

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 28, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

We write to express our concerns regarding the impending vacancy at the head of the U.S. Census Bureau. On May 9<sup>th</sup>, U.S. Census Director John H. Thompson unexpectedly announced that he will step down from his post at the end of this month despite the fact that his term is set to expire in December 2017. In order to avoid compromising the 2020 census, we strongly request that you move quickly to nominate a new Director who is both nonpartisan and highly qualified to fill this critical position.

Director Thompson's abrupt departure paired with other high-level vacancies has left a leadership void at the top of the Bureau. The agency currently has no permanent Deputy Director and no Deputy Secretary of Commerce to directly oversee its operations. These vacancies call into question the availability of a qualified interim acting director and could endanger the Bureau's ability to adequately prepare for dissemination of the 2020 census.

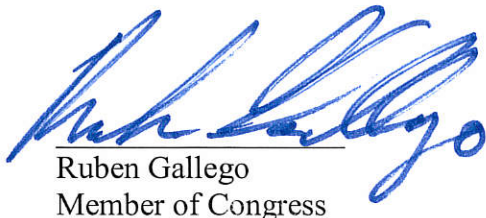
Given this leadership vacuum, it is critical that you appoint a well-qualified, experienced, and nonpartisan leader to guide this enormously significant undertaking. The results of the U.S. Census play a crucial role in everything from congressional redistricting to the distribution of federal resources. GAO's recent addition of the 2020 Census to its high risk list further reinforces the need for effective leadership at the Bureau. In order to maintain the trust of the American people, the census must be led by an individual who is unquestionably impartial and free from undue partisan influence.

In light of heightened concerns about the undercounting of minority populations, it is more important than ever for the individual heading the Bureau to have a proven record of competence, integrity, and objectivity. A partisan choice for Director could lead to increased mistrust in the communities most likely to be undercounted – especially immigrant communities – which could severely undermine the 2020 census process.

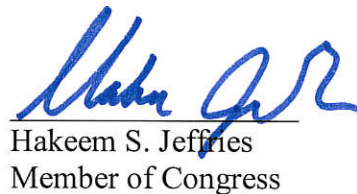
Finally, it is vital to move quickly to fill Director Thompson's position because of the uniquely time-sensitive operations of the U.S. Census Bureau. The agency is expected to conduct a full field test of the survey in 2018 to ensure a smooth and effective rollout in 2020. In order to have leadership in place for this essential step in the census preparation process and to afford the Senate ample time to vet a nominee, we urge you to identify an appropriate nominee with all possible haste.

Thank you for your attention to this request. We look forward to the appointment of a qualified and nonpartisan leader who will work to ensure the completion of a transparent, fair, and effective 2020 census.

Sincerely,



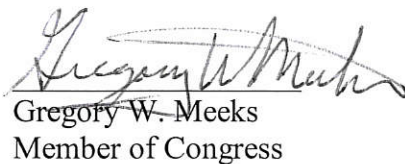
Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress



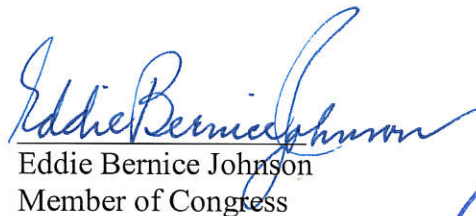
Hakeem S. Jeffries  
Member of Congress



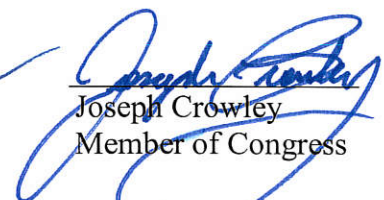
Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress



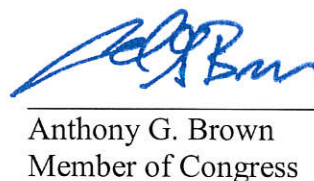
Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress



