

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

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

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

March 13, 2026

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Meng:

As the Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) Appropriations Subcommittee considers its Fiscal Year 2027 Appropriations bill, we respectfully request \$2.1 billion 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.

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.

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.

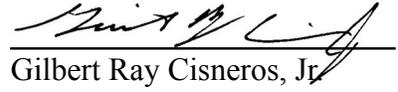
The Census is also the federal government's source of disaggregated racial and ethnic data. Disaggregated data helps policymakers understand differences between diverse subgroups within larger communities, like the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, & Pacific Islander (AANHPI) community, the Latino or Hispanic community, and the Black 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 you to provide \$2.1 billion for the Census Bureau in the FY 2027 CJS bill. Further, during FY 2027 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.

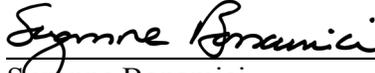
Sincerely,



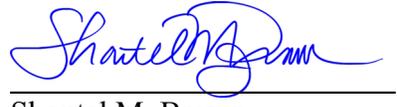
Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress
Kansas Third District



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Brian K. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragan
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



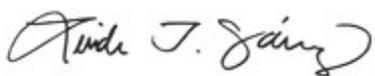
Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress



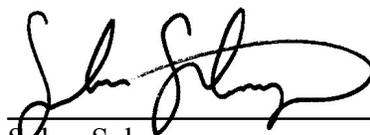
Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Suhas Subramanyam
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



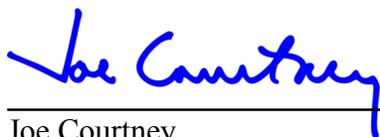
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



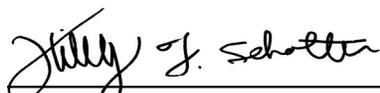
Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress



Johnny Ciszewski, Jr.
Member of Congress



Hillary J. Scholten
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



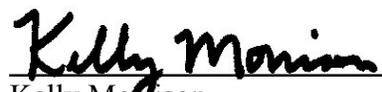
Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



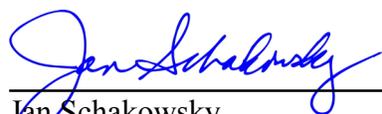
Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



Kelly Morrison
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Luz M. Rivas
Member of Congress



Greg Stanton
Member of Congress