



The Colorado
Health Foundation™

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www.coloradohealth.org

August 6, 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 U.S. Census, Docket No. USBC-2018-0005

Dear Ms. Jessup,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed change regarding information collection for the 2020 U.S. Census. The Colorado Health Foundation is the state's largest private foundation and the third largest health foundation in the nation. We work closely with partners in the private, public, and nonprofit sectors to bring health within reach for all Coloradans. **We strongly urge the Department of Commerce to remove the citizenship question from the 2020 U.S. Census form because it would jeopardize the integrity and validity of the U.S. Census's use for the following decade.**

Many public, private, and nonprofit partners in Colorado rely on the statistical accuracy of the U.S. Census for their data needs and to ensure an equitable share of Federal funding to the states every year based on population. The inclusion of a citizenship question is duplicative because of existing responses from the American Community Survey (ACS). Including this question would discourage U.S. Census participation by immigrant communities, communities of color, and low income populations.

According to many researchers across the country, the inclusion of this question will lead to a significant undercount, potentially compounding the already declining participation rates by standard mail and cyber security threats to the first online version of the U.S. Census. During the last count in 2010, the Department of Commerce and the U.S. Census reported an undercount of nearly one million children aged 0 – 4, which has had devastating impacts on how our local communities address the needs of young children and their families. Legislative representation and Federal funding are skewed and misappropriated as a result of these undercounts, and the problem will only worsen if additional populations do not participate in the 2020 U.S. Census.





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The Colorado Health Foundation and many of our community partners rely on accurate U.S. Census data to track, research, analyze, and ultimately exhibit progress in detailed issue areas like health status, educational attainment, housing affordability, access to food, and income disparities across our state. We would not be able to produce our *Health Report Card* without the best available U.S. Census data regarding the population of our state. The Colorado Children's Campaign would not be able to produce their *Kids Count!* report without detailed county- and school district-level data about the education of our children. And the Colorado Health Institute would not be able to produce their *Colorado Health Access Survey* without robust data concerning healthcare delivery and access to comprehensive care, in both urban and rural parts of our state, from the U.S. Census.

We join a broad and diverse group of stakeholders that oppose the addition of a citizenship question to the 2020 U.S. Census in order to protect the accuracy of critical data and the equitable federal funding that is appropriated to the states as a result. It is our hope that the 2020 U.S. Census collects the best possible demographic information in Colorado and across the United States; however, we do not believe that the proposal to include a citizenship question achieves that end.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide input to this proposed rule change. If you have any questions, or seek clarification, please contact Jin Alexander Tsuchiya, public policy officer at the Colorado Health Foundation, at jtsuchiya@coloradohealth.org, or (303) 953-3667.

Sincerely,

Kyle Legleiter
Senior Director of Policy and Advocacy
The Colorado Health Foundation

