From: Elizabeth Oltmans Ananat
To: Harris-Kojetin, Brian
Subject: elimination of number of marriages question from the ACS
Date: Thursday, May 09, 2013 4:18:24 PM

Dear Dr. Harris- Kojetin,

I am shocked and disheartened to hear of plans to eliminate the question on number of times married from the ACS. This question could not be more vital for understanding and evaluating US public policy, as it is the only way to get a good understanding of marital instability in this country. Marital instability is a serious public policy issue of concern to Americans across the political, economic, and social spectrum. Understanding how marital instability is changing is of continuing interest to policymakers, as are the ways that public policy affects and is affected by marital instability. I have used data from this question myself many times, both in academic research on the impact of divorce on women and children and in policy work for the federal government.

Please do not allow this vital question to disappear. Doing so would severely compromise our ability to make good public policy for children and families.

Sincerely,

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