From:	Kamphoefner, Walter
To:	Harris-Kojetin, Brian
Subject:	Proposed ACS changes
Date:	Monday, May 06, 2013 12:08:19 PM

Dear Dr. Brian Harris-Kojetin,

I just learned of the proposal to drop the question of "number of times married" from the American Community Servey. I strongly oppose this move.

Given the extreme reduction of the number of variables enumerated in the 2010 census, the ACS has taken on additional importance.

The "number of times married" question is essential to obtain an accurate read on the nation's divorce rate, a matter of social and economic concern across the ideological spectrum.

Historians and other social scientists have gained a wealth of insights from ACS and individual-level census sources, and once an opportunity like this is thrown away, it can never be recovered.

I strongly urge that you reconsider this proposed omission.

Sincerely,

Walter D. Kamphoefner

Professor of History

Texas A&M University