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February 20, 2018  
By USPS Express Mail

The Honorable Wilbur L. Ross, Jr.  
Secretary of Commerce  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

John M. Mulvaney  
Director of the Office of Management and Budget  
725 17th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Secretary Ross and Director Mulvaney:

On behalf of 106 undersigned organizations throughout New York State, we are requesting that you reject any effort by the Department of Justice to add a question regarding citizenship to the 2020 decennial Census. To do otherwise, would severely undermine the accuracy and non-partisan legitimacy of the Census, impair the delicate trust between the community and the role of the Census, and skyrocket the cost of the Census.

A non-partisan, reliable and responsive 2020 Census is needed to ensure the proper distribution of over \$600 billion in federal funding to communities across this country for needed schools, hospitals, housing, and transportation. For that reason, great effort has been expended by the Census to ensure questions will elicit both an accurate and high response rate, a process that has involved extensive screening, focus groups, and field tests. At this stage in the process, there is no time to add questions that have not been properly vetted, especially since citizenship is already included in the American Community Survey.

There is no doubt that adding a citizenship question to the decennial Census would pose a chilling effect and result in a significant undercount, particularly by already under-counted racial and ethnic minority groups, including immigrants and non-citizens. Such requests to bypass the process would only fuel distrust and concerns of the Census Bureau's obligation to keep the data confidential amid heightened anti-immigrant furor in the current, politically charged climate and the checkered history of the Bureau sharing data to aid the government in the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II and the post 9-11 targeting of Arabs, Muslims, and South Asians. Further, a high non-response rate to the Census, would result in exorbitant follow-up costs to do door-to-door canvassing to ensure an accurate count.

We are asking you to ensure the Census remains non-partisan and is not politicized, and to work with us to ensure an accurate decennial Census that involves maximum participation by the entire, diverse population that constitutes this great nation.

Sincerely,



Steven Choi, Esq.  
Executive Director  
New York Immigration Coalition

**New York Statewide:**

32BJ SEIU  
American Jewish Committee  
Asian American Federation  
CAIR-NY  
Common Cause/New York  
Greater New York Labor Religion Coalition  
Japanese American Citizens League-New York  
The Japanese American Association of New York Inc.  
LatinoJustice, PRLDEF  
NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, Inc.  
National Action Network (NAN)  
New York Civil Liberties Union  
New York Immigration Coalition  
Omicron Chapter of Phi Iota Alpha  
Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union

**New York City:**

AJC NY  
African Communities Together  
Arab American Family Support Center  
Asian Americans for Equality  
Bangladeshi American Community Development and Youth Services  
Brooklyn Defender Services  
CAAAY-Organizing Asian Communities  
Cabrini Immigrant Services of NYC  
CHHAYA, CDC  
Chinese American Planning Counsel  
Chinese Progressive Association  
Coalition of Asian-American IPA

Columbia Law School Latino/a Law Students Association  
Nightline Peer Listening at Columbia College  
Community Voices Heard  
Damayan Migrant Workers Association  
DRUM - Desis Rising Up & Moving  
DSI International, Inc.  
El Centro del Inmigrante  
Emerald Isle Immigration Center  
GlobeMed  
Henry Street Settlement  
Hunter Dream Team  
Indo-Caribbean Alliance  
Japanese American Social Services, Inc.  
Korean American Youth Foundation  
Masa-MexEd, Inc.  
DuBois Bunche Center for Public Policy, Medgar Evers College, CUNY  
Mexican Coalition for the Empowerment of Youth and Families  
Mexican Student Association (MexSA)  
Minkwon Center for Community Action  
American Constitution Society at New York University School of Law  
A/P/A Institute at New York University  
New York University Asian Pacific American Coalition  
Bengali Students Association, New York University  
The Interfaith Students of Color Coalition, New York University  
Generation Citizen @ New York University  
Immigrant Justice Center, Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University, John Jay Legal Services  
Independent Drivers Guild  
Latino Commission on AIDS  
Latino Unidos Con Honor y Amistad @ New York University  
Phi Chapter of Hermandad de Sigma Iota Alpha, Inc.  
ProColumbia-New York University Chapter  
NMIC  
OCA-NY  
OCA-APA Advocates-Long Island Chapter  
Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow  
People's Theatre Project  
Pilipino American Unity for Progress (UNIPRO)  
Asian/American Center at Queens College (CUNY)  
Queer Detainee Empowerment Project  
Russian-speaking Community Council of Manhattan and the Bronx, Inc.  
Safe Horizon Immigration Law Project  
Sakhi for South Asian Women  
SAPNA NYC

Shetu Inc.  
South Asian Council for Social Services (SACSS)  
Sunnyside Community Services  
The Door-A Center of Alternatives  
The Ghanaian Association of Staten Island, NY Inc.  
United Neighborhood Houses  
UNITEHERE Local 100  
University Settlement  
Viva Peru  
Volunteers of Legal Service  
Womankind

**Long Island:**

Dejus Center, Inc.  
Long Island Wins  
OCA-APA Advocates-Long Island Chapter

**Upper and Lower Hudson Valley/Westchester:**

Community Resource Center  
Community Voices Heard  
OCA-Westchester and Hudson Valley Chapter  
Worker Justice Center of New York, Inc.

**Northern New York:**

Plattsburgh Cares

**Central New York:**

American Constitution Society-Cornell Law School Chapter  
Tompkins County Immigrant Rights Coalition  
Volunteers Lawyers Project of Onondaga County  
Workers Center of Central New York

**Western New York State:**

ACCESS of WNY  
Catholic Family Center  
First Presbyterian Church of Buffalo  
Greater Rochester Coalition for Immigration Justice  
International Institute of Buffalo  
Justice for Migrant Families

Kids for College  
Legal Aid Society of Rochester  
PUSH Buffalo  
Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester Office  
University at Buffalo, SUNY  
Wayne Action for Racial Equality  
Western New York Council on Occupational Safety and Health (WNYCOSH)  
Worker Justice Center of New York, Inc.

**Outside New York State:**

OCA-New Jersey Chapter  
OCA-San Mateo Chapter  
Wind of the Spirit, Immigrant Resource Center

cc:

New York Congressional Delegation  
New York State Senate  
New York State Assembly  
New York City Council  
New York Governor Cuomo  
Buffalo Mayor Brown  
Rochester Mayor Warren  
Syracuse Mayor Walsh  
New York City Mayor de Blasio  
Nassau County Executive Curran  
Suffolk County Executive Bellone  
Westchester County Executive Latimer