



**PREPARED STATEMENT OF
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Critical Budget Issues Affecting the 2010 Census – Part 2

**Before the House Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census, and National
Archives of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform**

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Chairman Clay, Ranking Member Turner, members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the invitation to speak with you today on the critical budget issues affecting the 2010 Decennial Census.

You asked that my testimony focus primarily on the amount of funding required to ensure that no disruption occur to decennial operations in the event that we are forced to operate under a Continuing Resolution in fiscal year 2009 that begins October 1. That is just two months from now and it is a significant concern for us.

We have been working diligently to get the infrastructure in place to conduct the most accurate and complete Census possible. We have made considerable progress toward that end in getting our major Field Data Collection Automation (FDCA) contract on track and assuring that our other contracts are operating as expected.

All systems are on track for rolling out our early Local Census Offices, and for getting them staffed up for Address Canvassing. Our Integrated Communications program is moving forward on schedule. We are in the process of getting all of our partnership specialists in place to begin their outreach efforts. All of these efforts are critical to a successful Census.

However, without adequate funding these plans cannot move forward. It is imperative that the Congress support the President's 2009 request for the Census Bureau. Passing our budget before the start of fiscal year 2009 would be the ideal outcome for the 2010 program, from a planning and execution perspective. A Continuing Resolution that freezes funding at levels of the previous year can present serious difficulties for the decennial census program. This is because, as you well know, our cyclical budget needs serially increase in years leading up to the decennial censuses and decline thereafter. Difficulties most often come up in years ending in 9 and 0, the years before and during the decennial census. By the end of fiscal year 2009, only six months will remain until Census Day, April 1 2010. Clearly, operations and infrastructure not fully in place at that time would seriously compromise other operations.

The President's budget for the Census Bureau in FY 2009 is more than two times the current funding level – at almost \$3.1 billion (\$233 million is for salaries and expenses programs and \$2.9 billion is for periodic censuses and programs). This is compared with \$1.4 billion in FY 2008. Most of this increase is for implementation of the 2010 Decennial Census Program, the cost of which nearly triples from \$1.0 billion in FY 2008 to \$2.7 billion in FY 2009. So, as you can see, a CR that freezes our budget at the FY 2008 level would make it very difficult for the Census Bureau to conduct operations critical to a successful 2010 Census.

For example, by October 1, 2008 the Census Bureau must begin opening, equipping, and staffing 150 early Local Census Offices around the country that will serve as the field offices for managing Address Canvassing operations. The early months of FY 2009 are extremely critical to completing final development and testing of equipment and software to be used in Address Canvassing, as well as the Operations Control System that will manage the entire operation. Finally, we will also begin adding partnership specialists to the core group hired in FY 2008, with 680 field partnership staff scheduled to be on board by January 2009. Communications activities such as support of the partnership program, creative development and testing, public relations development, the Census in Schools program, and research must continue.

Let me be clear that we at the Census Bureau, the Department of Commerce, and the Administration more broadly are all very aware of challenges that a multi-month continuing resolution would present to the 2010 Census program. While the Administration strongly urges the Congress to pass full-year appropriations bills within the spending levels requested by the President, we are currently

analyzing potential impacts and developing spend plans in case agreement has not been reached on such bills by the beginning of the upcoming fiscal year. While we have not yet finalized this work, the Administration understands the situation and is committed to ensuring we have a successful, accurate census in 2010.

I would be happy to take any questions you might have.