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The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-305, The U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Lowey:

On behalf of the physician and medical student members of the American Medical Association (AMA), I am writing to express our appreciation and support for the funding level of \$4.799 billion allocated for the U.S. Census Bureau (Census Bureau) included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Commerce, Justice, and Appropriations (CJS) Bill approved by the House Appropriations Committee. As you continue to negotiate with your Senate counterparts to finalize the CJS Bill, the AMA urges you to maintain the higher level of funding included in the House bill for the Census Bureau. This will help to ensure adequate funding for the 2020 Census so that accurate and relevant data is collected and disseminated.

As you know, FY 2019 is a critical year for 2020 Census preparations. It will be the last opportunity for the Census Bureau to ensure that information technology systems and operations are ready for a successful decennial census. The Census Bureau needs additional investments to be able to fully launch all necessary administrative and operational components of the 2020 Census, including expanding outreach and education activities and advertising and promotion, especially to hard-to-reach and hard-to-count communities. Additional funding would also allow the Bureau to continue to conduct its other demographic and economic surveys.

The decennial census is essential to determining the allocation of more than \$675 billion in federal funding to states and communities annually. These funds are used for community development, public health, education, transportation, and other community resource investments that are critical to decreasing the health, social, and economic disparities experienced by vulnerable populations. Addressing health disparities experienced by these vulnerable populations is a top priority of the AMA, and accordingly, we support increased funding for the Census Bureau that is closer to the House bill to ensure an accurate and complete count for the 2020 Census.

Thank you for your leadership in ensuring adequate funding for the Census Bureau and the 2020 Census.

Sincerely,

James L. Madara, MD