From: David B. Elesh
To: Harris-Kojetin, Brian
Subject: The Proposal to Drop the Number of Times Marriage Question
Date: Tuesday, May 07, 2013 3:45:43 PM

Dear Dr. Harris-Kojetin,

I write to urge you not to proceed with the proposal to drop the question regarding number of times a person has married from the American Community Survey. I write both as a professor of sociology and as director of Temple's Social Science Data Library. Divorce is a huge and contentious issue in American society, and the question is the only reliable way to estimate the percentage of persons who have ever divorced or to create a life table for first marriage. Dropping the question would severely damage research on one of our most basic institutions. Please do not do so.

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