From:	Francesca Adler
To:	Harris-Kojetin, Brian
Cc:	francesca@auburn.edu
Subject:	# of times married item on ACS
Date:	Monday, May 06, 2013 5:16:47 PM

Dr. Harris-Kojetin –
I am writing out of great concern that there is a proposed plan to drop the question on "number of times married" from the American Community Survey. As a researcher involved in family science who specializes in stepfamily development and dynamics, this would be a critical loss. The rationale for my work is based in the broader landscape of demography and family structure trends. In addition, I oversee the National Stepfamily Resource Center, a clearinghouse of information on stepfamilies for professionals and the media. Media representatives are often contacting me for valid estimates of remarriage and stepfamily experience in our country. ACS is considered by most in our field to be the only reliable source currently available for national divorce and remarriage statistics. Following family trends over the last few decades clearly indicates this item is an *increasingly* important and relevant item for studies of families and households – and the overall family demography infrastructure. This is certainly not the time to consider its deletion! Please retain this item in the ACS.
Best regards,
Francesca Adler-Baeder

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