



June 29, 2018
Ms. Jennifer Jessup
Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer
Department of Commerce
Room 6616
14th and Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

RE: Comments on Proposed Information Collection on 2020 Census, Docket No. USBC-2018-0005

Dear Ms. Jessup,

On behalf of Citizens' Committee for Children of New York, a member of New York Counts 2020, we write to offer comments on the 2020 Census proposed information collection. We urge the Department of Commerce to remove the citizenship question from the 2020 Census form, as it will jeopardize the accuracy of the census in all communities—an outcome that the nation will have to live with for the next 10 years.

We believe a full, fair, and accurate census, and the collection of useful, objective data about our nation's people, housing, economy, and communities, is vitally important, and paramount is full participation in this initiative. Simply put, a fair and accurate census is essential for all basic functions of our society. *That is why the 2020 Census should not include a question on citizenship that the weight of scientific evidence indicates will undermine a successful count of our nation's people.*

Citizens' Committee for Children of New York is dedicated to making New York City a better place for children and families. As a data-driven, independent, nonpartisan, non-profit organization, we rely on government data to inform our understanding of the conditions that children and families face in NYC and to fuel our advocacy and improve those conditions. Young children had a higher net undercount than any other age group in the 2010 census, and adding an unvetted citizenship question in the upcoming census will further diminish response rates and jeopardize the integrity and accuracy of the data in an already "hard to count" and undercounted population. This impending undercount would come at a huge cost to the estimated 6.7 billion dollars in annual funding for programs that serve children and their families in New York State, such as Head Start, Foster Care, IDEA, and SCHIP; and would do so for the next ten years. Inaccurate data on children and families has tangible and far-reaching consequences, including unfair allocation of resources, inadequate congressional apportionment, and misinformed political decision making; and it does a disservice to our most vulnerable population and our future leaders: children.

A groundswell of opposition has included more than 160 Republican and Democratic mayors, six former directors of the Census Bureau and two former Commerce Secretaries from Republican and Democratic administrations, 171 civil and human rights groups, more than 600 faith leaders, more than 120 of members of the U.S. House of Representatives, and many others representing a diversity of political ideologies and communities. **All are united in their deep-seated concern that an untested citizenship question will compromise implementation of the 2020 Census and jeopardize the quality and accuracy of census data for all communities.**

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jennifer March'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'J'.

Jennifer March
Executive Director of Citizens' Committee for Children of New York