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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

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June 18, 2024

Robert Santos  
Director  
U.S. Census Bureau  
4600 Silver Hill Road  
Washington, DC 20233

Dr. Sandra Johnson  
Population Division Chief  
U.S. Census Bureau  
4600 Silver Hill Road  
Washington, DC 20233

Dear Director Santos and Dr. Johnson,

I am writing to express concern about the recently released Vintage 2023 data that was developed as part of the U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program (PEP). This program, intended to publish an accurate record of annual population estimates, instead presents a series of totals about communities that are starkly different from the conditions observed by those closest to the region, including local leaders and residents. The uncharacteristic nature of this data is concerning and warrants further investigation.<sup>1</sup>

The five incorporated places in Illinois that reportedly had the relative largest decrease in population are all suburbs that fall partially or fully within Illinois 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, the district that I represent. Rosemont, Streamwood, Elk Grove Village, Mount Prospect, and Palatine were reported by the Vintage 2023 data to have had losses upwards of 4% in their population total, which would be a significant decrease over the data collection period.<sup>2</sup> This report has raised particularly deep concerns among municipalities that are simultaneously experiencing rapid new development, higher occupancy rates, increased numbers of residential water customers, and other indicators of population growth, in sharp contrast to the significant decrease claimed by the Bureau's data.

In the wake of previous findings that, at the level of state population, the Bureau's work had grossly misrepresented Illinois' population count, we find these new results at the municipal level dubious, especially when it will be used to allocate local aid. After my initial inquiries to the Bureau on similar undercount issues, significant errors were discovered. On January 4, 2024, Illinois released a report showing that the Bureau missed 46,400 Illinois residents during the 2020 census<sup>3</sup>. The Census Bureau, the state of Illinois, and the research organization NORC at the University of

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, [City and Town Population Totals: 2020-2023 \(census.gov\)](https://www.census.gov/popest/data/totals/totals.html), 2024

<sup>2</sup> Daily Herald, [Officials decry census' population loss estimates in Northwest suburbs \(dailyherald.com\)](https://www.dailyherald.com/story/news/2024/04/04/officials-decry-census-population-loss-estimates-northwest-suburbs/1190000001200270000/), 2024

<sup>3</sup> NBC Chicago, [Illinois Undercounted in 2020 Census, Actually Grew to 13 Million — The State's Largest Population Ever](#) – NBC Chicago, 2022

RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY  
8TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

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Chicago, found that 733 group quarters were undercounted or missed completely during the 2020 census. The nature of these errors carries far-reaching consequences, including the misallocation of funding allocations throughout the state and the nation. Without accurate data on the size and nature of our communities, federal funding for state and local programs is erroneously reduced.

Unfortunately, in this latest iteration of data released at the municipal level, we continue to observe troubling trends of Census Bureau data differing significantly from locally recorded data and developments on the ground.

As you and your team are aware, Census Bureau data is instrumental in determining critical funding for these communities, and if sustained, a recorded decrease in population can affect the amount of funding an area receives through state per capita revenue sharing.

I urge you to address these reports with a thorough and public explanation of the methods used to collect this data, and to work with local leaders to expeditiously address concerns raised by the Vintage 2023 report. Thank you for your prompt attention to this urgent request.

Sincerely,



Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress