Thank you, Chairman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole for this opportunity to express support for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Institute of Education Sciences (IES), and Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). These agencies are important to the members of the Population Association of America (PAA) and Association of Population Centers (APC) because they provide direct and indirect support to population scientists and the field of population, or demographic, research overall. In FY 2020, we urge the Subcommittee to adopt the following funding recommendations: $41.6 billion, NIH; $175 million, NCHS; $670 million, IES; and $655 million, BLS.

**National Institutes of Health**
Demography is the study of populations and how or why they change. A key component of the NIH mission is to support biomedical, social, and behavioral research that will improve the health of our population. The health of our population is fundamentally intertwined with the demography of our population. Recognizing the connection between health and demography, NIH supports population research programs primarily through the National Institute on Aging (NIA) and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD). As members of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research, PAA and APC recommend an appropriation of at least $41.6 billion for the NIH, a $2.5 billion increase over the NIH’s program level funding in FY 2019.

**National Institute on Aging**
By 2030, there will be 72 million Americans aged 65 and older. To inform the implications of our rapidly aging population, policymakers need objective, reliable data about the antecedents and impact of changing social, demographic, economic, health and well being characteristics of the older population.

The NIA Division of Behavioral and Social Research (BSR) is the primary source of federal support for basic population aging research. In recent years, the BSR Division expanded its Alzheimer’s disease research portfolio to include the population sciences. Some primary examples of this activity include enhanced collection of nationally representative data via the Health and Retirement Study to measure cognitive function to inform our understanding of national trends and differences. In addition to enhancing data collection, NIA developed a dementia care research agenda and added an Alzheimer’s disease research component as part of the Roybal Centers of Translation Research in Behavioral and Social Sciences of Aging, Resource Centers for Minority Aging Research, and Demography and Economics of Aging Centers program.

In addition to continuing these activities in FY 2020, with additional funding, the Division can pursue plans to renew and expand the Demography and Economics of Aging Centers Program as well as achieve its goals, which PAA and APC support, as articulated in its recently revised

As members of the Friends of the National Institute of Aging, PAA and APC urge the Subcommittee to provide $450 million to support trans-NIH aging research initiatives in FY 2020.

**Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute on Child Health and Human Development**

Since the Institute’s inception in 1962, NICHD has had a clear mandate to support a robust research portfolio focusing on maternal and child health, the social determinants of health, and human development across the lifespan. Population research, now commonly termed “population science,” is cited explicitly in the Institute’s authorizing statute as a key tenant of the Institute’s broader mandate. Accordingly, over the decades NICHD, specifically via its Population Dynamics Branch, has supported innovative and influential population science initiatives, including: 1) large-scale longitudinal surveys, with population representative samples, such as the National Longitudinal Survey of Adolescent Health and Fragile Families and Child Well Being Study; 2) a nationwide network of population science research and training centers; and, 3) numerous scientific research initiatives that have advanced our understanding of specific diseases and conditions, including obesity, autism, and maternal mortality, and, further, how socioeconomic and biological factors jointly determine human health.

In additional to supporting individual research grants and surveys, NICHD supports the Population Dynamics Centers Research Infrastructure Program. These highly productive centers, based at U.S. universities and private research institutions nationwide, have advanced U.S. science by fostering groundbreaking interdisciplinary research on human health and development, and increased the scientific pipeline by nurturing the careers of junior researchers. With additional funding in FY 2020, the Institute will be able to maintain its strong commitment to these centers of research excellence as well as the rest of the Population Dynamics Branch’s impressive research portfolio.

As members of the Friends of NICHD, PAA and APC request that NICHD receive $1.6 billion in FY 2020, an increase of $94 million over FY 2019.

**National Center for Health Statistics**

NCHS is the nation’s principal health statistics agency, providing data on the health of the U.S. population. NCHS funds and manages the National Vital Statistics System (NVSS), which contracts with the states to collect birth and death certificate information. NCHS also funds several complex large surveys to help data users understand the population’s health, influences on health, and health outcomes. In the last year, critical research findings, including the number of deaths attributable to the opioid epidemic, decreased life expectancy in the U.S., decreased teen pregnancy, and the incidence of maternal and infant mortality, were informed by NCHS data. NCHS health data are an essential part of the nation’s statistical and public health infrastructure.
The rising costs of conducting surveys coupled with years of flat or near-flat funding has forced NCHS to focus most of its resources on sustaining high-quality data that communities across the country rely on to understand their health. However, as survey costs continue to rise, response rates decline, and our nation’s health care system becomes more complex, NCHS has not been able to invest in much-needed innovation and modernization that would allow it to produce better information more quickly and efficiently, while reducing the reporting burden on local data providers. With additional funding, NCHS could capitalize on opportunities surrounding advances in statistical methodology, big data, and computing by:

