From: Chelsea Garneau
To: Harris-Kojetin, Brian
Subject: Regarding changes to the American Community Survey
Date: Monday, May 06, 2013 1:18:26 PM

Dear Dr. Harris-Kojetin,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the removal of "number of times married" from the American Community Survey. In order to understand the dynamic nature of American families and their changing needs in the evolving American demographic landscape, demographers and family researchers must have access to this essential piece of data. Such data are not only vital for understanding family and marital instability, but they are also essential for understanding the complex nature of family structure faced by many children in the United States. Drs. Sheela Kennedy and Steven Ruggles demonstrated recently in a working paper that the ACS is the only truly reliable source of such complex marriage and divorce data. Even with this information, it is often difficult to make determinations regarding family instability and marriage and divorce rates, yet without it doing so would be nearly impossible. I strongly urge you to reconsider this change.

Sincerely,

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