



AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION

Promoting the Practice and Profession of Statistics®

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March 30, 2018

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Shelby,

As President of the American Statistical Association with its 19,000 members, I write to thank you for the funding level for the US Census Bureau in the FY18 omnibus funding bill. The additional funding is critical to the bureau's efforts to execute a fair and accurate decennial census, enabling it to jumpstart its advertising and partnership programs.

As you well know Census data are the backbone of our data infrastructure which contributes immensely to US prosperity and global competitiveness. Besides empowering our economy, census data serve the health and welfare of our citizens, support our governance, and inform decisions and policies in the public and private sector too numerous to list or even know. Given this importance with far-reaching ramifications for the ensuing decade, it is imperative to provide the bureau adequate funding to prepare and execute the decennial census.

We appreciate your understanding of the profound importance of the census and your support of it.

With sincere gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Lisa LaVange'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lisa LaVange, Ph.D.