From:	Bhat, Prof. Vasanthakumar N.
To:	Harris-Kojetin, Brian
Cc:	vnb101@gmail.com
Subject:	ACS to Drop Marriage Question - Comments
Date:	Sunday, May 12, 2013 6:45:03 PM

Dr. Brian Harris-Kojetin,
OMB desk officer,

Dear Dr. Harris-Kojetin:

This is regarding the notice in the Federal Register about Census Bureau's plan to drop the question on "number of times married" from the American Community Survey. I strongly feel that this variable should not be dropped. In addition to providing statistical overview for each year, by comparing the previous year's ACS, it also provides us valuable insights about what happened during the year. There are 63 scholarly articles containing the words "the number of marriages" and "American community survey" since 2009 according to Google Scholar. There are thousands of scholarly articles containing the words "number of marriages". Number of marriages is a significant variable in the analyzing policy issues relating to fertility, social security, taxation, healthcare including the Medicare, children's upbringing, divorce laws and so on. In an internet world, where most of the ACS forms are filled electronically, only savings the Census Bureau gets by dropping this variable is a key entry per form. On the other hand, dropping this variable puts an end to future research involving the number of marriages. Once again, I strongly urge not to drop this question from the ACS.

Respectfully submitted,

Vasanthakumar N. Bhat, Ph.D.,
Lubin School of Business, Pace University,
New York, NY 10038
vbhat@pace.edu