



September 1, 2017

Dear Representative:

We are writing to urge Congress to allocate at least \$300 million above the funding level for the Census Bureau in the FY 2018 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations bill (H.R. 3267), which will be incorporated into an omnibus spending measure. This funding level is necessary not only to ensure a sufficient funding ramp up two years ahead of the 2020 Census, but also to enable the Bureau to sustain other key economic and demographic programs and surveys. Simply put, more funding is required to ensure a fair and accurate 2020 Census in all communities and to avoid large cost increases for the decennial census in the final years of the decade. This funding is also necessary to preserve the quality of other vital data sets the agency produces to inform evidence-based policy making in the public and private sectors.

As members and supporters of The Census Project ([www.thecensusproject.org](http://www.thecensusproject.org)), a diverse network of census stakeholders, including business, civil rights, state and local government, education, housing, health, labor, and human services interests, we are writing to communicate our strong support for funding the Census Bureau when the House of Representatives considers the Make America Secure and Prosperous Appropriations Act, the proposed fiscal year (FY) 2018 omnibus spending bill, in September. In addition, if and when Congress considers a FY 2018 continuing resolution, we ask Congress to provide a full funding anomaly for the Census Bureau that exceeds the President's budget request and the current House Appropriations Committee mark on an annualized basis.

H.R. 3267 allocates \$1.507 billion for the Census Bureau, roughly \$37 million more than the agency's FY 2017 spending level and \$10 million above the Administration's FY 2018 request. Nevertheless, the amount is **woefully inadequate and unrealistic given the significant resources the Census Bureau needs to put Census 2020 preparations back on track and to ensure an accurate, inclusive, and cost-effective decennial census.** The proposed funding ramp-up is also significantly smaller than what both Republican and Democratic Administrations have approved between years seven and eight for past decennial censuses. (<https://thecensusproject.org/2017/05/25/trump-census-budget-too-little-too-late/>).

The current House FY 2018 recommendation is insufficient and, if enacted, will not allow the Census Bureau to move forward with a robust advertising campaign and Partnership Program. These activities are essential to ensuring an accurate count of historically hard-to-enumerate populations, including low-income households, people of color, immigrants, and young children. Particularly at risk are rural and remote communities, because funding constraints have forced the Bureau to cancel all field tests in rural areas. For example, the Bureau has canceled two of three test sites for the 2018 End-to-End Census Test—the only integrated test-run of new technologies and operations in a census-like environment. Canceling the 'dress rehearsal' in Pierce County, WA, and several West Virginia counties limits the evaluation of complex new counting methods and IT systems. That is a recipe for an undercount and cost increases.

[www.TheCensusProject.org](http://www.TheCensusProject.org)

The proposed funding level also jeopardizes other key surveys and programs that the Census Bureau conducts, such as the 2017 Economic Census, Survey of Income and Program Participation, and American Community Survey.

Further, if and when Congress considers a FY 2018 Continuing Resolution, we support granting the Census Bureau a funding anomaly that provides the agency with funding above the President's request, on an annualized basis, to restore comprehensive, rigorous 2020 Census preparations and to meet its obligation to conduct the next decennial census as required by the U.S. Constitution.

Thank you for considering our views regarding this important matter.

Sincerely,

American Educational Research Association  
 American Mathematical Society  
 American Planning Association  
 American Sociological Association  
 American Statistical Association  
 Arizona Housing Coalition, Phoenix, AZ  
 Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, AR  
 Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum  
 Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)  
 Asian Americans Advancing Justice - AAJC  
 Asian Law Alliance, San Jose, CA  
 Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance  
 Association of Population Centers  
 Association of Public Data Users  
 Capital District Regional Planning Commission, NY  
 Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York, NY  
 Center for the Study of Social Policy  
 Child Care Aware of America  
 Children's Advocacy Institute  
 Children's Alliance, WA  
 Children's Leadership Council  
 Children's Mental Health Network  
 Citizen's Immigration & Refugee Action Committee, Lancaster, PA  
 Coalition on Human Needs  
 Community Action Human Resources Agency, Eloy, AZ  
 Community Action, Inc., Haverhill, MA  
 Community Home Trust, Chapel Hill, NC  
 CommUnity Zone, Lewisburg, PA  
 Consortium of Social Science Associations  
 Council for Community and Economic Research  
 Council of Michigan Foundations, MI

Crescent City Media Group, LA  
 Decision Demographics  
 Every Child Matters  
 FairVote  
 Family Focused Treatment Association  
 Forefront, IL  
 Forum for Youth Investment  
 Fridays with(out) Fitzpatrick, Newtown, PA  
 Groundcover News, Ann Arbor, MI  
 Human Development Services of Westchester, Mamaroneck, NY  
 Indivisible Hawaii, HI  
 Indivisible NW Philly, Philadelphia, PA  
 Indivisible PA - Bux-Mont, Bucks and Montgomery Counties, PA  
 Indivisible PA - Bux-Mont, Plymouth Meeting (PA-07), PA  
 Insights Association  
 Jewish Council for Public Affairs  
 Kansas Action for Children, KS  
 KIDS COUNT in Delaware, DE  
 Long Island Housing Services, Inc., Bohemia, NY  
 MACS 2020 - Minnesotans for the American Community Survey & 2020 Census, MN  
 Maine Children's Alliance, ME  
 Massachusetts Voter Table, MA  
 Maxfield Research and Consulting LLC  
 Michigan Nonprofit Association, MI  
 Midwest Political Science Association  
 Minnesota Council on Foundations, MN  
 Minnesota State Demographic Center, MN  
 Mount Washington Alliance, Haverhill, MA  
 Mt. Lebanon Rise Up, Mt. Lebanon/Pittsburgh, PA  
 NAACP  
 NADC, Batesville, AR  
 NALEO Educational Fund  
 National Apartment Association, VA  
 National Association of Counties  
 National Association of Home Builders  
 National Association of REALTORS®  
 National Association of Regional Councils  
 National Association of Towns and Townships  
 National CAPACD  
 National Congress of American Indians  
 National Housing Conference  
 National Low Income Housing Coalition  
 National Multifamily Housing Council  
 National WIC Association  
 Nazareth Housing Services, Pittsburgh, PA  
 New Jersey Policy Perspective, NJ

New Mexico Voices for Children, NM  
Nielsen  
Partnership for America's Children  
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children, PA  
Pennsylvania Together, PA  
PeopleForBikes  
PFLAG National  
Population Association of America  
Prison Policy Initiative  
Public Justice Center, MD  
Ramsey County, MN, MN  
Research Advisory Services, Inc., Phoenix, AZ  
Research Allies for Lifelong Learning  
Ribbon Demographics, LLC  
RLS Demographics, Inc.  
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law  
Seattle Pacific University  
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)  
Southeast Michigan Census Council, Southfield, MI  
State Voices  
The Jewish Federations of North America  
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights  
Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA)  
Virginia Civic Engagement Table, VA  
Voice of Westmoreland, Greensburg, PA  
VOICES for Alabama's Children, AL  
Voices for Virginia's Children, VA  
Westchester Children's Association, White Plains, NY  
Woodstock Institute  
ZERO TO THREE