Dear Chair Shaheen, Chairman Cartwright, Ranking Member Moran, and Ranking Member Aderholt,

On behalf of The Census Project (https://thecensusproject.org/), a broad-based coalition of organizations from the private, public, non-profit, and academic sectors that support the U.S. Census Bureau’s mission to produce full, fair, complete, and accurate data, including data from the decennial census and American Community Survey (ACS), we are writing to express strong support for funding the U.S. Census Bureau in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023.

We want to ensure that the Census Bureau receives the highest possible level of funding in the final Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) Appropriations bill. Specifically, we urge that the final FY 2023 CJS appropriations bill provide the Census Bureau with at least $1.505 billion—an amount approved by the House Appropriations Committee. This funding (which includes $336,176,000 for Current Surveys and Programs and $1,169,294,000 for Periodic Census and Programs) represents a modest $151.5 million increase from the FY 2022 enacted level, as the President proposed in his request. The draft Senate CJS bill recommends $20 million less than the House funding level, a reduction we believe will prevent the Bureau from pursuing important cost-saving methodologies for future statistics in a timely way.

The Census Bureau—the nation’s largest statistical agency—is at an important crossroads. The agency is still resolving the outcome of the 2020 Census, while simultaneously pursuing groundbreaking innovations and preparing for the 2030 Census. As FY 2023 begins, Congress has a unique opportunity to initiate multi-year funding for the Bureau, providing the agency with resources that it needs not only to sustain and strengthen its mission, but also to recover from years of postponed enhancements and pursue numerous necessary operational improvements to consolidate and integrate legacy surveys and systems into a new, more nimble data collection and dissemination model. In particular, early decade
investments in the decennial census will allow the Bureau to sustain critical capabilities and, as a result, reduce the risk of additional funding needs in the peak years later in the decade.

The amount approved by the House Appropriations Committee would enable the Census Bureau to address these ambitious priorities as well as others outlined in the Administration’s request. These proposals include completing the data collection phase of the 2022 Economic Census, expanding partnership programs to improve census stakeholder engagement, and pursuing a variety of necessary innovations to modernize several existing programs and surveys, such as the Current Population Survey and High Frequency Data Program.

In the event ongoing discussions lead to an increase in the CJS subcommittee’s allocation, we urge negotiators to provide the Census Bureau with additional funds beyond the $1.5 billion approved by the House Appropriations Committee. Stakeholders have identified several priorities that the Census Bureau could pursue, including:

- **ACS**—While the President’s budget requested an additional $10 million to improve how the ACS measures sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI), census stakeholders and data users in the public, private, and non-profit sectors believe the ACS needs an immediate infusion of substantial funding to pursue other long overdue enhancements to the survey, such as increasing the survey’s sample size, improving its non-response follow up operations, addressing steadily declining response rates, revising and streamlining content, and making other methodological and operational improvements. An [independent report](#) issued in 2022 by The Census Project urged an infusion of $100 to $300 million to protect the ACS from further data quality deficiencies and act on a long list of improvements to ensure the survey is accurately capturing data about the nation’s increasingly complex population and households.

- **Population Estimates**—The significant operational disruption in the 2020 Census heightened concerns about differential undercounts of racial and ethnic populations, rural areas, and young children. The annual series of Population Estimates is a major opportunity to help mitigate the consequences of an inaccurate count, which is the basis for all subsequent annual estimates for the next decade. Census stakeholders have called for an additional $10 million to support expanded opportunities for cities, counties, towns, tribal governments, and other localities to help ensure the accuracy of their annual estimates. Half of the additional resources ($5 million) could restore the Population Estimates Branch to its 2003 funding and staffing levels and ensure that new data sources are part of the program’s transformation. The remaining $5 million could allow each state in the Federal-State Cooperative for Population Estimates to have a dedicated full-time staff member who could assist all localities -- especially smaller ones -- within each respective state to participate in an expanded improvement program, without creating an unfunded mandate on local communities that need to remedy 2020 errors.

Thank you for considering the many challenges and opportunities facing the U.S. Census Bureau. We appreciate your consideration of our request and urge you to provide the Census Bureau with at least $1.505 billion in the final FY 2023 CJS appropriations bill.

Sincerely,
The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
The Honorable Richard Shelby  
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
The Honorable Kay Granger  

National  
Academic Pediatric Association  
African American Health Alliance  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Anthropological Association  
American Educational Research Association  
American Pediatric Society  
American Psychological Association  
American Sociological Association  
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - AAJC  
Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote (APIAVote)  
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs  
Association of Population Centers  
Association of Public Data Users (APDU)  
Bangladesh Medical Association of North America  
Claritas  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Common Cause  
Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf  
Consortium of Social Science Associations  
Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics  
Fair Count  
First Focus Campaign for Children  
Free Government Information (FGI)  
Insights Association  
International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC)  
League of Women Voters of the United States  
Movement Advancement Project  
NALEO Educational Fund  
National Association for Business Economics  
National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)  
National Association of REALTORS®  
National Association of Towns and Townships  
National Coalition for Literacy  
National Community Development Association  
National League of Cities  
National Multifamily Housing Council  
Network Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
Nielsen  
Partnership for America's Children
Pediatric Policy Council
Population Association of America
Prison Policy Initiative
SHK Global Health
SocialExplorer, Inc.
Society for Pediatric Research
The Gerontological Society of America
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
U.S. Conference of Mayors
Urban and Regional Information Systems Association
ZERO TO THREE

State-Level
A Better Chance A Better Community (ABC2) NC
ABISA MI
Advocacy House Services Inc. NC
American Children's Campaign FL
Association of Mexicans in North Carolina, Inc. (AMEXCAN) NC
Bayard Rustin LGBTQ APRI NC
Colorado Civic Engagement Roundtable CO
DANA, Delaware Alliance for Nonprofit Advancement DE
Equality California CA
Every Texan TX
Future Endeavors Life Program NC
Housing Action Illinois IL
Indivisible Hawaii HI
MACS - Minnesotans for the American Community Survey MN
Minnesota Council on Foundations MN
NC Counts Coalition NC
North Carolina Asian Americans Together (NCAAT) NC
Northwest Harvest WA
Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy OK
Our Children Oregon OR
Public Justice Center MD
The Bingham Program ME
U2U/Little Rock CDC NC
VOICES for Alabama's Children AL
Voters Not Politicians MI

Local/City/Regional
Acción Hispana - Que Pasa Winston Salem NC
Allston Brighton Health Collaborative Boston MA
AltaMed Health Services Los Angeles CA
Bounty & Soul Black Mountain NC
Center for Community & Family Development Onancock VA
Centro Unido Latino Americano Marion NC
CityGate Dream Center Burlington NC
Cool Spring Missionary Baptist Church Gaston NC
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