From:	Mindy Marks
To:	Harris-Kojetin, Brian
Subject:	changes to the ACS
Date:	Monday, May 06, 2013 11:48:49 AM

To Whom it may Concern:

I am an associate professor in the Department of Economics at the University of California - Riverside. I am writing to request that the Census Bureau retain the "number of times married" question in the American Community Survey. Change in the family structure of American households are perhaps the most important demographic change in the Untied States in the past 50 years. Without the ability the classify households by detailed marital status we lose the ability to understand the cause and consequences of divorce and remarriage. My research and my teaching (I teach a women's labor and the economy class to 80 Economics and Women Studies majors each year) would be negatively impacted if such a change were made. I don't understand the rationale for dropping such as a question but the benefits of the question far outweigh the costs of asking it.

Sincerely,

Mindy Marks
Associate Professor
University of California - Riverside