The Population Association of America

Census Funding At Risk:
Tell Your U.S. Senator NOT to Mess with the ACS!

BACKGROUND

Last month, the U.S. House of Representatives debated its version of a bill 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), which the House passed by a vote of 232-190. The House also accepted via a voice vote an amendment offered by Representative Lankford (R-OK) to make participation in the ACS voluntary.

The U.S. Senate is scheduled to debate its version of the same funding bill, S. 2323, beginning as early as this month. Although no amendments have been formally introduced yet, census observers believe some Senators are contemplating amendments that would either make participation in the ACS voluntary and/or eliminate its funding altogether.

It is important the U.S. Senate NOT follow the House by adopting similar amendments in its version of the Fiscal Year 2013 Commerce, Justice, Science appropriations bill. If the Senate does not adopt similar amendments, it increases the likelihood that the final negotiated version of the funding bill will be stripped of these House-passed provisions.

REQUESTED ACTION

Your U.S. Senators need to hear from you now! They need to know that you support the Census Bureau and rely on the ACS to conduct your research and make rational policy or scientific decisions.

Call or email your U.S. Senators NOW to convey this message:

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