



THE CENSUS PROJECT

Supporting quality measures of America's economy and places

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1998

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January 9, 2024

Senator Jeanne Shaheen, Chair
Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

Rep. Hal Rogers, Chairman
Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Jerry Moran, Ranking Member
Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

Rep. Matt Cartwright, Ranking Member
Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Shaheen, Ranking Member Moran, Chairman Rogers, and Ranking Member Cartwright,

On behalf of The Census Project, a broad-based coalition of business, civic, human services, state and local government, and academic groups committed to supporting the U.S. Census Bureau's mission to produce full, fair, complete, and accurate data, we are writing to reiterate **our support for ensuring the agency receives the highest possible level of funding in the final Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) appropriations bill**. In addition, we are writing to **oppose the inclusion of any proposals in the final measure that would use the Census Bureau as an offset** to fund other programs in the CJS bill.

As you know, the current continuing resolution (CR) maintains support for the Census Bureau at its FY 2023 funding level through February 2, 2024. While we are pleased Congress and the Administration avoided a government shutdown by enacting a short-term agreement that sustains operations at the U.S. Census Bureau, we are concerned that uncertainty surrounding the final outcome of the FY 2024 CJS bill adversely affects the agency's ability to properly ramp up its preparations for conduct of the next constitutionally mandated decennial census.

As noted in a [September 5, 2023 letter](#) signed by more than 90 national, state, and local organizations, we are already a third of the way into the 2030 Census cycle. In FY 2024, the Bureau will choose a design and release an initial operational plan for the 2030 Census—decisions that will affect every facet of the next decennial. Sound investments now will help to ensure the future success and cost efficiency of the 2030 Census by reducing the risk of requiring unplanned, additional funding in the peak planning years later in the decade. In addition, increased funding will enable the Bureau to pursue a thoughtful research agenda to ensure the 2030 Census is inclusive, cost effective, and accurate.

www.TheCensusProject.org

Stable, robust funding beginning mid-decade is imperative for the Census Bureau to fulfill its mandate of launching and conducting the next decennial—the nation’s largest peacetime civilian initiative. As we learned in the run up to the 2020 count, postponing planning for decennial operations introduces greater risk to a successful outcome.

Another factor further complicating the Census Bureau’s FY 2024 funding outlook is the threat posed by proposals in the U.S. House of Representatives that would use funding intended for the Census Bureau to offset increases for other programs in the CJS bill. One proposal would divert \$41 million from the Census Bureau to the RECOMPETE economic development pilot program. Since the House FY 2024 CJS bill is already \$131 million below the agency’s enacted level and \$252 million below the President’s request, we strongly urge the conferees to reject provisions in the final measure that would use the Census Bureau as a funding offset.

Thank you for considering our views as you negotiate a final FY 2024 CJS appropriations bill. We appreciate the complexities and challenges around the FY 2024 process and are eager to be of assistance.

Sincerely,

National

- Academic Pediatric Association
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American Anthropological Association
- American Association for Public Opinion Research
- American Educational Research Association
- American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees
- American Pediatric Society
- American Psychological Association
- American Sociological Association
- American Statistical Association
- Arab American Institute
- Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)
- 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
- Center for Urban Research, CUNY Graduate Center
- Claritas
- Coalition on Human Needs
- Common Cause
- Consortium of Social Science Associations
- Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics

Decision Demographics, LLC
Gerontological Society of America
Government Information Watch
Insights Association
Justice Information Resource Network
Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
League of Women Voters of the United States
Movement Advancement Project
NALEO Educational Fund
National Association for Business Economics (NABE)
National Association of REALTORS®
National Coalition for Literacy
National Community Development Association
National Congress of American Indians
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)
National Employment Law Project
National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC)
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Nielsen
Pediatric Policy Council
Population Association of America
Project On Government Oversight
Society for Pediatric Research
The Consortium of Social Science Associations
Urban and Regional Information Systems Association
WhirlWind Technologies, LLC
Whitman-Walker Institute
ZERO TO THREE

State-Level

Alaska Census Working Group/The Foraker Group	AK
Alaska PIRG	AK
Asian Texans for Justice	TX
Bingham Program	ME
California Association of Food Banks	CA
Children's Advocacy Alliance (Nevada)	NV
Coalition for Asian American Children and Families (CACF)	NY
Colorado Civic Engagement Roundtable	CO
Colorado Latino Leadership, Advocacy & Research Organization	CO
Crescent City Media Group/Center for Civic Action	LA
Equality California	CA
Fair Count Inc.	GA
Florida Policy Institute	FL
Georgia Coalition for the Peoples Agenda	GA

GRACE/End Child Poverty California	CA
Hispanic Advocacy and Community Empowerment through Research (HACER)	MN
Housing Action Illinois	IL
Hunger Free Vermont	VT
Minnesota Council on Foundations	MN
Minnesotans for the ACS	MN
Montana Nonprofit Association	MT
NY Census & Redistricting Institute (New York Law School)	NY
NC Counts Coalition	NC
Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy	OK
Pennsylvania Voice	PA
Policy Matters Ohio	OH
Public Justice Center	MD
Silver State Equality	NV
South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center	SC
The Bingham Program	ME
VOICES for Alabama's Children	AL
Wyoming Community Foundation	WY

Local/City/Regional

AltaMed Health Services	Commerce	CA
Detroit Change Initiative	Detroit	MI
Fayetteville Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.	Fayetteville	NC
International Children Assistance Network (ICAN)	San Jose	CA
New York City Department of City Planning	New York	NY
Region Nine Development Commission	Mankato	MN
RLS Demographics, Inc.	Rensselaerville	NY
Thou Art Embrace the Rock	Detroit	MI
West Central Initiative	Fergus Falls	MN