April 10, 2024

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

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

Rep. 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, education, and scientific organizations committed to supporting the U.S. Census Bureau’s mission to produce full, fair, complete, and accurate data, we are writing to express our support for funding the U.S. Census Bureau in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025. Specifically, we urge Congress to provide the U.S. Census Bureau with $2 billion in FY 2025 and to oppose any proposals that would use the agency as an offset to fund other programs in the Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) appropriations bill.

FY 2025 is a pivotal year in the ramp up to the 2030 Census. It marks the midpoint in the decade-long planning process for the next constitutionally-mandated decennial census—the nation’s largest peacetime civilian initiative. In FY 2025, the Bureau will complete its first major 2030 Census milestone: selecting an operational design. The operational design will affect every facet of the 2030 Census, including the 2026 Census Test in which the Bureau will assess innovative systems and methods designed uniquely to ensure an inclusive, cost effective, and accurate 2030 count. Investing in decennial census preparations now will reduce the risk of requiring unplanned, additional funding in the peak years at the end of the decade. As we learned in the run up to the 2020 count, postponing planning for decennial operations introduces greater risk to a successful outcome.

As the premier Federal statistical agency, the Census Bureau is responsible for conducting a wide range of activities beyond managing decennial census operations. In its proposed FY 2025 budget, the agency details numerous priorities and activities, including plans to restore and enhance the Survey of Income and Program Participation

www.TheCensusProject.org
(SIPP); sustain improvements to the Population Estimates program; initiate a new Puerto Rico Economic Survey; and continue implementation of the Data Ingest and Collection for the Enterprise (DICE) program, a more-advanced data collection platform.

While we, as census stakeholders, are generally pleased the President’s FY 2025 request to Congress reflects a slight increase over the Bureau’s FY 2024 enacted level and would maintain modernization efforts supported by census stakeholders, we are concerned that the Administration’s proposal falls short of the more robust investments The Census Project **recommended for FY 2025** to deliver complete and accurate data for the nation. Specifically, we are concerned that the Administration’s budget falls short of necessary investments needed to support 2030 Census planning and to stabilize and enhance the American Community Survey (ACS)—the official, trusted, and public source of continuous, updated demographic, socioeconomic, and housing data used by public, private and non-profit sectors in every community across the country.

To empower the Census Bureau to embark on activities outlined in their FY 2025 budget, as well as others identified by census stakeholders, including improvements to the ACS, we urge Congress to provide the agency with $2 billion in FY 2025. Further, we strongly urge you to reject any proposals that would use the Census Bureau as a funding offset. The Bureau should not be perceived as an acceptable “piggybank” to support other programs funded by the CJS bill.

Thank you for considering our views as you craft the FY 2025 CJS appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

**National**
Academic Pediatric Association
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Anthropological Association
American Civil Liberties Union
American Educational Research Association
American Pediatric Society
American Sociological Association
American Statistical Association
Arab American Institute (AAI)
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
CensusChannel LLC  
Children's HealthWatch  
Coalition of Labor Union Women  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Common Cause  
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces  
Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics  
Decision Demographics, LLC  
Demographic Analytics Advisors  
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF)  
Erase The Divide LLC  
First Focus Campaign for Children  
Generations United  
Gerontological Society of America  
Government Information Watch  
ICSC  
Insights Association  
League of Women Voters of the United States  
NALEO Educational Fund  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
National Association for Business Economics (NABE)  
National Association of Home Builders  
National Association of Towns and Townships  
National Coalition for Literacy  
National Community Action Partnership  
National Community Development Association  
National Disability Institute  
National LGBTQI+ Cancer Network  
National NeighborWorks Association  
National Organization for Women  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
National Urban League  
National Women’s Law Center  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
Nielsen  
Partnership for America’s Children  
Pediatric Policy Council  
People Power United  
Population Association of America  
Prison Policy Initiative
Project On Government Oversight
Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)
Save the Children
Society for Pediatric Research
The Consortium of Social Science Associations
The Educare Network
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
United Church of Christ
Urban and Regional Information Systems Association
Voices for Progress
Whitman-Walker Institute
ZERO TO THREE

**State-Level**

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Our Children Oregon
Parent Possible
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children
Public Justice Center
SC Counts
South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center
South Carolina Program for Infant/Toddler Care
The Alaska Census Working Group/The Foraker Group
The Bingham Program
The Children's Agenda
VOICES for Alabama's Children
Wyoming Community Foundation

Local/City/Regional

Activists With A Purpose Plus
Apalachee Regional Planning Council
Instituto del Desarrollo de la Juventud
Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County
Long Beach Gray Panthers
Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.
MICAH- Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing
Minneapolis Foundation
Na'ah Illahee Fund
NEK-CAP, Inc.
OMID Multicultural Institute for Development
Paraquad
San Diego for Every Child
Southern Echo Inc.
Thames Valley Council for Community Action, Inc.
The Data Center of Southeast Louisiana
The Healing Trust
West Central Initiative

Grenada
Tallahassee
San Juan
Clearwater
Long Beach
Maui County
St. Paul
Minneapolis
Seattle
Hiawatha
Irvine
St. Louis
San Diego
Jackson
Jewett City
New Orleans
Nashville
Fergus Falls

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