



TEXAS LEGISLATIVE STUDY GROUP

An Official Caucus of the Texas House of Representatives

August 20, 2020

Dear Friends and Supporters,

This week 67 Members of our Caucus sent a letter to the Members of the Texas congressional delegation regarding the need to extend the 2020 census self-response deadline. In the letter we outlined the harm that Texans will experience if the new, expedited census deadline of September 30 leads to a significant undercount. This is a concern that has been echoed by four former census directors who served under Presidents of both parties. Recognizing the difficulty of conducting an accurate census during a pandemic, these census experts have called for a deadline of April, 2021.

Since our caucus was founded in 1993, we have worked to ensure that state government develops informed policy solutions to the real problems facing our state and serves the best interests of all Texans. Ensuring everyone is counted in the 2020 Census will set the baseline federal funding available for us as legislators to address the issues many Texas families face. From representation in Congress to federal funding for healthcare and education, Texas would have the most to lose from a census undercount.

I thank all the members who signed on to this letter. We will continue working on this issue and put pressure on our federal counterparts to ensure Texas does not go undercounted or underfunded over the next decade.

Representative Garnet F. Coleman
Chair, Legislative Study Group

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TEXAS LEGISLATIVE STUDY GROUP

An Official Caucus of the Texas House of Representatives

August 18, 2020

Dear Members of the Texas Congressional Delegation,

As you are aware, the Census Bureau announced last week it will stop its 2020 census count – including contacting residents in-person, by mail, by phone, and online – on September 30, 2020. This would halt the census count one month earlier than had been previously scheduled, despite the delays and difficulties getting an accurate count during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Simply put, among all 50 states, Texas has the most to lose from a census undercount and Texans will be poorly served unless we work across party lines to get a complete and accurate count. This is a Texas issue, not a partisan issue. In the past, even in divisive political times, Texans have put such differences aside to do what's best for the people we represent, and they will be the ones who pay the price if the census shortchanges Texans.

As outlined in more detail below, the 2020 Census will be the basis for federal funding and support that will affect every aspect of our lives for the next decade, including:

- Apportionment and representation in Congress;
- Federal funding for healthcare, education, housing, and transportation; and
- Private-sector investment in our economy and infrastructure.

Right now, roughly four out of ten households nationwide have not been counted yet. The remaining households are what the Census Bureau considers the hardest to count. These are populations that have been historically undercounted and include people in every one of your districts who are not likely to fill out a form on their own.

A [George Washington University](#) report estimates that a 1% undercount in Texas could cause a minimum \$300 million annual federal funding loss for the next 10 years that would require Texas taxpayers to fill in the funding gaps or leave millions of Texans without essential supports and services. As of August 16, 2020, Texas as a whole remains 5.5 points behind its 2010 census self-response rate – 58.9% in 2020 vs 64.4% in 2010, which means the administration's plan would result in a much larger undercount and even less annual federal funding.

In addition to the loss of critical funding, an undercount could leave Texas with one less congressional seat than what would be apportioned by a complete count, according to an analysis by the [Pew Research Center](#). Instead of three additional congressional seats, Texas could get only two. Furthermore, the loss of representation could have a significant effect on the most rapidly growing regions and segments of our population, including the rapidly growing Latino, Black, and Asian population statewide and in our suburban communities.

The [Enumeration Clause](#) (or Census Clause), found in Article 1, section 2 of the U.S. Constitution, vests Congress with the responsibility to conduct an "actual enumeration" of all people living in the United States every 10 years for the purposes of apportionment of congressional seats among the states. That responsibility has been delegated to the Secretary of Commerce, but Congress has the constitutional authority to require an accurate "actual enumeration."

1

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We, the undersigned, call on our Texas congressional delegation to [join four former census directors](#), who have collectively helped, planned, executed, and led five decennial censuses and served nine Presidents from both parties, in calling on the President to ensure a complete census count by delaying the deadline to respond to the census until April 30, 2021. In addition, we urge you to support their request that Congress assign an independent, apolitical institution to develop metrics for judging whether the final census numbers are reasonably accurate and, if not, determine the next necessary steps to meet that important constitutional responsibility. Failure to extend the census will result in seriously incomplete enumerations in many areas across our country, and that would be especially harmful to Texans.

