



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**Economics and Statistics Administration**  
**U.S. Census Bureau**  
Washington, DC 20233-0001  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

March 1, 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR Donald L. Evans  
Secretary of Commerce

From: William G. Barron, Jr. *WGB*  
Acting Director

Subject: Recommendation on Adjustment of Census Counts

I am forwarding the report of the Executive Steering Committee for A.C.E. Policy (ESCAP) on whether the Accuracy and Coverage Evaluation (A.C.E.) should be used to adjust the Census 2000 counts. I asked the ESCAP to provide a recommendation in its report because I rely on the knowledge, experience, and technical expertise of the Committee and Census Bureau staff who have worked extremely hard with tremendous dedication and expertise through every phase of Census 2000.

As a member of the ESCAP and as Acting Director, I concur with and approve the Committee's recommendation that unadjusted census data be released as the Census Bureau's official redistricting data. The law requires that the Census Bureau issue data for use in redistricting by April 1, 2001 (13 U.S.C. 141(c)). The Committee reached this recommendation because it is unable, based on the data and other information currently available, to conclude that the adjusted data are more accurate for use in redistricting. The primary reason for arriving at this conclusion is the apparent inconsistency in population growth over the decade as estimated by the A.C.E. and demographic analysis. These differences cannot be resolved in the time available for the Committee's work. The importance of completing this type of analysis has been emphasized clearly and explicitly in the Census Bureau's public presentations outlining the scope, intent, and purpose of ESCAP deliberations. For example, the June 2000 Feasibility Document contained various references to the importance of demographic analysis and demographic estimates as key components of data and analysis to inform the ESCAP recommendation. This point was reinforced in materials the Census Bureau presented on October 2, 2000, at a public workshop sponsored by the National Academy of Sciences. The inconsistency raises the possibility of an unidentified error in the A.C.E. estimates or Census 2000. This possibility cannot be eliminated by the legally mandated deadline.

I believe the attached report and this cover memo meet the requirements set forth in regulation 66 Fed. Reg. 11231 (February 23, 2001), "Report of Tabulations of Population to States and Localities Pursuant to 13 U.S.C. 141(c) and Availability of Other Population Information; Revocation of Delegation of Authority."

Please let me know if I can provide you with additional information on these matters.