

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 3, 2020

Steven Dillingham
Director
U.S. Census Bureau
Washington, DC 20233

Dear Mr. Dillingham,

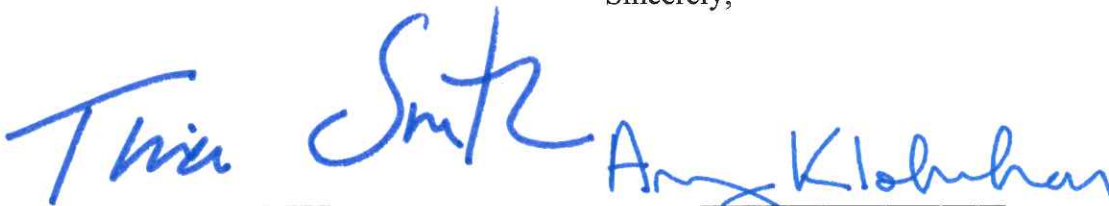
We write to request information on the United States Census Bureau's plans to address a potential outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, often called novel coronavirus. As the threat of such an outbreak in the United States increases, the Census Bureau should have a plan in place to protect census takers, the public, and ensure the integrity of census results.

An accurate and comprehensive census is fundamental to our democracy and the well-being of communities across the country. We urge the Census Bureau to be prepared to assess whether public health concerns about novel coronavirus are depressing census response rates, and develop contingency plans for mitigating measures to help ensure a full and accurate population count. Furthermore, if outbreaks of novel coronavirus occur in the United States, the Census Bureau must be prepared to provide guidance to census takers on appropriate health and safety precautions while conducting the census. The Census Bureau may also need to prepare for challenges in recruitment and retention of census takers in the event of coronavirus outbreaks.

Given the vital importance of the census, and the potential impact of novel coronavirus outbreaks in this country, we urge the Census Bureau to create a comprehensive plan to address those possibilities. Additionally, we request a briefing on the status of this planning no later than March 27, 2020.

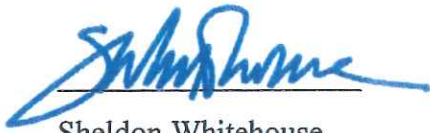
Thank you for your consideration of this important issue and your efforts to ensure a complete and accurate population count during the 2020 census.

Sincerely,



Tina Smith
United States Senator

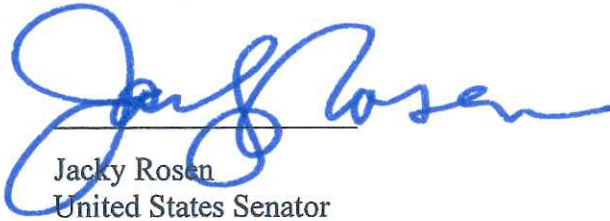
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



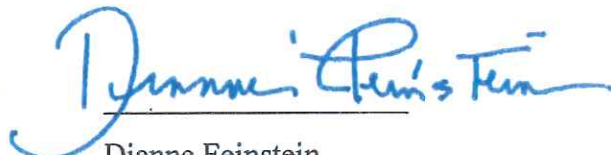
Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



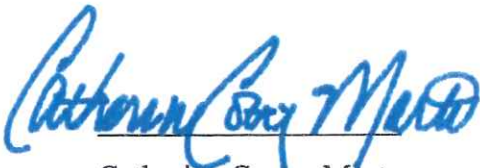
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



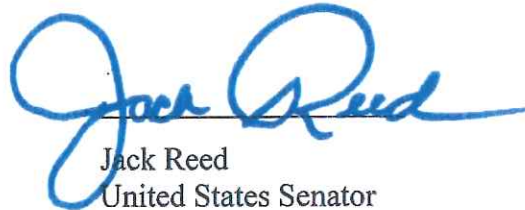
Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



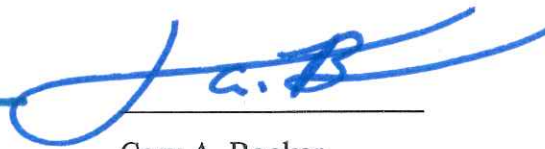
Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



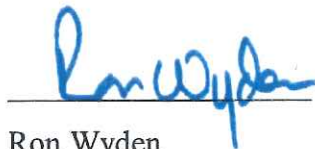
Jack Reed
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



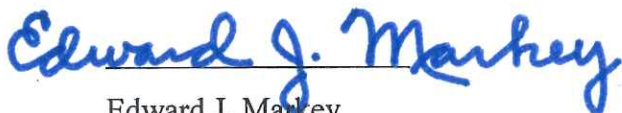
Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator




Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey Jr.
United States Senator



Michael Bennet
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator