The Population Association of America

BACKGROUND

Last week, the U.S. House of Representatives debated a bill, H.R. 5326, to fund the Census Bureau and other federal agencies in Fiscal Year 2013. During the debate, Congressman Webster (R-FL) offered an amendment to ELIMINATE funding for the American Community Survey (ACS). As you know, the ACS replaced the decennial census long form in 2005 and is the only source of representative, timely, and objective information about the nation's social, economic, and demographic characteristics down to the neighborhood level.

The House passed the Webster amendment by a vote of 232-190.

See how your member voted here: http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2012/roll232.xml

You can locate your Representative's contact information by going to: http://www.house.gov/representatives/

REQUESTED ACTION

If your member voted AYE (yes) on the Webster amendment, please send him or her this suggested message:

Dear Congressman/Congresswoman___:

As your constituent, I am very disappointed and alarmed that you voted for the Webster amendment to H.R. 5326, the Fiscal Year 2013 Commerce, Justice, and Science appropriations bill, which eliminated funding for the American Community Survey (ACS).

The ACS, which replaced the decennial census long form nationwide in 2005, is an invaluable source of information about the U.S. population. In fact, it is the ONLY source of representative,
timely, and objective information about the nation's social, economic, and demographics characteristics down to the neighborhood level. Thousands of ACS data users, including American businesses, state and local governments, researchers, and educators, rely on this survey to make critical decisions, including where to locate factories and markets, build roads, schools, and community centers and direct services to children, the elderly and veterans. [Insert your own sentence, illustrating how you the ACS in your work or research if applicable]

Without the ACS, leaders in the public and private sectors alike will not have the basic information they need to make consequential decisions, affecting millions of Americans. I am pleased that over 500 national, state, and local organizations, including the U.S. Conference of Mayors, International Council of Shopping Centers, and my organization, the Population Association of America, have expressed their alarm in the Webster amendment and urged the U.S. Senate to support the ACS when that chamber considers its version of the Fiscal Year 2013 Commerce, Justice, Science appropriations bill. The letter is posted at: http://www.thecensusproject.org/letters/2012-05-18_Senate_Census_Budget_Ltr-SenateAppropriations-Final-Signed.pdf

Thank you for considering my views.

If your member voted NO on the Webster amendment, please send him or her this suggested message:

Dear Congressman/Congresswoman ____:

As your constituent, I want to thank you for voting NO on an amendment offered by Congressman Webster to H.R. 5326, the Fiscal Year 2013 Commerce, Justice, and Science appropriations bill, which eliminated funding for the American Community Survey (ACS). I am very disappointed and alarmed, however, that the House of Representatives approved this amendment.

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Thank you for supporting the ACS and voting NO on the Webster amendment. I appreciate your
leadership on this important issue.

Please call or email your member in the House of Representatives with this message today!

Thank you for responding to this important alert!

Mary Jo Hoeksema, M.P.A
Director, Government Affairs
Population Association of America/Association of Population Centers

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