September 5, 2023

Senator Jeanne Shaheen, Chair
Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Jerry Moran, Ranking Member
Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Hal Rogers, Chairman
Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Matt Cartwright, Ranking Member
Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

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

On behalf of The Census Project, a broad-based coalition of business, civic, human services, state and local government, and academic groups committed to supporting the U.S. Census Bureau’s mission to produce full, fair, complete, and accurate data, we are writing to express support for ensuring the agency receives the highest possible level of funding in the final Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) appropriations bill.

The House and Senate Appropriations Committees have made important progress on their versions of the FY 2024 CJS bill under challenging circumstances. Funding levels for the Census Bureau in the House and Senate CJS bills, $1.354 and $1.501 billion, respectively, fall short of what the President requested, and the level census stakeholders endorsed. Given the current state of play, however, we urge Congress to provide the Census Bureau with no less than the amount recommended by the Senate Appropriations Committee in the final version of the FY 2024 CJS bill.

As you know, the Census Bureau is the nation’s principal statistical agency, producing demographic and economic data used to guide the prudent allocation of over $2 trillion in annual federal funding and inform key investment and planning decisions in the public, private, and non-profit sectors. Insufficient funding in FY 2024 could undermine the Bureau’s ability to sustain and enhance the quality of its surveys and programs that produce these invaluable data. Stakeholders are also concerned that if the Bureau receives less than $1.501 billion in FY 2024, ongoing initiatives to make census data timelier and more accessible and to reduce survey respondent burden could be stymied.
Another major component of the Bureau’s operations is its conduct of the nation’s constitutionally mandated decennial census. Remarkably, we are already a third of the way into the 2030 Census cycle. In FY 2024, the Bureau will choose a design and release an initial operational plan for the 2030 Census—decisions that will affect every facet of the next decennial. Sound investments now will help to ensure the future success and cost efficiency of the 2030 Census by reducing the risk of requiring unplanned, additional funding in the peak planning years later in the decade. In addition, increased funding will enable the Bureau to pursue a thoughtful research agenda to ensure the 2030 Census is inclusive and accurate.

Thank you for considering our views as you move towards completion of the FY 2024 CJS appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

National
ABISA (African Bureau for Immigration and Social Affairs)
Academic Pediatric Association
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Anthropological Association
American Educational Research Association
American Pediatric Society
American Psychological Association
American Sociological Association
American Statistical Association
Arab American Institute
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - AAJC
Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote (APIAVote)
Association of Population Centers
Association of Public Data Users (APDU)
CensusChannel LLC
Claritas
Coalition on Human Needs
Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA)
Council for Community and Economic Research
Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics
Decision Demographics, LLC
Demographic Analytics Advisors
Fair Count
Gerontological Society of America
Government Information Watch
ICSC
Insights Association
Movement Advancement Project
NAACP Legal Defense Fund
NALEO Educational Fund
National Association for Business Economics
National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders
National Association for the Education of Young Children
National Association of Counties (NACo)
National Association of REALTORS
National Association of Towns and Townships
National Coalition on Black Civic Participation
National Community Development Association
National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA)
National Women's Law Center
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Nielsen
Parents as Teachers
Partnership for America's Children
Population Association of America
Prison Policy Initiative
ReadyNation
RLS Demographics, Inc.
Society for Pediatric Research
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
The United States Conference of Mayors
Urban and Regional Information Systems Association
Whitman-Walker Institute
ZERO TO THREE

State-Level
American Children's Campaign \quad FL
California Native Vote Project \quad CA
Center for Economic Inclusion \quad MN
CivicGeorgia \quad GA
Coalition for Asian American Children and Families (CACF) \quad NY
Colorado Common Cause \quad CO
Connecticut Community Nonprofit Alliance \quad CT
Delaware Alliance for Nonprofit Advancement \quad DE
Equality California \quad CA
Erase The Divide LLC \quad NJ
Every Texan \quad TX
Forefront (IL) \quad IL
Housing Action Illinois \quad IL
MACS 2030 - Minnesotans for the American Community Survey & 2030 Census \quad MN
Michigan Nonprofit Association \quad MI
Minnesota Council on Foundations  
N.Y. Census & Redistricting Institute at New York Law School  
NC Counts Coalition  
Nonprofit Network  
Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy  
Parent Possible  
Public Justice Center  
Silver State Voices  
The Bingham Program  
VOICES for Alabama's Children  

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