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,

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