Sincerely,



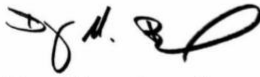
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Rep. Rafael Anchía



Rep. Michelle Beckley



Rep. Diego Bernal



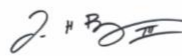
Rep. Lorraine Birabil



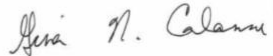
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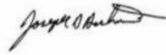
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Rep. Alex Dominguez



Rep. Harold Dutton



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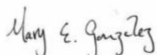
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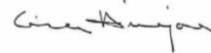
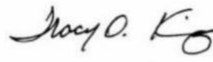
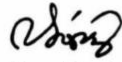
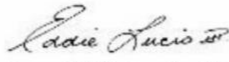
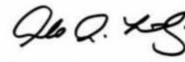
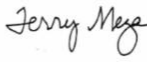
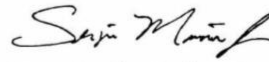
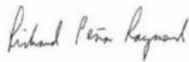
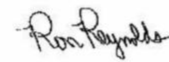
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Rep. Ramon Romero



Rep. Toni Rose



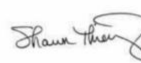
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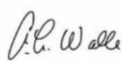
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Rep. Hubert Vo



Rep. Armando Walle



Rep. Gene Wu



Rep. Erin Zwiener

cc: President Donald J. Trump

Fiscal Impact of Texas Federal Program Funding

In Fiscal Year 2017, Texas received \$50,065,391,000 through 40 of the largest federal spending programs that relied on data derived from the 2010 Census—the 3rd most of any state, behind California and Florida. These very same programs will again rely on data from the 2020 Census to guide the distribution of federal funding to state agencies, local governments, families, and individuals across the state. The fair and equitable distribution of federal funds hinges on an accurate 2020 Census count of all persons living in the state.

Allocation of Funds from 40 Largest Federal Spending Programs Guided by Data Derived from the 2010 Census (Fiscal Year 2017).

Program	Department	FY 2017 Funding
Medicare	HHS	\$ 50,065,391,000.00
Medicaid	HHS	\$ 21,078,511,000.00
Other programs	Others	\$ 11,665,742,000.00
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	USDA	\$ 5,805,152,000.00
Highway Planning and Construction	DOT	\$ 2,172,810,000.00
National School Lunch Program	USDA	\$ 1,433,344,000.00
Title I Grants to Local Education Agencies	ED	\$ 1,415,074,000.00
State Children's Health Insurance Program	HHS	\$ 1,382,120,000.00
Special Education Grants	ED	\$ 1,037,782,000.00
Head Start	HHS	\$ 626,118,000.00
School Breakfast Program	USDA	\$ 558,932,000.00
Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children	USDA	\$ 501,349,000.00
Child and Adult Care Food Program	USDA	\$ 367,326,000.00
Federal Transit Formula Grants	DOT	\$ 299,620,000.00
Child Care and Development Block Grant	HHS	\$ 292,750,000.00
Vocational Rehabilitation Grants to the States	ED	\$ 278,589,000.00
Health Care Centers	HHS	\$ 252,786,000.00
Child Care Mandatory and Matching Funds	HHS	\$ 224,538,000.00
Title IV-E Foster Care	HHS	\$ 207,520,000.00
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants	ED	\$ 169,159,000.00
Community Development Block Grants/Entitlement Grants	HUD	\$ 156,133,000.00
Crime Victim Assistance	DOJ	\$ 155,567,000.00
Public Housing Operating Fund	HUD	\$ 145,820,000.00
Block Grants for the Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse	HHS	\$ 144,710,000.00
Adoption Assistance	HHS	\$ 143,120,000.00
Unemployment Insurance Administration	DOL	\$ 134,772,000.00
Social Services Block Grant	HHS	\$ 134,505,000.00

5

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Low Income Home Energy Assistance	HHS	\$ 118,304,000.00
Career and Technical Education - Basic Grants to States	ED	\$ 93,666,000.00
Public Housing Capital Fund	HUD	\$ 73,562,000.00
Home Investment Partnerships Program	HUD	\$ 63,974,000.00
State Community Development Block Grant	HUD	\$ 59,551,000.00
WIOA Youth Activities	DOL	\$ 58,290,000.00
WIOA Adult Activities	DOL	\$ 55,508,000.00
Employment Service/Wagner-Peyser Funded Activities	DOL	\$ 50,422,000.00
WIOA Dislocated Worker Formula Grants	DOL	\$ 49,097,000.00
Community Services Block Grant	HHS	\$ 33,936,000.00
Special Programs for the Aging, Title III, Part C, Nutrition Services	HHS	\$ 28,861,000.00
Federal Transit - Capital Investment Grants	DOT	\$ 28,160,000.00
Cooperative Extension Service	USDA	\$ 22,443,000.00
Homeland Security Grant Program	DHS	\$ 21,481,000.00

Sources: Counting for Dollars 2020 publications and spreadsheet with above data available at:
<https://journalistsresource.org/studies/government/2020-census-federal-state-funding-medicare/>

The Legislative Study Group (LSG) is a nonpartisan caucus in the Texas House of Representatives that is committed to developing sound public policy that benefits all Texas families. Created in 1993, the LSG has become one of the leading policy resources in the Texas Capitol.

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