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July 26, 2019

The Honorable Wilbur L. Ross
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Ross:

I write to express my deep concern over the inclusion of a citizenship question on questionnaires for the Census Bureau's 2019 Census Test. According to reports in the *Washington Post* and elsewhere, the Census Bureau has not removed these questionnaires from circulation even though there will be no citizenship question on the 2020 Decennial Census.

According to the Census Bureau's website, "[t]he 2019 Census Test will be conducted nationwide, surveying approximately 480,000 housing unit addresses." The website further states that "[p]articipation in the test is mandatory (per Title 13 US Code) for every residence selected."

An accurate accounting of everyone present in the United States is critical to the proper allocation of federal funding and Congressional apportionment. Data derived from the Decennial Census are also utilized by businesses of all sizes to make decisions that impact investment and services. Anything that jeopardizes response rates or otherwise skews the accuracy of data collected is detrimental to our communities and our nation.

As the Administration has finally abandoned its cynical and misguided attempt to add a citizenship question to the Decennial Census, I urge you to clarify what the purpose of the 2019 Census Test is, in light of the changed circumstances.

In addition, I request a response to the following questions by August 26th:

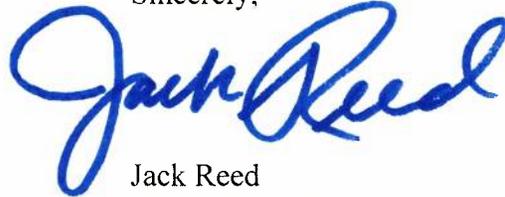
1. What will the Census Bureau do with the data related to citizenship status it collects from the 2019 Census Test?
2. How will the Census Bureau use the information gathered on self-response rates, now that the 2020 Census will not include a citizenship question?
3. As a citizenship question will not be added to the Decennial Census, what guidance did the Census Bureau provide to all personnel to reassure recipients of the 2019 Census Test

form that they are not required to respond to the citizenship question and that the question would not appear on the actual 2020 Census form?

4. What is the geographic breakdown of those households that received a questionnaire containing a citizenship question?

Thank you for your attention to, and consideration of, this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jack Reed". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J" and "R".

Jack Reed
United States Senator