From: Stephen Woodbury
To: Harris-Kojetin, Brian
Subject: ACS question on "number of times married"
Date: Monday, May 06, 2013 1:10:37 PM

Dear Dr. Harris-Kojetin:

I am upset to learn that the Census Bureau is planning to drop the question on "number of times married" from the American Community Survey. I am a labor economist and have used the ACS to study labor force participation. Responses to questions on marriage and the number of time married have been important explanators of labor force participation, and losing the question on "number of times married" would be a real loss. In view of the importance of fully understanding the recent drop in labor force participation, it would be a real mistake to eliminate the question on "number of times married," and I hope you will reconsider.

Yours sincerely,
Steve Woodbury

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