From:	Craig Palsson
To:	Harris-Kojetin, Brian
Subject:	Re: ACS Marriage Question
Date:	Monday, May 06, 2013 11:49:12 AM

Dear Office of Management and Budget:

I'm writing in response to Census Bureau's request for the 2014 ACS. Under consideration is the option to drop the Number of Times Married question. As an economist, I would like to point out that this question is pertinent to studies on family income dynamics. Without an understanding of how many times the individual has been married, we risk misdiagnosing effects of family structure and labor market conditions on individual labor supply and productivity. Furthermore, the cost of including the marginal question is small compared to the benefit it creates in the research community. Indeed, I fear dropping the question altogether would result in a larger cost than the inconvenience of asking it.

Craig Palsson