



American Economic Association

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC STATISTICS [HTTPS://WWW.AEAWEB.ORG/ABOUT-AEA/COMMITTEES/ECONOMIC-STATISTICS](https://www.aeaweb.org/about-aea/committees/economic-statistics)

The Honorable Brian Schatz
722 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
522 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dan Sullivan
302 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

September 22, 2020

Dear Senators Schatz, Murkowski, and Sullivan,

The American Economic Association (AEA) Committee on Economic Statistics wishes to declare its support for your co-sponsored bill, S. 4571, to extend certain deadlines for the 2020 Decennial Census.

As we stated in an August 7, 2020 letter to Congressional leadership (<https://www.aeaweb.org/content/file?id=12799>), extending the 2020 Decennial Census collection deadline is necessary “to avoid a decade-long adverse impact on decision making by households, businesses and policymakers.”

As we point out in that letter, assessment by experts within and outside the Census Bureau conclude that it will not be possible to obtain a full and representative sample of the U.S. population by September 30, 2020, which would lead to serious flaws in the resultant data. In turn, an inaccurate 2020 Census will result in poor decision making, with associated financial burdens, across the nation.

We feel as just as compelled, if not more so, now to underscore this ill-fated effect, and we thank you for your introduction of the Senate bill.

Sincerely,

John C. Haltiwanger

John C. Haltiwanger, Chair, AEA Committee on Economic Statistics,
on behalf of the Committee’s members (<https://www.aeaweb.org/about-aea/committees/economic-statistics/members>)