable Matt Cartwright
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and 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 (FY) 2023, we respectfully urge you to provide \$2 billion in funding for the U.S. Census Bureau. This amount is \$495 million over the President's budget request and \$646 million above the Census Bureau's total FY 2022 allocation of \$1.354 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 an important crossroads. The agency is still resolving the outcome of the 2020 Census, while simultaneously pursuing technological innovations and preparing for the 2030 Census. These activities include finalizing the remaining 2020 Census data products, evaluations, and assessments—which were delayed due to pandemic disruptions—as well as continuing research and testing to design the next decennial headcount, such as working to develop and maintain the completeness of the address, the use of administrative records as a source of data for enumeration, and bringing efficiencies to field operations to improve for non-response follow up.

In addition, the Bureau requires additional funding for FY 2023 to support several initiatives proposed in the President's FY 2023 budget request, including: development and testing of a self-response internet-based instrument for the Current Population Survey, which is the primary source of information regarding the national unemployment rate and provides other data on the labor force; additional support for the Community Resilience Estimates program, which began during the pandemic to provide more granular population data; and critical updates to data collection methods for surveys that produce vital statistical data on the U.S. population and economy.

Finally, we urge the Subcommittee to include additional funding above the President’s request to allow for long overdue enhancements to the American Community Survey, including increasing the survey’s sample size, improving non-response follow up operations, addressing declining response rates, and implementing other improvements to both methodology and operations. The American Community Survey serves to continuously update a “snapshot” of households taken during decennial censuses. We believe expanding and updating the American Community Survey, particularly in the wake of disrupted 2020 Census operations, is critical to ensuring that policymakers have access to the most up-to-date data regarding our nation’s increasingly complex population and households, and will promote robust, evidence-based policymaking.

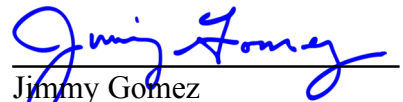
We recognize the challenges the Subcommittee is facing in determining funding for FY 2023. We hope that the Subcommittee will carefully consider the challenges and opportunities facing the Census Bureau and provide \$2 billion to ensure our national statistical system is comprehensive, efficient, and accurate, while setting the foundation for lawmakers to engage in data driven, evidence-based policymaking throughout the rest of the decade.

Thank you for considering our views on this important matter.

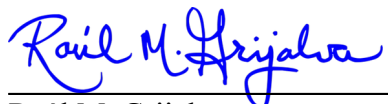
Sincerely,



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



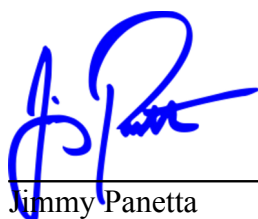
Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



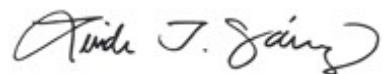
Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress



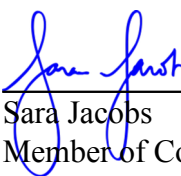
Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
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Jackie Speier
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Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
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