From:	Megan Deepti P Thomas
To:	Harris-Kojetin, Brian
Subject:	Comment on ACS dropping question on "Number of Times Married"
Date:	Friday, May 10, 2013 7:36:19 PM

Dear Dr. Harris-Kojetin,

I am a graduate student in Economics at the University of Texas at Austin and I am writing about the proposed change in the ACS of removing the question on 'number of times married'.

I feel removing this question would become a serious handicap in studying US family structure and stability, and analyzing trends in marriage, divorce and fertility rates. The United States has a high magnitude for 'the number of times married' statistic and there is considerable research interest in how family stability affects children's development in terms of education attainment, health and emotional well-being. Since the ACS is the most reliable source of information on number of times married, in the interest of research that relies heavily on this information I request you not to remove this question from the ACS.

Thank you.

Yours Sincerely,

Megan D. Thomas

Graduate Student
Department of Economics
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