From:	Guillermina Jasso (reply to gj1@nyu.edu)
To:	Harris-Kojetin, Brian
Cc:	"Barbara Anderson"; "Daniel E. Atkins"; "Lawrence D. Bobo"; "Barbara P. Buttenfield"; "Mick Couper"; "Noel Cressie"; "Jack Dangermond"; "Irma T. Elo"; "Gary J. Gates"; Mike.Hidiroglou@statcan.gc.ca; "Sunshine Hillygus"; "Sharon Lohr"; "Douglas S. Massey"; "Sally Morton"; "Roberto Rigobon"; "Donald Rubin"; "Steven Ruggles"; gj1@nyu.edu; Jeri Green; kimberly.l.collier@census.gov; sara.a.rosario.nieves@census.gov; Tommy.Wright@Census.gov
Subject:	CSAC Comment re Number of Times Married Question in the ACS
Date:	Wednesday, May 08, 2013 11:26:04 PM

Dear Dr. Harris-Kojetin,

On behalf of the Census Scientific Advisory Committee (CSAC), I am pleased to respond to the Census Bureau's notice in the Federal Register of April 16, 2013, kindly inviting comments on proposed changes to the information collected as part of the American Community Survey. CSAC submits the following comment:

"The Census Scientific Advisory Committee is concerned about the plan to remove the question on 'Number of Times Married' from the American Community Survey. The number of times married question provides valuable information on family composition, nuptiality, and marital instability that is not available from any alternative source. Removing the question will reduce our capacity to understand and respond to major changes in family behavior that are occurring in the U.S. population. Accordingly, we believe that the change should not be undertaken without careful consideration of its impact, including consultation with social scientists, demographers, and other stakeholders who rely on the federal statistical system."

Sincerely,

Guillermina Jasso
Chair, CSAC

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