

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

May 25, 2022

The Honorable Robert L. Santos
Director, U.S. Census Bureau
4600 Silver Hill Road
Washington, DC 20233

Dear Director Santos:

We are writing in regard to the Census Bureau's Post-Enumeration Survey (PES), which found that Illinois likely was undercounted at a rate of 1.97% in the 2020 Decennial Census. With this knowledge comes the striking fact that Illinois did not lose residents, but rather, the State's population is now at its largest in history with about 13 million residents. We are concerned about how this undercount may affect the people of Illinois.

We understand the Census Bureau faced an unprecedented challenge in trying to enumerate during a worldwide pandemic. Further, we recognize challenges that were created by the Trump Administration in seeking to discourage immigrants from participating in the Census, as well as both delaying the enumeration period and ending it early.

As such, we would like to learn how the findings within the PES will be used going forward, in both allocation of federal funding and in preparation for the next Decennial Census. As you know, Census Bureau data determines how \$1.5 trillion of federal funding will be allocated over the course of a decade. Illinoisans rely on roughly 100 programs that use this data to allocate funding, particularly for health care, nutrition assistance, and education programs, among others.

Any federal entities disregarding Illinois' revised population estimate in determining these funding allocations could have grave consequences for those affected by such underfunding. As such, we request a response to the following questions no later than June 15.

1. How does the Census Bureau plan to incorporate the PES findings into data products that inform federal funding allocations?
 - a. What the timeline is for doing so?
2. Will the Bureau commit to ensuring that all of its federal partners understand any errors that may have occurred during the Decennial Census, including Illinois' estimated undercount, so that they may have full knowledge to inform their funding allocation decisions?
3. Will the Bureau commit to taking into account the PES projections in its yearly Population Estimates following the Decennial Census?
 - a. Further, how will the Bureau ensure Illinois does not receive anything less than its fair and full share of federal funding over the next decade?

We look forward to hearing from you on this important matter.

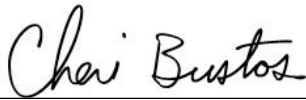
Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



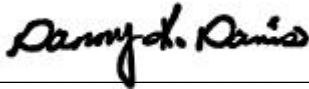
Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



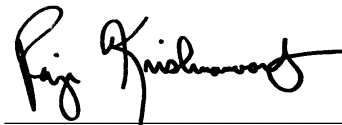
Cheri Bustos
United States Representative



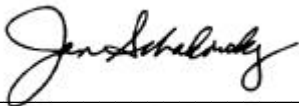
Sean Casten
United States Representative



Danny K. Davis
United States Representative



Raja Krishnamoorthi
United States Representative



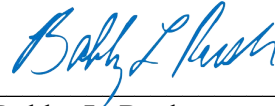
Jan Schakowsky
United States Representative



Lauren Underwood
United States Representative



Bill Foster
United States Representative



Bobby L. Rush
United States Representative



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
United States Representative



Bradley S. Schneider
United States Representative



Marie Newman
United States Representative



Mike Quigley
United States Representative



Robin L. Kelly
United States Representative