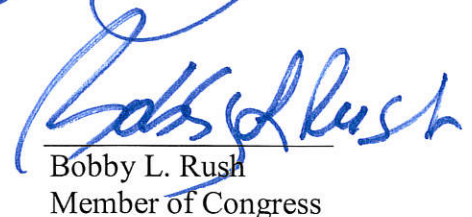
Joseph Crowley  
Member of Congress



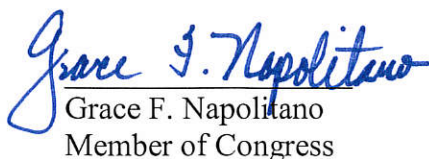
G. K. Butterfield  
Member of Congress



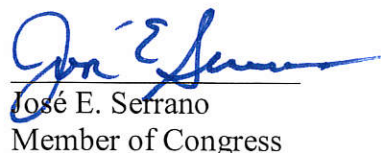
Anthony G. Brown  
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress



José E. Serrano  
Member of Congress



Wm. Lacy Clay  
Member of Congress



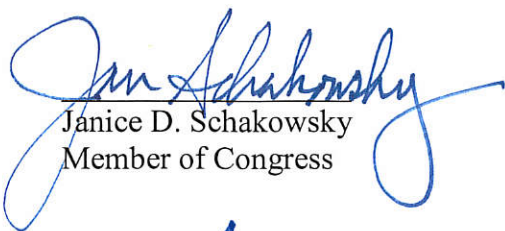
Ed Perlmutter  
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



Ted Lieu  
Member of Congress



Janice D. Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



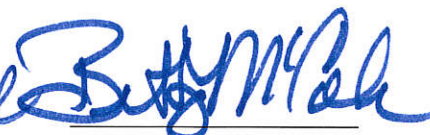
Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



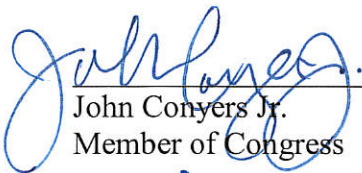
Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



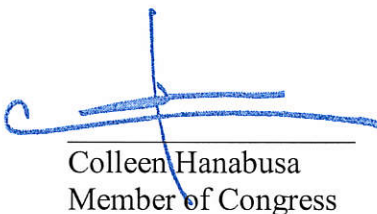
Lucille Roybal-Allard  
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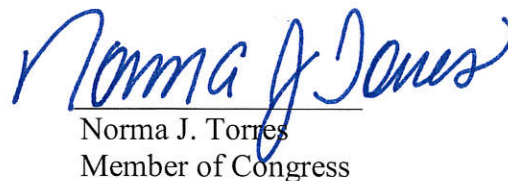
Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



John Conyers Jr.  
Member of Congress



Colleen Hanabusa  
Member of Congress



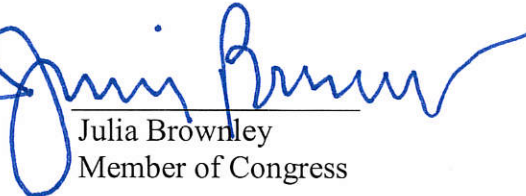
Norma J. Torres  
Member of Congress



Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



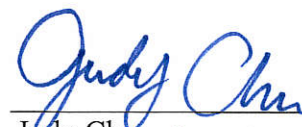
Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress




Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress

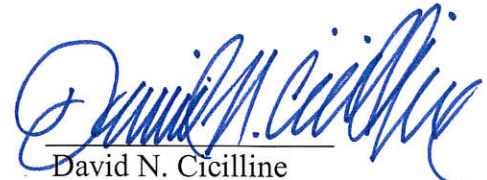


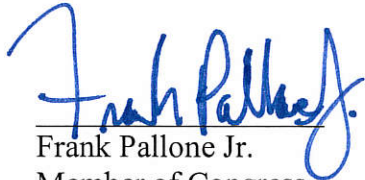
Judy Chu  
Member of Congress




  
Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress

  
Adam Smith  
Member of Congress

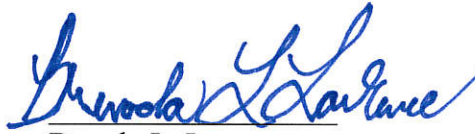
  
David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress


  
Frank Pallone Jr.  
Member of Congress

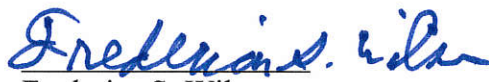
  
Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress

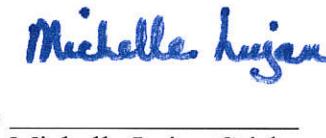
  
Cedric L. Richmond  
Member of Congress

  
Richard M. Nolan  
Member of Congress


  
Brenda L. Lawrence  
Member of Congress

  
Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress

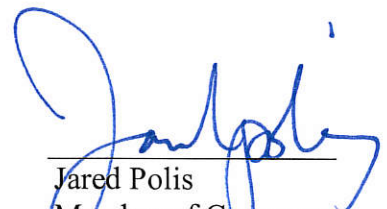
  
Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress

  
Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Member of Congress

  
Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress

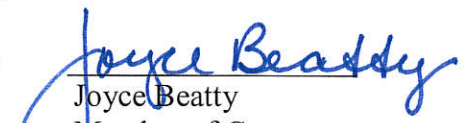
  
Donald M. Payne Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Luis V. Gutiérrez  
Member of Congress

  
Jared Polis  
Member of Congress

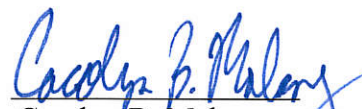
  
Salud O. Carbajal  
Member of Congress

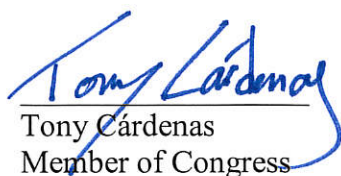
  
James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

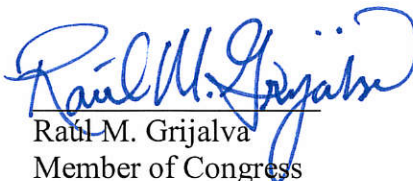
  
Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress

  
Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress


  
Albio Sires  
Member of Congress


  
Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress

  
Tony Cardenas  
Member of Congress


  
Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

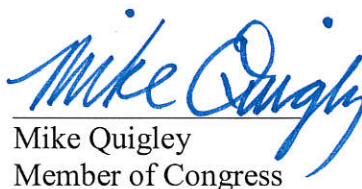
  
Doris O. Matsui  
Member of Congress

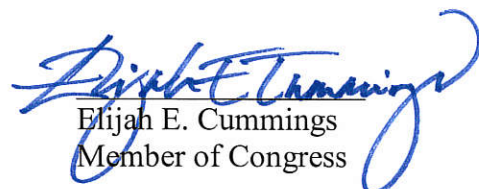
  
Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress


  
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress


  
Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress


  
Alma S. Adams  
Member of Congress


  
Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress

  
Elijah E. Cummings  
Member of Congress

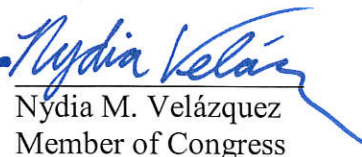
  
Val Butler Demings  
Member of Congress

  
Louise McIntosh Slaughter  
Member of Congress

  
Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress

  
Alan S. Lowenthal  
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Earl Blumenauer  
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Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress



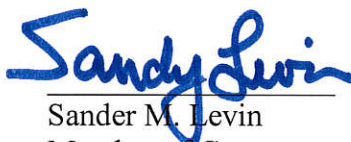
David E. Price  
Member of Congress



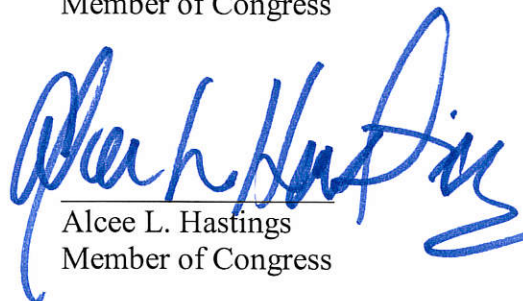
Timothy J. Walz  
Member of Congress



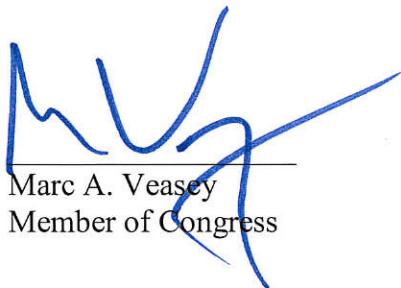
Tom O'Halleran  
Member of Congress



Sander M. Levin  
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey  
Member of Congress