



**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
NONPROFITS**

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May 16, 2018

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chair, House Committee on Appropriations
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Full Funding for Census Bureau Funding in the CSJ Appropriations Bill

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Lowey:

On behalf of the National Council of Nonprofits and its nationwide network of more than 25,000 charitable nonprofits, I write to express strong support for the Census Bureau funding levels for fiscal year 2019 included in the Commerce, State, Justice Subcommittee bill. There can be no doubt that the Census Bureau needs more resources to address the growing challenges and threats to the 2020 Census. We commend the CJS Subcommittee for recommending this appropriate funding level.

Charitable nonprofits have a significant stake in ensuring that the 2020 Census is fair, accurate, and complete. As explained in the attached statement presented last week to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, charitable organizations engage with and provide services to virtually every person in every community in America. Governments at all levels hire nonprofits to provide vital services on their behalf; those funds typically are meted out to the states and localities based on census data. Inaccurate census data mean that communities and their residents are denied funding to address their actual needs. That, in turn, shifts tremendous burdens onto nonprofits in the communities to fill the gaps of service needs, because those needs continue even when a person is not counted.

Further, like all businesses, nonprofits rely on fair, accurate, and complete census data when making planning decisions. We need to know if the population we serve is likely to grow or shrink in the coming decade. Is the population shifting away from our clinic, campus, shelter, or performance location, such that we should be expanding or moving to other locations? Billions of dollars in economic decisions – including job creation decisions – depend on the Census Bureau getting the data right. Therefore, the Appropriation Committee's decision on census funding is so very important.

We ask Members of the Appropriations Committee to oppose any amendments that would reduce vital resources for the 2020 Census. Prudent policy development and fair allocation of funds through many programs funded through the CJS bill rely on census-derived data themselves. Depriving the Census Bureau of much-needed funds would make those programs less effective and less fair. It would increase the risk of a failed census in all communities, which would harm every business, nonprofit, government, and person in the country.

Sincerely,

David L. Thompson
Vice President, Public Policy
National Council of Nonprofits

Attachment