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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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ENTREPRENEURSHIP, AND WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chair
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
and Science
Committee on Appropriations
H-310 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Matt Cartwright
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
and Science
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

May 1, 2024

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Cartwright:

As the Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) Appropriations Subcommittee considers its Fiscal Year 2025 Appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you prioritize the highest possible funding for the U.S. Census Bureau.

The Decennial Census is a cornerstone of our constitutional system of government. determining reapportionment in the U.S. House of Representatives and the Electoral College. Census data also helps the private sector make sound investments by identifying underserved or emerging markets and developing business plans and loan applications. Over \$1.5 trillion in Federal funding for healthcare, roads and bridges, education, first responders, rural businesses, and Veterans is allocated annually to states and localities based on census data. Further, census data inform evaluation and research activities conducted by state and local government officials and scientists at U.S. research institutions.

Fiscal Year 2025 marks the midpoint of the 2030 Census planning cycle. As you know, the decennial census is a massive undertaking, requiring hundreds of operations that need to be planned, tested, and made ready for the U.S. government's largest peacetime civilian operation. Funding for the 2030 Census must begin ramping up to support critical testing and operations geared toward achieving an inclusive, accurate, and cost-effective decennial census. Funding shortfalls during the last decade forced the Bureau to scale back strategic field tests—a decision that may have contributed to the less accurate counts of racial and ethnic populations, rural areas, and young children resulting from the 2020 Census. Investing in the 2030 Census now will allow the Bureau to sustain essential capabilities and schedules and reduce the risk of requiring unplanned, additional funding in the peak planning years later in the decade.

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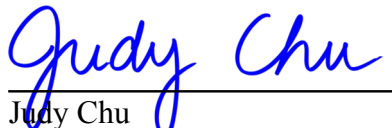
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In addition to supporting enhanced 2030 Census preparations, the Census Bureau needs robust funding to enhance and improve the over 130 ongoing survey and program operations, including the American Community Survey (ACS), which provides continuous data about the nation's ever-changing demographic and socioeconomic characteristics. The Bureau also needs funding to modernize, consolidate, and integrate legacy survey frames; test and implement revisions to Federal race and ethnicity data collection standards; improve the Population Estimates program; pursue enhanced uses of administrative record to reduce survey respondent burden; and tackle the historic undercount of hard-to-reach populations, especially young children, across all of its surveys.

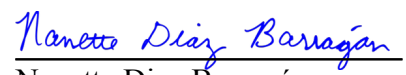
The Census is also the federal government's source of disaggregated racial and ethnic data. Disaggregated data helps policymakers understand differences between diverse subgroups within larger communities, like the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, & Pacific Islander (AANHPI) community. The Census Bureau faces many challenges and opportunities during this upcoming fiscal year, and additional support from Congress would assist the agency's modernization plans to make it operationally more efficient and improve data product quality.

Once again, we encourage your subcommittee to make the Census Bureau a high priority in the FY 2025 CJS bill. Further, during FY 2025 deliberations, we encourage the subcommittee to reject any proposals that would use the Census Bureau as a funding offset for other priorities in the CJS bill. Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragan
Member of Congress

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Handwritten signature of Suzanne Bonamici in blue ink.

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Danny K. Davis in blue ink.

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Jimmy Gomez in blue ink.

Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Raúl M. Grijalva in blue ink.

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Brian Fitzpatrick in blue ink.

Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Adam B. Schiff in blue ink.

Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Lucy McBath in blue ink.

Lucy McBath
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Eleanor H. Norton in blue ink.

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

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Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress
Kansas Third District

Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress

Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier
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Angie Craig
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Cori Bush
Member of Congress

Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress

Robert Garcia
Member of Congress

Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress

André Carson
Member of Congress

Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

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Handwritten signature of Maxwell Alejandro Frost in black ink.

Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Seth Magaziner in black ink.

Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Zoe Lofgren in blue ink.

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Jahana Hayes in blue ink.

Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Rashida Tlaib in blue ink.

Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of John P. Sarbanes in blue ink.

John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Troy A. Carter, Sr. in black ink.

Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress

Handwritten signature of Gabe Amo in blue ink.

Gabe Amo
Member of Congress

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jimmy Panetta', written over a horizontal line.

Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joe Courtney', written over a horizontal line.

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Linda T. Sanchez', written over a horizontal line.

Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Mullin', written over a horizontal line.

Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sean Casten', written over a horizontal line.

Sean Casten
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Morgan McGarvey', written over a horizontal line.

Morgan McGarvey
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Blunt Rochester', written over a horizontal line.

Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ruben Gallego', written over a horizontal line.

Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress

Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress

Jii Tokuda
Member of Congress

Mary Sattler Peltola
Member of Congress

Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress

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A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gerald E. Connolly". The signature is written over a horizontal line that extends to the right and then curves downwards.

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress