From: John G. Bullock
To: Harris-Kojetin, Brian
Subject: comment on 78 FR 22511 (proposed changes to the American Community Survey)
Date: Saturday, May 11, 2013 2:31:22 PM

Dear Dr. Harris-Kojetin,

I hope that this message finds you well. I'm a professor of political science at Yale; I am writing to you about 78 FR 22511 (document number 2013-08876), which proposes changes to the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. I am a regular user of the American Community Survey.

Most of the proposed changes look fine to me. But one is distressing: the proposal to eliminate the "number of times married" question on the ACS.

Other surveys contain questions like those in the ACS. But none of them rival the ACS for quality: relative to the ACS, the others are beset by nonresponse issues and a host of other problems. If we drop the marriage question from the ACS, our understanding of marriage as an institution in American life is going to be crippled. I don't see a way around this outcome—save to keep the question in the ACS.

Sincerely,
John Bullock

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John G. Bullock
http://bullock.research.yale.edu

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science
Resident Fellow, Institution for Social and Policy Studies
Yale University

PO Box 208209, New Haven CT 06520-8209
203-285-8879