

Public Comments
Mr. Joseph Battistelli

- 1) Comment on Coalition on Human Needs - I am submitting these comments on behalf of the Coalition on Human Needs, which is helping lead the Count All Kids Complete Count Committee.

While the Bureau has taken significant steps to improve the count of young children in the Decennial Census, the pandemic and other constraints put the count of young children at higher risk than ever. Thus, we ask the Committee to address several items that are essential for measuring the count of young children and assessing whether the efforts taken helped improve the count.

Has the Bureau solved the problem of unadjusted correlation bias for young children in the Post Enumeration Survey (PES): An accurate PES for young children is essential because it would give us undercount data for more races/ethnicities and it would give us components of census coverage like omissions?

- 2) Comment on Demographic Analysis (DA) - Is the Demographic Analysis fully supported? Unless the problem with correlation bias in the PES estimates is addressed, DA is the only method that will provide measures of census coverage for young children. Also, for the Demographic Analysis estimates by race that will be released in December 2020 to be useful, the Census Bureau must release a modified race file so that the race categories used in the Census align with those used in the vital events data used to construct the DA estimates.

Other Evaluation Efforts - The August 2020 GAO report mentioned an expanded effort to evaluate coverage of children. We ask the Bureau to share this information with the committee and publicly.

- 3) Comment on Differential Privacy System - Another issue of concern for child advocates is the proposed differential privacy system. The most recent data available from the Census Bureau (released May 27, 2020) show that almost two-thirds (64%) of all the census tracts in the country would have errors of more than 10 percent for young children (ages 0 to 4). We are particularly worried that Differential Privacy may introduce distortions in the data used for allocating funding to small geographic areas, where the data variations could result in significant distortions in funding. The biggest programs that we think could be affected by this are education funding programs such as Title 1 and Special Education (IDEA) funds.