Submitted by

Dr. Kathleen Mullan Harris, President, Population Association of America (PAA)

Dr. Lynne Casper, President, Association of Population Centers (APC)

Population Association of America/ Association of Population Centers

1875 Connecticut Avenue, NW Suite 520

Washington, D.C. 20009

(202) 939-5456

Testimony on behalf of the

Population Association of America/ Association of Population Centers

Regarding the Fiscal Year 2010 Appropriations for the

Census Bureau

and

National Science Foundation

Submitted to the

House Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Alan Mollohan, Chair
Introduction
Thank you, Chairman Mollohan, Ranking Member Wolf and other distinguished members of the Subcommittee, for this opportunity to express support for the Census Bureau and the National Science Foundation (NSF)—two agencies important to the Population Association of America and the Association of Population Centers (PAA/APC).

As members of the Coalition for National Science Funding, we support NSF receiving $7 billion in FY 2010—a mark consistent with the Administration’s intended request. Although we do not yet know the Census Bureau’s proposed FY 2010 request, we support the Bureau receiving whatever amount it requests to successfully and fairly conduct Census 2010.

Background on the PAA/APC and Demographic Research
The PAA is an interdisciplinary, scientific organization comprised of over 3,000 research professionals, including demographers, economists, sociologists, and statisticians. The APC is a similar organization comprised of over 40 universities and research groups that foster collaborative demographic research and data sharing, translate basic population research for policy makers, and provide educational and training opportunities in population studies.

Demography is the study of populations and how and why they change. Demographers, as well as other population researchers, collect and analyze data on trends in births, deaths, immigration and disabilities as well as racial, ethnic and socioeconomic changes in populations. Among the major policy issues, population researchers study the demographic causes and consequences of population aging, trends in fertility, marriage, divorce and their effects on the health and well being of children, and immigration and migration and how these patterns affect the ethnic and cultural diversity of our population and the nation’s health and environment.

PAA/APC members rely on a number of federal agencies charged with funding demographic research and generating reliable, accessible data. The ability of our members to produce meaningful research, often used to inform policy decisions, requires the use of substantial data sets and support for research projects and research training. Both the Census Bureau and National Science Foundation (NSF), are key to the success of our field.

The Census Bureau
The Census Bureau is the premier source of demographic and economic data on every facet of our nation’s population and communities. PAA and APC members rely on accessible data produced by the Census Bureau to conduct their research. Since census data are the foundation of research conducted by our members, we want to ensure Census 2010 is conducted accurately and fairly. Further, the agency needs sufficient funding to support its other ongoing survey operations as well.
We are grateful Congress provided the Census Bureau with an additional $1 billion as part of the recently enacted American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This funding will be used to support important outreach, hiring, and training programs, as well as operational activities, critical to the success of Census 2010. Despite this infusion of two-year funds, we anticipate the Bureau will require more funding in FY 2010 to conduct Census 2010. We hope Congress will work with the Administration to fully fund the agency’s request and to help generate widespread participation in the decennial census.

Fiscal Year 2010 is also a pivotal year for the American Community Survey (ACS), which has replaced the traditional census long form. In August 2010, the ACS will provide the first demographic, economic, and housing characteristics data for areas as small as census tracts and block groups, based on five years worth of data collection for households (2005 – 2009). To assure the data collected in the last year are as accurate as in previous years, the Census Bureau needs sufficient funding to continue sampling three million households that receive the ACS annually. Further, in FY 2010, PAA and APC urge the Subcommittee to work with the Bureau to increase the ACS sample size. The ACS sample size should be increased to ensure that the quality and applicability of ACS data are not compromised.

We hope the Administration’s request also will enable the agency to continue its other ongoing surveys, which measure changes in individual and household demographic and economic conditions. Continuation of these activities is particularly important in the current difficult economic climate, as these data provide a basis for key economic indicators and help Congress assess the prudence of fiscal policy proposals.

**National Science Foundation (NSF)**

The mission of NSF is to promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; to secure the national defense. The demography of our population directly impacts the health, prosperity, welfare, and security of our nation. NSF’s support of demographic research, particularly its support of large-scale longitudinal surveys, such as the General Social Survey and Panel Study of Income Dynamics, is central to the agency’s mission and essential for the field of demographic research. NSF is the funding source for approximately 20 percent of all federally supported basic research conducted by America’s colleges and universities, including basic behavioral and social research. Demographic research also depends on support from NSF for support of individual research projects and research centers.

PAA and APC thank the committee for the significant funding for NSF in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and the FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act. The funding for NSF in these Acts will allow the agency to broaden its reach and enhance the nation’s capability to make new discoveries, leading to new innovations.
PAA and APC, as members of the Coalition for National Science Funding, support the President’s Fiscal Year 2010 budget request for NSF of $7 billion. This budget will enable the NSF Social, Behavioral and Economic Science Directorate (SBE) to continue its support of social science surveys and a rich portfolio of population research projects. Furthermore, this funding will enable NSF to continue to fund worthy projects that promote transformational and multidisciplinary research.

The Census Bureau and the National Science Foundation support, indirectly and directly, the collection and availability of rich data sources important to PAA/APC members. Our economists, statisticians, social survey design experts rely on federally supported data to conduct sound research and inform public policy. Investments in these data sets are investments in good policy.

Thank you for considering our requests and for supporting federal programs that benefit the field of demographic research.