From: Emily Collins
To: Harris-Kojetin, Brian
Subject: Marriage questions in ACS
Date: Tuesday, May 07, 2013 11:53:18 AM

Dear Dr. Harris-Kojetin,

I was recently informed that the Census Bureau is planning to drop the question about how many times the respondent has been married from its ACS survey. As a graduate student studying economic demography, I would like to register my strong objection to removing this question. The ACS is one of the prime data sets available for studying trends in family economics, and without the marriage question it will become much more difficult to study the economic impacts of marital instability and divorce in the United States. These are questions with answers that are important to policy-makers across government. It would be a tragedy to eliminate this vital source of information, particularly since the question is so very short.

Sincerely,

Emily Collins
Ph.D. Candidate
University of Michigan, Economics