

August 31, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
House Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, and Leader McCarthy:

We write to urge you to include language in the next the coronavirus relief package to extend statutory reporting deadlines for the 2020 Census by four months. Further, we implore you to include language to extend the deadline for data collection to October 31, 2020.

We are alarmed by the U.S. Census Bureau's August 3rd announcement that it would finish collecting data for the decennial count by September 30, 2020. This move will rush the enumeration process, result in inadequate follow-up, and undercount immigrant communities and communities of color who are historically undercounted. Senior career staff at the Census Bureau have publicly stated that meeting the statutory deadlines is impossible because of the delays that have already occurred.

This decision to rush the Census in the wake of a pandemic raises concerns about the Bureau's ability to accurately and completely count every person living in the United States. A rushed Census would hurt a diverse range of rural and urban communities, leaving them underrepresented locally and in Congress and cutting their fair share of federal funding for Medicaid, economic development, child care, schools, road and public transit improvements, home heating assistance for senior citizens, and many more vital services.

The coronavirus pandemic has significantly challenged local governments' outreach plans that are essential to our efforts to reach hard-to-count communities. Currently, there are low response areas in every part of the country, in every state, in every city. If remaining counting operations are not done well, communities most in need of resources to improve quality of life and standards of living will get the short end of the stick for the next decade. With nearly four out of ten households still to be counted, the agency now has insufficient time to endeavor to reach historically undercounted groups who are not likely to fill out a census form on their own.

We urge you to include language in the fifth coronavirus relief package to extend the statutory deadlines for reporting apportionment and redistricting data from the 2020 Census from December 31, 2020 to April 30, 2021 and April 1, 2021 to July 31, 2021 respectively as previously requested by the Bureau. The House of Representatives included language in the HEROES Act to extend the 2020 Census operations, so that the Census Bureau can sufficiently complete in-person visits and other special counting operations for the non-household

populations. The Census Bureau must not be forced to rush remaining enumeration operations and critical data review, processing, and tabulation activities.

Further, we urge you to include language to extend the deadline for data collection, including for field counts and for the self-responding option, to October 31, 2020. To suspend all counting efforts for the 2020 census by the end of September - a month ahead of schedule - will be detrimental to our efforts to secure an accurate analysis of our nation's population.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for supporting the full and fair 2020 Census.

Sincerely,

Mayor Sam Liccardo
San Jose, California

Mayor Robert Garcia
Long Beach, California

Mayor Darrell Steinberg
Sacramento, California

Mayor Jim Brainard
Carmel, Indiana

Mayor Eric Garcetti
Los Angeles, California

Mayor Miguel A. Pulido
Santa Ana, California

Mayor Ethan Berkowitz
Anchorage, Alaska

Mayor William R. Bailey, III
Riverside, California

Mayor Michael B. Hancock
Denver, Colorado

Mayor Victoria Woodards
Tacoma, Washington

Mayor Alan Nagy
Newark, California

Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway
Madison, Wisconsin

Mayor Rusty Bailey
Riverside, California

Mayor Michael Tubbs
Stockton, California

Mayor Harry Sidhu
Anaheim, California

Mayor Ted Wheeler
Portland, Oregon

Mayor Erin Mendenhall
Salt Lake City, Utah

Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot
Chicago, Illinois

Mayor Lauren McLean
Boise, Idaho

Mayor Greg Fischer
Louisville, Kentucky

Mayor Kate Gallego
Phoenix, Arizona

Mayor Jim Kenney
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Mayor Mike Duggan
Detroit, Michigan

Mayor London Breed
San Francisco, California

Mayor Regina Romero
Tucson, Arizona

Mayor Lyda Krewson
St. Louis, Missouri
Mayor Muriel Bowser
Washington, D.C.

Mayor Libby Schaaf
Oakland, California

Mayor Lily Mei
Fremont, California

Mayor Mike Coffman
Aurora, Colorado

Mayor Tom Barrett
Milwaukee, Wisconsin