



The Census Project

February 26, 2008

The Honorable Kent Conrad
Chairman
Committee on the Budget
United States Senate
SD-624 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Conrad:

We are writing to you as members of the Census Project (www.thecensusproject.org), a collaboration of state and local governments, civil rights and labor groups, housing and child advocates, businesses, and research organizations interested in a fair and accurate Census 2010. As Congress begins consideration of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 Budget Resolution, we are asking the House and Senate to provide Function 300 with an allocation **sufficient to accommodate the significant funding ramp-up required in the final year of preparations for the 2010 decennial census.**

The Census Bureau is the premier source of demographic and economic data on every facet of our nation's population and communities. The agency produces annual data that are used by federal agencies to determine the allocation of over \$300 billion in federal funding (2007, Brookings Institution) and by the private sector to inform key investment and other business decisions. Further, census population numbers are used to apportion seats in Congress, influencing the foundation of our democratic system of governance. To enable the Census Bureau to perform its essential operations and constitutional requirements, the Administration has requested \$2.6 billion in FY 2009.

The request is double the FY 2008 appropriation of \$1.3 billion. However, as you know, the Census budget is cyclical and must increase dramatically in the years preceding the census to pay for necessary preparations. These preparations include opening early local offices, hiring temporary headquarters and regional staff, printing hundreds of millions of forms, verifying local addresses across the country, and conducting promotional activities. The groundwork done in the final year before the census will, to a

large extent, determine the success of the 2010 Census. The Census Bureau must receive, at a minimum, the President's requested funding level, to ensure that vital preparations are thorough and timely.

Recognizing the budget resolution as an important first step in the annual appropriations process, we ask your Committee to ensure Function 300 receives an allocation that gives the House and Senate Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Subcommittees the flexibility they need to support the Census Bureau's full request, among the many other worthy programs under the Subcommittees' jurisdiction.

Thank you for your consideration of our request and for working on behalf of all Americans to ensure that the 2010 Census is accurate and fair in all communities.

Sincerely,

American Sociological Association

American Statistical Association

Asian American Justice Center

Association of Population Centers

The City of New York

Consortium of Social Science Associations

Council for Marketing and Opinion Research

Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics

Japanese American Citizens League

National Association of Counties

National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO)
Educational Fund

National Association of Towns and Townships

National Congress of American Indians

National Multi Housing Council

Population Association of America

Population Resource Center

Southeast Michigan Census Council

Members of the Census Project are listed at:

<http://www.thecensusproject.org/Stakeholderlist.htm>

cc: The Honorable Judd Gregg
The Honorable Paul Ryan
The Honorable John Spratt
The Honorable Alan Mollohan
The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen
The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
The Honorable Richard Shelby

This letter was also sent to the other leaders of the House and Senate Budget Committees (Senator Gregg, Congressman Spratt, and Congressman Ryan).