



April 9, 2024

The Honorable James Comer
Chairman
House Oversight and Accountability
Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member
House Oversight and Accountability
Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Comer and Ranking Member Raskin,

On behalf of the organizations and coalitions we lead, we are writing to express our opposition to HR 7109, the Equal Representation Act, which the Oversight and Accountability Committee is scheduled to mark up on April 10, 2024.

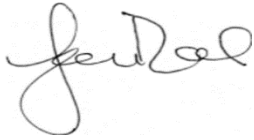
Our members, which include demographers, statisticians, economists, sociologists, geographers, and epidemiologists, conduct scientific and applied research in the public, private, non-profit, and academic sectors. These scientists universally rely on census data to inform their research, evaluation, and training activities. As a result, our organizations work independently and collaboratively to promote an accurate, inclusive, and cost-effective decennial census.

As you know, the decennial census is the nation's largest, most complex peacetime activity requiring almost a decade of preparations, including painstaking research and testing regarding the questionnaire. Understanding how the questionnaire's content and delivery could potentially impact the enumeration of historically hard-to-count populations, in particular, is imperative.

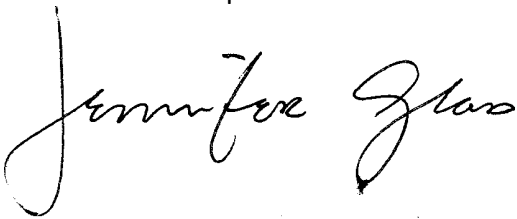
The Equal Representation Act proposes adding citizenship and immigration status questions to the decennial census and excluding noncitizens from the number of persons used to determine apportionment, bypassing the Census Bureau's objective, robust review process. Taken together, the bill's major provisions could potentially undermine participation in the decennial census and, therefore, ultimately diminish the quality and utility of decennial census data. Given these factors, we oppose HR 7109. Conversely, we urge the Committee to hold hearings, consult

experts, and consider legislation that would facilitate and enhance the Census Bureau's ability to fulfill its constitutional mandate and implement a successful decennial census.
Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,



Jennie Brand, President
Association of Population Centers



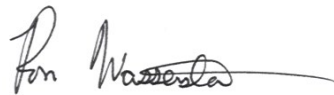
Jennifer Glass, President
Population Association of America



Wendy Naus, Executive Director
Consortium of Social Science Associations



Paul Schroeder, Executive Director
Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics



Ron Wasserstein, Executive Director
American Statistical Association