

June 22, 2020

The Honorable Jerry Moran Chairman Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science Washington, DC 20510 The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen Ranking Member Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Moran and Ranking Member Shaheen,

As the Senate prepares to consider its version of the next COVID-19 spending measure, we, as members and affiliates of The Census Project (<a href="www.thecensusproject.org">www.thecensusproject.org</a>), urge you to include supplemental funding to help the Census Bureau cover costs related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its conduct of the 2020 Census.

As you know, the 2020 Census is underway with just over 60% of American homes having responded to date. A successful decennial census is paramount. Its data will inform congressional apportionment and the distribution of over \$1.5 trillion of federal funding a year for healthcare, education, roads, housing, and other vital services. Further, over the next decade, the private sector will rely on 2020 Census data to make critical planning and investment decisions, while state and local government officials will use the data to meet the needs of their communities.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the challenge of conducting an inclusive, accurate, and efficient 2020 Census, forcing the Bureau to, among other things, adopt new procedures to protect field staff, temporarily suspend field operations and close local offices, and push the Nonresponse Follow-Up phase into the summer and fall. Because of these schedule adjustments, the Administration asked Congress for statutory relief to push back its delivery of apportionment counts to no later than April 30, 2021, and redistricting data to the states to before July 31, 2021—a decision that has deep operational and cost implications. Census stakeholders have already identified several needed enhancements, such as targeted advertising and outreach materials in additional languages and increased and expanded Census Questionnaire Assistance capacity, to address the severe disruption the COVID-19 crisis has caused for successful conduct of the 2020 Census.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> New Report Says \$1.5 Trillion in Federal Funding to States and Localities Annually Depends Upon Good Census Count. Nov. 18, 2019. <a href="https://censusproject.files.wordpress.com/2019/11/counting-for-dollars-press-release-11.18.2019.pdf">https://censusproject.files.wordpress.com/2019/11/counting-for-dollars-press-release-11.18.2019.pdf</a>

The Census Bureau estimates that the additional cost of adjustments to the 2020 Census operational timeline, as well as direct COVID-related costs (such as PPE for field staff, extra technology to support more enumerators, COVID-sensitive advertising, etc.), will be \$1.5 billion. The Census Bureau intends to cover these additional costs through its contingency fund. Census stakeholders are concerned that the Census Bureau could deplete its contingency fund, especially if the Bureau implements important enhancements beyond those currently planned, leaving the Bureau unable to adequately address other emergencies that may jeopardize the 2020 Census, including natural disasters (such as hurricanes), IT failures, and, unfortunately, further waves of COVID-19. Therefore, in its next COVID relief package, we urge the Senate to allocate at least \$400 million to help ensure a successful 2020 Census amidst significant challenges, which the U.S. House of Representatives included in its latest COVID relief bill (H.R. 6800, the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act, or HEROES Act).

We thank you for your continued support of the Census Bureau and the 2020 Census, especially during these difficult, unpredictable times.

Sincerely,

## **National**

Academic Pediatric Association

African American Health Alliance

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Anthropological Association

American Association of University Women (AAUW)

American Educational Research Association

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)

American Library Association

American Pediatric Society

American Planning Association

American Sociological Association

American Statistical Association

American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)

Arab American Institute (AAI)

Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)

Asian Americans Advancing Justice - AAJC

Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO (APALA)

Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs

**Association of Population Centers** 

Association of Public Data Users (APDU)

Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)

Campaign Legal Center

CensusChannel LLC

Common Cause

Consortium of Social Science Associations

Council for Community and Economic Research

Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics

Decision Demographics, LLC

**Economic Policy Institute** 

Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC)

Fair Count Inc.

