

Contact Congress Challenge

October 25 - 29

Call or See Your Members of Congress

Greetings!

Congress has adjourned until November 15.

Members of Congress, whether or not they are running for re-election, are back in their districts, attending events and meeting with constituents.

NOW IS THE TIME TO GET THEIR ATTENTION!

During the week of October 25-29, the Population Association of America (PAA) and Association of Population Centers (APC) Government and Public Affairs Committee challenges you to contact your U.S. Representatives and U.S. Senators.

We urge you to either:

- 1) Write a letter, introducing yourself, explaining your research and asking for their support on two key issues (which we describe below); OR
- 2) Request a meeting with at least ONE member of your U.S. congressional delegation (or the appropriate staff person) in his or her district office to discuss these issues.

Issues

1) When Congress returns on November 15, it will need to pass a Fiscal Year 2011 omnibus spending bill to fund almost all federal agencies, including all agencies important to PAA and APC. We want the Fiscal Year 2011 omnibus bill to include the following funding levels for our agencies of interest:

- * National Institutes of Health--\$32 billion
- * Census Bureau--\$1.3 billion
- * National Center for Health Statistics--\$162 million
- * National Science Foundation--\$7.4 billion
- * US Agency for International Development Reproductive Health/Family Planning account--\$735 million

Explain why these agencies are important to you and your research. For example, you may be an NIH grantee or you may rely on datasets generated by the Census Bureau or NCHS.

We recommend you choose no more than 2 examples to illustrate how these federal agencies support your research.

support your research.

2) Support passage of H.R. 4945/S. 3167, the Census Oversight Efficiency and Management Reform Act

When Congress reconvenes in mid-November, it will attempt to pass the Census Oversight Efficiency and Management Reform Act. The bill would establish a five-year Presidential term appointment for the Census Bureau Director and give the Bureau greater independence within the Department of Commerce to manage its operations and surveys. Link to PAA/APC letter of support: <http://thecensusproject.org/letters/censusoversightbill1.pdf>

Contacting Congressional Offices

We ask you to either communicate these messages via letter or in person.

To view examples of letters to Congress, go to:

<http://www.populationassociation.org/government-affairs/gpac-communications/>

Two fact sheets on this page might be helpful: 'Key Agencies Supporting Population Research' and 'PAA/APC Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Priorities.'

For tips on meeting with Members of Congress go to: <http://www.faseb.org/Policy-and-Government-Affairs/Advocacy-on-Capitol-Hill/Take-Action/Congressional-Visit-Toolbox.aspx>

To locate your member of the U.S. House of Representatives, go to:

<https://writerep.house.gov>

To locate your member of the U.S. Senate, go to:

<http://www.senate.gov/>

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Mary Jo Hoeksema and Juliane Baron at paaapc@crosslink.net or at 202.341.7283 202.341.7283 .

Also, please let us know how about your efforts and experiences communicating with your Members of Congress.

Thank you for contacting your congressional delegation during this challenge week. It does make a difference!!