

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

July 2, 2019

The Honorable Wilbur Ross  
Secretary of Commerce  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Ross,

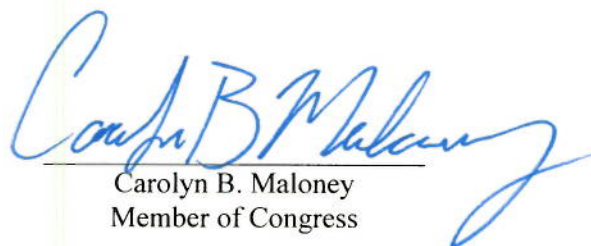
We write to express our deep concerns about tweets from President Trump in the wake of the Supreme Court ruling to block the addition of a question on citizenship in the 2020 Census in *Department of Commerce v. New York*. We find his threat to delay the census extremely troubling. We urge you to continue census preparation without delay and submit the census questionnaire without a citizenship question for printing on or before July 4, 2019.

The census is America's largest peacetime undertaking consisting of numerous interconnected operations. The next nine months are the most critical for decennial preparation in the entire decade-long cycle. During this time, the Census Bureau must finish hiring staff, execute a comprehensive communications campaign, finalize partnerships with local outreach groups and develop IT contingency plans. These critical operations and more depend on having a finalized questionnaire, and that process must begin in a matter of days. Any attempt to delay the census only threatens the success of the overall count at the expense of taxpayers.

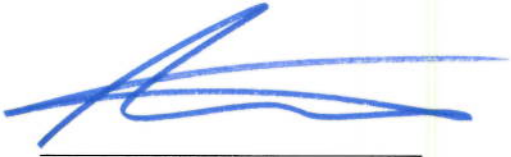
Furthermore, we do not accept the President's insinuation that he has the authority to delay the census. The census date of April 1<sup>st</sup> is codified in Title 13 of the US Code. Only Congress has the authority to delay the census and must do so through the legislative process, which we have no intention of doing.

Throughout the litigation process surrounding the inclusion of a citizenship question, lawyers for the Department of Commerce repeatedly underscored the importance of reaching a final decision before July so that the census forms could go to print on time. That decision has been rendered, definitively. Therefore, we urge you to move forward without delay and begin printing the census questionnaire without a citizenship question on or before July 4, 2019 as required to faithfully conduct the Census. We appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



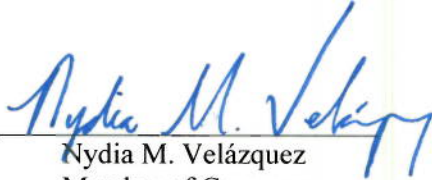
Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress



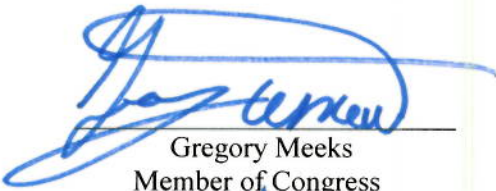
Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



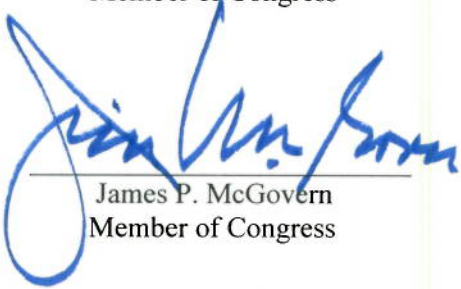
Jim Cooper  
Member of Congress



Gregory Meeks  
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



Filemon Vela  
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



---

Bill Pascrell, Jr.  
Member of Congress



---

Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress