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Congress of the United States
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July 11, 2023

Arthur L. Scott, Jr.
Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Evaluation
Office of the Inspector General
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W
Washington, DC 20230

Assistant Inspector General Scott,

I am writing regarding your June 14, 2023 announcement that you had initiated an audit of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2020 Post-Enumeration Survey (PES) to assess the validity of the 2020 PES results as they relate to overcounts and undercounts. Those results included the estimate that 14 states had an undercount or overcount, including my home state of Illinois, which was undercounted by an estimated 1.97 percent.¹

As part of your audit of the PES's validity, I urge you and your office to specifically address not only the quality of the PES, but also the applicability and transferability of those results and any methodological findings to immediately improve the accuracy of the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program (PEP) and the resulting federal funding allocations, in addition to improving the 2030 Decennial Census.

As you know, Census Bureau data determines the allocation of \$1.5 trillion of federal funding over the course of a decade, and Illinoisans rely on roughly 100 programs, such as health care and education programs, for which federal funding levels are determined by such allocations. Because of this funding structure, the undercount and flawed projections are not simply questions of statistical theory and data practices, but of the health and wellbeing of millions of people.

Given the high stakes inherent in Census-based funding allocations and thus the accuracy of the Decennial Census, the PEP, and other Census Bureau programs that rely on it, I sincerely ask that your audit of the PES addresses not only the validity of the PES, but also how it can be most quickly and effectively used to improve other Census Bureau data.

Sincerely,



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress

¹ U.S. Census Bureau Releases 2020 Undercount and Overcount Rates by State and the District of Columbia, 2022, Post-Enumeration Survey (PES), May 19, 2022 (online at <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2022/pes-2020-undercount-overcount-by-state.html>)