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2009-2012

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U.S. Census Bureau Director
1998

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Appointed Officials (NALEO) Education Fund

September 4, 2026

The Honorable Howard Lutnick
Secretary
Department of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Lutnick,

As members and affiliates of [The Census Project](https://www.TheCensusProject.org) coalition, we are writing to express our concerns about an [indefinite delay](#) in the release of data from the American Community Survey (ACS) that the Census Bureau announced on August 4, 2026.¹

The Census Project is a broad coalition comprised of over 800 national, state, and local organizations representing thousands of data users and census stakeholders in the public, private, non-profit, and research sectors. Our members depend on reliable, high-quality census data to analyze changing U.S. economic and demographic trends. ACS data are especially critical to their planning, investment decisions, market strategies, and public services, for example, on behalf of businesses, state and local governments, consumers, veterans, and children.

The release of the 2025 1-year ACS estimates is being delayed as a direct result of a new order that the Department of Commerce issued in June.² As you know, this order, [“Disclosure Avoidance for Statistical Products” \(DAO 216-26\)](#), limits the types of privacy protection methods that the Census Bureau and Bureau of Economic Analysis can use for their data products. By barring the use of “noise infusion” methods, the family of modern privacy protection techniques that federal statistical agencies have used for years, the Census Bureau is being forced to rework their approaches to safeguarding the confidentiality of the sensitive data they have on every person, household, and business in the United States.

We urge the Department of Commerce to work with the Census Bureau to resolve the issues affecting the scheduled release of the 1-year ACS estimates. Timely release of ACS data is imperative if communities, service providers, policymakers, businesses and others are expected to responsibly assess the public’s needs, allocate taxpayer dollars, and make informed decisions.

www.TheCensusProject.org

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

National

Academic Pediatric Association
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Anthropological Association
American Educational Research Association
American Pediatric Society
American Statistical Association
Americans for Indian Opportunity
Arab American Institute (AAI)
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF)
Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC
Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote (APIAVote)
Associated General Contractors of America
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association of Population Centers
Association of Public Data Users
Census Quality Reinforcement Task Force
Claritas
Coalition on Human Needs
Common Cause
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics
Data Rescue Project
Decision Demographics, LLC
Development District Association of Appalachia (DDAA)
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF)
Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC)
Fair Count
Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences (FABBS)
Funders' Committee for Civic Participation (FCCP) and Funders' Committee Census Initiative (FCCI)
FuturePlan Consulting, LLC
Georgetown University Center for Children and Families
Geospatial Professional Network (formerly URISA)
Gerontological Society of America
ICPSR, The Data Consortium
Insights Association
Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP)
IPUMS

League of Women Voters of the United States
 Meals on Wheels America
 Movement Advancement Project
 NALEO Educational Fund
 National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
 National Association for Business Economics (NABE)
 National Association of Counties
 National Association of Development Organizations
 National Association of Home Builders
 National Community Development Association
 National Congress of American Indians
 National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA)
 National Education Association
 National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC)
 National Partnership for Women & Families
 National Restaurant Association
 National Women's Law Center
 NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
 Nielsen
 Pediatric Policy Council
 Population Association of America
 Population Reference Bureau
 Prison Policy Initiative
 Project On Government Oversight
 Research Allies for Lifelong Learning
 Simply Put
 Society for Pediatric Research
 South Asian Public Health Association (SAPHA)
 The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
 UNITED SIKHS

State-Level

The Grove Foundation	CA
Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families	AR
California - U.S. Census Bureau Federal-State Co-operative for Population Estimates and for Population Projections	CA
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network	CA
Civic Nebraska	NE
Coalition for Asian American Children and Families	NY
Colorado Latino Leadership, Advocacy & Research Organization (CLLARO)	CO
Common Cause MN	MN
COOLJC Region 8 SJEREC	SC
Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage	MN

Equality California	CA
Every Texan	TX
Georgia Coalition for the Peoples Agenda	GA
Indivisible Hawaii Statewide Network	HI
Kansas Action for Children	KS
MACS 2030 - Minnesotans for the ACS and 2030 Census	MN
Maine Children's Alliance	ME
Merck Family Fund	MA
Michigan League for Public Policy	MI
Minnesota Budget Project	MN
Minnesota Council of Nonprofits	MN
Minnesota Council on Foundations	MN
Missouri Foundation for Health	MO
N.Y. Elections, Census & Redistricting Institute (at New York Law School)	NY
Our Children Oregon	OR
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children	PA
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT	RI
RLS Demographics, Inc.	NY
Silver State Equality	NV
Voices for Virginia's Children	VA

Local/City/Regional

Alameda County Health, Public Health Department	Alameda County	CA
Center for Urban Research, CUNY Graduate Center	New York	NY
Data You Can Use	Milwaukee	WI
FreshAir Collective LLC	Milwaukee	WI
Maxfield Research & Consulting	Minneapolis	MN
Northeast Wisconsin Data Exchange	Menasha	WI
Northspan Group, Inc.	Duluth	MN
REACH Healthcare Foundation	Overland Park	KS
Twin Cities Research Group	Minneapolis-St. Paul	MN
VOICE Buffalo	Buffalo	NY

cc Acting Director George Cook

¹ Census Bureau Releases Schedule for Income, Poverty and Health Insurance Statistics and Updates About the American Community Survey Estimates. August 4, 2026. <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2026/iph-acs-media-advisory.html>

² Per the Aug. 4 press release, "The release date for the 2025 ACS 1-year estimates is being determined. The Census Bureau is assessing the impact of the new departmental administrative order (DAO), Department of Commerce Disclosure Avoidance for Statistical Products, and seeking DAO-compliant solutions to allow the release of the ACS 1-year tables later this year."