



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Over 100 Incredibly Diverse Organizations Write to Lutnick Critical of Delay In ACS Release**

**Washington, D.C.** – A diverse coalition of more than 100 national, state & local businesses, nonprofit and academic entities that rely on timely census data wrote to Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick today insisting he postpone implementation of a controversial new rule on [disclosure avoidance](#), or DAO, that has caused an undefined and [unprecedented delay](#) in the release of 1-Year American Community Survey data for 2026.

The Commerce Department’s new rule, just released in June, caused the unknown delay in ACS data which the letter emphasized on behalf of their coalitions “... 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.”

“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,” the [letter](#) stated.

Census Project co-director Mary Jo Mitchell said, “This order is the result of incredibly poor planning, which should have but did not involve extensive coordination and consultation with stakeholders and data users.”

The powerful array of co-signers includes business and economic groups such as the Insights Association, the National Association for Business Economics, the National Association of Home Builders and the National Restaurant Association; data experts such as the Association of Public Data Users, and the American Educational Research Association; health groups like Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences, and the Gerontological Society of America; as well as civil rights and community planning organizations including the National Partnership for Women & Families, the National Community Development Association, and The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights.

Census Project co-director Howard Fienberg said, “The response to our call for Secretary Lutnick to fix this demonstrates how pervasive and important ACS data are to our nation. They really poked the data bear on this one, offending both privacy advocates and data users at the same time.”

You can read more on the impact of this haphazard decision in a recent [Standard Deviations Blog](#).

A range of fact sheets on these and other Census topics can be found on The Census Project website here: <https://thecensusproject.org/fact-sheets/>

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*The Census Project (<https://thecensusproject.org>) is a broad-based coalition of national, state, and local organizations and companies that support an inclusive and accurate 2030 Census and American Community Survey (ACS) (the modern version of the census “long form”). Its 900+ member organizations and companies, representing the private, public, non-profit, and academic sectors, rely on objective data that the Census Bureau produces to inform evidence-based investment, policy, and planning decisions.*