· Linking data reporting systems and better integrating electronic health records into NCHS’ data production, allowing it to receive and process information more efficiently, reduce burden on data providers, and analyze and release statistics faster;

· Researching how to conduct its most complex surveys more efficiently, making surveys less costly to taxpayers and less burdensome on participants; and,

· Integrating machine learning into its analysis to spot trends in Americans’ health earlier.

Any cuts below the agency’s FY 2019 level, which the Administration is proposing, would have a demonstrably negative effect on the agency’s programs, survey data, and staff. For example, if NCHS’s budget is reduced below its FY 2019 funding level, NCHS will need to consider eliminating or radically altering one of its two seminal surveys: the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)—the principal data source for studying demographic, socioeconomic, and behavioral differences in health and mortality outcomes since 1957—or the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), which has assessed the health and nutritional status of adults and children in the United States since the early 1960s. Despite making marginal adjustments to accommodate years of budget cuts, including reducing sample size and delaying necessary survey innovations, the agency has stated it cannot responsibly sustain these surveys if its funding level dips below its FY 2019 level, $160 million.

As members of the Friends of NCHS, PAA and APC urge the Subcommittee to reject the Administration’s request ($155 million) and to provide NCHS with $175 million in FY 2020.

**Bureau of Labor Statistics**

The BLS produces essential economic information for public and private decision making. Population scientists who study and evaluate labor and related economic policies use its data extensively. Further, the field relies on unique BLS-supported surveys, such as the American Time Use Survey and National Longitudinal Surveys, to understand how work, unemployment, and retirement influence health and well-being outcomes across the lifespan.

As members of the Friends of Labor Statistics, PAA and APC are very grateful for $3 million increase that BLS received in FY 2019. However, the agency is struggling to overcome years of insufficient support. Between FY 2009 and FY 2015, the purchasing power of BLS appropriations decreased every year. BLS needs a meaningful increase of funding in FY 2020 to not only sustain current operations, but also to make much needed improvements in existing programs and surveys, including:
• Expanding the Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey to improve timeliness and add industry detail and state level reports;
• Modernizing the Consumer Expenditure Survey to improve inflation statistics;
• Updating the Industrial Price and Import/Export program systems; and,
• Developing a new Survey of Employer-Provided Training.

Given the importance and unique nature of BLS data, and the adverse effect years of insufficient funding are having on the agency’s ability to modernize and advance its core mission, we urge the Subcommittee to provide BLS with $655 million in FY 2020, a $40 million increase over the agency’s FY 2019 funding level. It should be noted that the Administration requested $655 million for the BLS in FY 2020 as well; however, the Administration’s request stipulates that this increase be used entirely to pay for the physical relocation of the agency’s headquarters by FY 2024. PAA and APC encourage the Subcommittee to direct the BLS to prioritize any additional funding it may receive in FY 2020 on support for programs and personnel.

Institute of Education Sciences (IES)
The Institute of Education Sciences (IES) is a semi-independent, nonpartisan branch of the U.S. Department of Education and plays a critical role in developing the research base for and examining the effectiveness of education programs and curricula. The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) is the statistical arm of IES (as well as being one of the 13 federal principal statistical agencies) and provides objective data, statistics, and reports on the condition of education in the United States. The National Assessment of Educational Progress provides essential educational indicators on the progress of the nation’s students and schools. NCES also provides critical investment in State Longitudinal Data Systems, which have helped states link K-12, postsecondary, and workforce systems to gain a better understanding of education and workforce outcomes and serve as the basis of tools such as early warning systems that identify students at risk of dropping out of school. Sufficient funding for NCES would enhance the data collection from school districts and postsecondary institutions and the administration of longitudinal surveys. Population scientists rely on such longitudinal surveys to conduct research on the myriad topics, such as linkages between educational access and attainment to health outcomes of specific populations, economic well-being, incarceration rates and many other indicators.

PAA and APC, as members of the Friends of IES, urge the Subcommittee to provide the agency with $670 million in FY 2020, a $54.5 million increase over the FY 2019 funding level.

Thank you for considering our support for these agencies as the subcommittee drafts the FY 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill.