

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 13, 2020

Dr. Steven Dillingham
Director
U.S. Census Bureau
4600 Silver Hill Road
Washington, DC 20233

Dear Dr. Dillingham:

The COVID-19 outbreak has shaken our country and the global community, and we all must prepare for further impacts. As COVID-19 continues to spread, governments and health professionals across the world are shifting their resources and attention to treating and containing this destructive virus. We write today to share our concern regarding the global pandemic's impact on the 2020 Census and ask for the Bureau's plan to ensure an accurate count during this unprecedented health emergency.

Since its creation in 1790, the United States Census has played a vital role in helping us assess our changing population. Every 10 years, census data dictates the number of representatives each state receives in the House of Representatives and helps the federal government allocate more than \$675 billion in federal funding. This funding also assists local communities in building their infrastructure, creating new jobs, and establishing valuable programs. Without a thorough and accurate census, the government will not be able to evaluate and address the needs of these local communities.

In order to assess how the U.S. Census Bureau plans to proceed with conducting an efficient and effective census in the wake of this pandemic, we ask that you please answer the following questions:

1. What plans are in place to ensure the quality and accuracy of the 2020 Census in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak?
2. The social distancing recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will necessarily make it more difficult to count individuals impacted by homelessness and other hard-to-count populations. Does the Census Bureau have the resources necessary to increase the percentage of Americans who self-report without interaction from an enumerator?

3. Does the Census Bureau anticipate extending the enumeration period to accommodate setbacks caused by the COVID-19 outbreak? What would that mean practically for the count?

We appreciate your personal attention to these questions, and we look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,



David Trone
Member of Congress

Out of an abundance of caution regarding COVID-19, we did not collect written signatures. The following Members of Congress have signed this letter:

Karen Bass	Anna G. Eshoo	Susie Lee
Joyce Beatty	Lizzie Fletcher	Mike Levin
Earl Blumenauer	Bill Foster	Andy Levin
G. K. Butterfield	John Garamendi	John Lewis
Tony Cárdenas	Jesús G. "Chuy" García	Ted W. Lieu
Ed Case	Jimmy Gomez	Ben Ray Luján
Sean Casten	Vicente Gonzalez	Sean Patrick Maloney
David N. Cicilline	Jahana Hayes	A. Donald McEachin
Yvette D. Clarke	Jim Himes	James P. McGovern
Emanuel Cleaver, II	Eleanor Holmes Norton	Joseph D. Morelle
Gerald E. Connolly	Steven Horsford	Seth Moulton
Jim Cooper	Chrissy Houlahan	Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
J. Luis Correa	Jared Huffman	Jerrold Nadler
Jim Costa	Hakeem Jeffries	Joe Neguse
Joe Courtney	Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.	Donald Norcross
Henry Cuellar	Marcy Kaptur	Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Danny K. Davis	Joseph P. Kennedy, III	Ilhan Omar
Peter A. DeFazio	Ro Khanna	Frank Pallone, Jr.
Diana DeGette	Daniel T. Kildee	Jimmy Panetta
Mark DeSaulnier	Raja Krishnamoorthi	Chris Pappas
Debbie Dingell	Rick Larsen	Bill Pascrell, Jr.

Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Scott Peters
Dean Phillips
Stacey E. Plaskett
Mark Pocan
Katie Porter
Ayanna Pressley
Mike Quigley
Jamie Raskin
Cedric L. Richmond
Max Rose
Harley Rouda
Bobby L. Rush
Tim Ryan
John Sarbanes
Mary Gay Scanlon
Jan Schakowsky
David Scott
Terri A. Sewell
Albio Sires
Elissa Slotkin
Jackie Speier
Greg Stanton
Haley M. Stevens
Mark Takano
Mike Thompson
Dina Titus
Rashida Tlaib
Paul D. Tonko
Norma Torres
Lauren Underwood
Filemon Vela
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Peter Welch
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