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Re: OMB Number 1121-0065

Elizabeth Ann Carson

Statistician

Bureau of Justice Statistics

810 Seventh St NW.

Washington DC 20531

[elizabeth.carson@usdoj.gov](mailto:elizabeth.carson@usdoj.gov)

Dear Ms. Carson,

I write in support of the Bureau of Justice Statistics' proposal to add several questions to the National Corrections Reporting Program, as announced in the *Federal Register*, 80 FR 32607 (June 9, 2015).

I am Executive Director of the Prison Policy Initiative, a national non-profit research and advocacy organization focusing on criminal justice policy. We rely on the Bureau of Justice Statistics' invaluable data on a daily basis, and support the Bureau's unobtrusive but critical additions to the NCRP collection.

I write in particular support of two items currently proposed to be added to the National Corrections Reporting Program: address of last residence prior to incarceration and 9-digit social security number.

The social security number data would be essential for performing longitudinal analysis of correctional populations. Currently, the Bureau is very good at producing snapshots of the disparate parts of our correctional system, but not as good at determining who stays in a system, moves between systems, or returns to a system; and similarly this data would enable data users to easily link different data sets together.

Collecting last address information, on the other hand would make existing data more precise. It would allow mapping the Bureau's data down to the neighborhood level, for example, rather than relying on county of conviction to serve as a proxy for where people in the system come from.

In conclusion, collecting identifier information could be an important first step in opening the door to longitudinal analysis of our criminal justice system, and the last known address information would have additional benefits as well – all while placing

no additional burden on reporting agencies.<sup>1</sup> I am excited to see that the Bureau is considering collecting these additional data. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Wagner', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Peter Wagner  
Executive Director

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<sup>1</sup> While I don't know how many states have electronic records of social security numbers, it is my understanding and experience that most states have electronic records of the last known address for most of the people in their custody. Sharing the additional proposed data along with the other data these states already share from the same databases would be a minimal burden at most. And to the degree that such data is not yet collected and maintained by the reporting agency, your request would have the side benefit of signaling that such data would be useful to collect for future use by both state and federal statistical programs.