Feeding America

Free Government Information

Government Information Watch

Hispanic Federation

**Insights Association** 

Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

League of Women Voters of the United States

Maxfield Research and Consulting LLC

Mi Familia Vota Education Fund

**NAACP** 

NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF)

NALEO Educational Fund

National Association for Business Economics

National Association of Black County Officials (NABCO)

National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

National Association of REALTORS®

National Association of Regional Councils

National Association of Towns and Townships

National Coalition for Literacy

National Community Action Partnership

National Community Development Association

National Disability Rights Network

National Education Association

National Federation of Filipino American Associations

National League of Cities

National Organization of Black County Officials (NOBCO)

National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women

National Redistricting Foundation

NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice

NextDayBetter

Nielsen

Pediatric Policy Council

PFLAG National

Population Association of America

Prison Policy Initiative

ReadyNation

Service Employees International Union (SEIU)

Shepherding the Next Generation

SHK Global Health

Society for Pediatric Research

Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)

State Voices

The Gerontological Society of America

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

The National Association for Bilingual Education

The U.S. Conference of Mayors

Union for Reform Judaism

Urban and Regional Information Systems Association

Voices for Progress

William C. Velasquez Institute

Young Elected Officials (YEO) Network

## State/Local/City/Regional

Advocates for Children of New Jersey		NJ
Advancement Project California		CA
AFGE Census Bureau Council 241	Washington	DC
Alliance of Filipinos for Immigrant Rights and Empowerment	Chicago	IL
(AFIRE)	_	
Allston Brighton Health Collaborative	Boston	MA
Antelope Valley Partners for Health	Lancaster	CA
Asian American Federation		NY
California Native Vote Project		CA
Canal Alliance	San Rafael	CA
Center for Civic Policy		NM
Center for the Integration and Advancement of New Americans, Inc.	Astoria	NY
(CIANA)		
Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC)	New York	NY
City of Detroit, 2020 Census Campaign	Detroit	MI
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)		CA
Colorado Civic Engagement Roundtable		CO
Colorado Common Cause		CO
Common Cause Florida		FL
Common Cause Maryland		MD
Common Cause MN		MN
Common Cause New Mexico		NM
Common Cause Pennsylvania		PA
Community Action, Inc.	Haverhill	MA
Crescent City Media Group/CCA		LA
Darfur People's Association of New York	New York	NY
Dreams United/Sueños, Inc.	Long Prairie	MN
Equality California		CA
Filipino American Lawyers Association of Chicago (FALA Chicago)	Chicago	IL
First AME Seattle Church 2020 Census Project	Seattle	WA

Georgia Stand-Up Housing Action Illinois Housing California Idaho State Complete Count Committee Indivisible Hawaii International Children Assistance Network (ICAN) Kentucky Youth Advocates Lao Assistance Center of Minnesota Luib Health Specialty Services, LLC MACS 2020 - Minnesotans for the American Community Survey &	San Jose Vista	GA IL CA ID HI CA KY MN CA MN
2020 Census Michigan's Children Minnesota Council on Foundations Minnesotans for the ACS		MI MN
Minnesotans for the ACS Montgomery Citizens United for Prosperity (MCUP) Montgomery Counts, City of Montgomery (AL) Montgomery County Community Action Board New Mexico Thrives New York Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. New York Coalition of One Hundred Black Women, Inc. New York Counts 2020 New York Immigration Coalition Ohio Census Advocacy Coalition Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children PICO California	Duck Hill Montgomery Rockville New York New York	MN MS AL MD NM NY NY NY NY OH PA
Public Justice Center Rabun County Board of Commissioners Research Advisory Services, Inc. Rhode Island KIDS COUNT San Diego Grantmakers Silver State Equality-Nevada	Clayton Phoenix San Diego	MD GA AZ RI CA NV
Sisters of Providence Holyoke, MA South Asian Network Southeast Michigan Census Council St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church - Beaumont United Way of Madison County UNM Community Engagement Center Virginia Civic Engagement Table (VCET) Voices for Utah Children	Holyoke Artesia Southfield Beaumont Anderson	MA CA MI TX IN NM VA UT