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2019-2021

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2012-2013

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U.S. Census Bureau Director
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Statement Regarding House Fiscal Year 2027 Commerce, Justice Science Appropriations Bill Census Provisions April 30, 2026

[The Census Project](#), a broad-based coalition representing thousands of census stakeholders and data users in the private, public, nonprofit, and research sectors is deeply concerned about provisions in the current version of the House Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Commerce Justice, Science (CJS) Appropriations bill.

Funding

The bill recommends that the Census Bureau receive \$1.49 billion in Fiscal Year 2027, an amount equal to what the agency received in FY 2026. This funding level is approximately \$521 million below the Administration's request, \$2.01 billion, and even farther below the funding level, \$2.11 billion, that [was endorsed by 85 members of The Census Project](#) and [44 bipartisan members of the U.S. House of Representatives](#).

With only three years before the 2030 Census, FY 2027 is a crucial year for decennial preparations in which the agency will be analyzing data collected from the 2026 Census Test about novel enumeration strategies and technologies and preparing for the 2028 Dress Rehearsal. Adequate support for decennial census preparations now will reduce the risk of requiring unplanned, additional funding in the peak years at the end of the decade and improve the agency's ability to conduct an accurate, cost-efficient count in 2030. In addition to fulfilling its constitutional mandate to prepare for the next decennial census, the Census Bureau needs robust funding to sustain and enhance its other operations and surveys, including the American Community Survey (ACS) and Population Estimates Program, which monitor changes in the U.S. population throughout the decade, inform public and private sector decision making, and guide the annual allocation of over \$2.8 trillion in federal funding.

Policy

The Census Project is also troubled that, once again, the Subcommittee has included language in its bill, Section 579, that would preclude the Census Bureau from enforcing the mandatory response requirement of the decennial census and ACS, while also limiting the Bureau to no more than two follow up inquiries across all of its surveys.

This provision, which Congress has rejected twice before, would have a devastating impact on the decennial census, which historically has had to send more than two invitations to self-respond in order to count more than half of U.S. households. Likewise, the provision would undermine coverage in the ACS and the Current Population Survey, which require more than 3 and approximately 2.5 follow-up contacts, respectively. Major business, economic, and demographic surveys that have multiple follow-up contact strategies would likewise be adversely impacted, which is why [the business community has expressed opposition to this language in the past](#). Given the adverse impact this provision would have on data quality overall, The Census Project hopes Section 579 will be removed as the CJS bill proceeds.