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U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ensure a Full and Accurate Census Count – Support Full Funding for the 2010 Census

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union, a non-partisan organization with hundreds of thousands of activists and members and 53 affiliates nationwide, we write to urge you to support full funding of the United States Census Bureau in the FY2010 budget, as requested by President Obama, and to reject any amendments that would reduce census funding.

We believe that an accurate census count, which ensures fair, proportionate representation for all Americans, is a vital civil rights objective. Maintaining adequate funding for the Census Bureau is not only necessary to achieve an accurate count, but vitally important to advance the Census Bureau's role in providing data to help government agencies advance their civil rights missions. The Census Bureau produces annual data that help to determine the allocation of billions of dollars in federal funding for such key programs as education, healthcare, and civil rights enforcement activities. For example, census data assist the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in monitoring workplace discrimination. The census population numbers are also used to apportion seats in Congress and for redistricting purposes.

The vast majority of the \$7.375 billion in the President's FY2010 request will be used to administer the 2010 count. This funding will support operations crucial to achieving an accurate count, including, for example:

- opening and staffing additional local census offices;
- hiring 1.4 million temporary employees to conduct the census;
- printing more than 140 million census questionnaires;
- launching a national advertising campaign; and
- collecting census information using the mail, telephone, and door-to-door visits.

If the Census Bureau does not receive full funding, all communities and congressional districts run the risk of a less accurate count because the Bureau will likely be forced to curtail the outreach necessary to conduct the count.

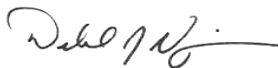
To ensure a full and accurate census count in 2010, we urge you to support full funding of the Census Bureau for FY2010 and oppose any amendments that would reduce census funding. As always, the ACLU also continues to stress the need for the security and confidentiality of census records, which is

essential to protecting the integrity and success of the census itself. If you have any questions, please contact Deborah Vagins, e-mail: dvagins@dcaclu.org or phone: (202) 715-0816.

Sincerely,



Caroline Fredrickson
Director



Deborah J. Vagins
Legislative Counsel