



**NARC**

*Building Regional Communities*

**National Association of Regional Councils**

660 North Capitol Street NW, Suite 440

Washington, DC 20001

202.986.1032

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

January 17, 2018

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Vice Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Chairman  
Senate Subcommittee on Commerce,  
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen  
Ranking Member  
Senate Subcommittee on Commerce,  
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable John Culberson  
Chairman  
House Subcommittee on Commerce,  
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

The Honorable José Serrano  
Ranking Member  
House Subcommittee on Commerce,  
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Ron Johnson  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Homeland  
Security and Governmental Affairs

The Honorable Clare McCaskill  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Homeland  
Security and Governmental Affairs

The Honorable Trey Gowdy  
Chairman  
House Committee on Oversight  
and Government Reform

The Honorable Elijah Cummings  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Oversight  
and Government Reform

Dear Chairman Cochran, Vice Chairman Leahy, Chairman Shelby, Ranking Member Shaheen, Chairman Frelinghuysen, Ranking Member Lowey, Chairman Culberson, Ranking Member Serrano, Chairman Johnson, Ranking Member McCaskill, Chairman Gowdy, and Ranking Member Cummings,

On behalf of Regional Councils across America, we urge you to increase funding for the 2020 Census and other critical programs of the U.S. Census Bureau by at least \$300 million over that proposed FY2018 in H.R. 3267. As the expiration of the current Continuing Resolution approaches on January 19, 2018, it is critical that the FY2018 appropriations bill include at least \$1.8 billion in funding to ensure that the 2020 Census is conducted properly.



**NARC**

*Building Regional Communities*

**National Association of Regional Councils**

660 North Capitol Street NW, Suite 440

Washington, DC 20001

202.986.1032

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

It is well documented that many of the population groups regions, counties, and cities are mandated to serve can be the most challenging to count. How will we know we have the resources needed to serve our communities unless we can say with confidence that we know who lives in our communities? The federal government needs these counts to ensure that allocations to regions, counties and cities for transportation, infrastructure, environmental, and other programs, are accurate. Regional Councils need these counts to ensure that they are in compliance with the Civil Rights Act and other federal mandates. We all need accurate data to feed efforts for evidence-based decision making to be responsible stewards of limited public resources.

The results of the 2020 Census data will be something we will have to live with for the coming decade and beyond, because the decennial census is the foundation upon which other Census Bureau surveys and projections are built. The Population Estimates Program is the backbone of the American Community Survey (ACS) and is only successful if the decennial count is successful and accurate. Our members rely on the ACS for key insights into our communities. Truly, our success and the success of the communities we serve are predicated on the decennial census and the ACS—our nation's premier unbiased sources of community information.

We thank you for your attention to this critical funding need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leslie Wollack".

Leslie Wollack

Executive Director

National Association of Regional Councils