

Missouri Johnson, Marcellina (Federal)

From: Leach, Macie (Federal)
Sent: Tuesday, January 09, 2018 7:10 PM
To: DOExecSec
Subject: FW: Proposed Census Citizenship Question

From: Barbara Anderson [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Tuesday, January 09, 2018 3:37 PM
To: Ross, Wilbur (Federal) [REDACTED]; Jarmin, Ron S [REDACTED]; Lamas, Enrique [REDACTED]
Cc: Andrew A. Samwick < [REDACTED] >; Kathy Pettit [REDACTED]; Ken Simonson [REDACTED]; Peter W. Glynn < [REDACTED] >; Roberto Rigobon < [REDACTED] >; Sunshine Hillygus < [REDACTED] >; Allison Plyer < [REDACTED] >; Hourcade, Jean Pablo < [REDACTED] >
Subject: Proposed Census Citizenship Question

To: Jeff Sessions, Attorney General

Arthur E. Gary, General Counsel, Justice Management Division

Wilbur Ross, Secretary of Commerce

Ron Jarmin, Performing the Nonexclusive Functions and Duties of the Director

Enrique Lamas, Performing the Nonexclusive Functions and Duties of the

Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer

We are sending this email in response to the letter of December 12, 2017 from Arthur E. Gary of the Department of Justice to the Census Bureau which requested that citizenship be included as an item on the 2020 Census. We are members of the Census Scientific Advisory Committee, a Congressionally-mandated committee which advises the Census Bureau on all scientific matters. We are sending this letter as an expression of our professional opinion as individuals and do not write as representatives of the Census Bureau or of our individual organizations. We include academics, members of the private sector and members of NGOs.

We hold the strong opinion that including citizenship in the 2020 Census would be a serious mistake which would result in a substantial lowering of the response rate. Producing a high quality census with a very high response rate is in the interest of all Americans.

The United States Census has not encountered the problems with a high level of Census refusal that have been a problem in many other high income countries, including Germany. One reason is that in 2010 there were about 250,000 community partners who encouraged people in their communities to respond to the Census. It is expected that there will be a similar number of community partners for the 2020 Census. Adding a citizenship

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question to the main Census questionnaire is almost certain to jeopardize the cooperation of at least some community partners and lead to a lower response rate, hurting the reputation of the Census Bureau. We are certain you would not like to see these outcomes occur.

Sincerely,

Dr. Barbara A. Anderson

Ronald Freedman Collegiate Professor of Sociology and Population Studies, University of Michigan, Chair
Census Scientific Advisory Committee

Dr. Barbara Buttenfield

Professor of Geography,

University of Colorado

Dr. Peter W. Glynn

Thomas Ford Professor of Engineering
Stanford University

Dr. D. Sunshine Hillygus

Professor of Political Science

Director, Duke Initiative on Survey Methodology

Duke University

Dr. Juan Pablo Hourcade

Associate Professor of Computer Science

University of Iowa

Ms. Kathryn Pettit

Senior Research Associate

Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center

The Urban Institute

Ms. Allison Plyer

Chief Demographer

The Data Center at Nonprofit Knowledge Works

Dr. Roberto Rigobon

Society of Sloan Fellows Professor of Applied Economics

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Dr. Andrew Samwick

Professor of Economics

Director, The Nelson A. Rockefeller Center

Dartmouth College

Mr. Kenneth D. Simonson

Chief Economist

The Associated General Contractors of America