From:	Benjamin Limoges
To:	Harris-Kojetin, Brian
Subject:	Marriage ACS Data
Date:	Wednesday, May 08, 2013 3:38:49 PM

Dear Dr. Brian Harris-Kojetin,

It has recently come to my attention that the American Community Survey is considering dropping data for the number of times a person has been divorced. I believe that this data is valuable to the public and for economists/sociologists interested in the divorce rate over time; this has a real and measurable impact on our society.

Since the American Community Survey is the sole relatively unbiased (since recipients of the survey must fill it out, rather than opt into a private survey) provider of this information, it is extremely important to continue keeping this on the form. Any researcher who is interested in the effect of marriages on earnings potential, occupation, etc.. would find their job much more difficult in the coming years.

While the number of times divorced isn't important in my research (international macro) it is important to continue to update the time series that we already have. In my field, the redefinition of many of the Federal Reserve's time series was rather devastating; our sample sizes are half of what they should be since there is inconsistency in the data. Continued collection of this data series is not particularly expensive; why not keep it then?

Ultimately I hope that the OMB decides to not drop this from the ACS.

Have a wonderful day!

Benjamin Limoges
M.S. Economics Candidate
Tufts University
Class of 2014