From: Mallika Thomas
To: Harris-Kojetin, Brian
Subject: ACS question change
Date: Monday, May 06, 2013 11:53:04 AM

Dear Dr. Harris-Kojetin,

My name is Mallika Thomas, and I am Ph.D. student at the University of Chicago, working with Professors James Heckman and Gary Becker on my dissertation. I am writing to urge you not to drop the question on "number of times married" from the American Community Survey.

For me, in particular, I study divorce rates and the effects of nuptial regimes on intra-household bargaining power. In addition, I plan on future research related to the role of household formation and inter-generational transfers on explaining rising income inequality in the United States. Examining both the formation and dissolution of households is critical to this research. I strongly suggest that we keep this question on the survey, as it would be a great loss to not have the benefits of such research and the research of others.

Thank you,
Mallika