From: Adrienne LeBas
To: Harris-Kojetin, Brian
Subject: American Community Survey & number of times married
Date: Monday, May 06, 2013 2:03:00 PM

To whom it may concern:

It has come to my attention that the Census Bureau is planning to drop a question addressing "number of times married" from the American Community Survey. The ACS is currently the only reliable source for national divorce statistics, as has been recently documented by Sheela Kennedy and Steven Ruggles of the University of Minnesota.

Cutting the "the number of times married" question would deprive researchers and policy-makers of a crucial source of information on family structure and divorce. Our understanding of American social dynamics -- and our ability to make policy suited to these dynamics -- will be badly compromised.

Please reconsider cutting this vital question from the American Community Survey.

Best,
Adrienne LeBas
Department of Government
American University