Public Comments Received on *Federal Register* notice 79 FR 64743:
Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; The American Community Survey Content Review Results
10/31/14 - 12/30/2014

1	The question about undergraduate degree should still be included on questionnaire.
2	It has come to my attention the intention to drop the field of undergraduate degree from the ACS questionnaire. While I understand the administrative burden of this question, particularly since it is a write-in question, I feel it has great value to education, social, and economic research. A possible strategy to reduce burden would be to create blanket categories such as life sciences, engineering, social sciences and humanities. This would allow researchers, particularly in the field of STEM, to still access important data of what our students are studying.
3	I just skimmed the education items in the ACS Content Review, and I think someone down at Dept of Education (ED) may have dropped the ball as to legal authority and data requirements related to the School Enrollment items (P10a, P10b). The School enrollment data are essential for developing poverty estimates that affect $15B+ of Title I funding, the largest single federal compensatory elementary/secondary education program operated by ED. Billions of additional state-level dollars are impacted by these data as well. In addition, these data are also necessary for developing school district tabulations of other demographic conditions. Unfortunately, the reviewers appear to have categorized this question as 'Low Benefit, Low Cost' because the only authorizing statute listed for it was the Workforce Investment Act. That's incomplete. I suspect the ED attorneys who reviewed the ACS Content Review request didn't understand that enrollment data are necessary for constructing school district tabulations needed for various ED programs. The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (most recently reauthorized as No Child Left Behind) should have been included as an authorizing statute as well. I'd strongly recommend re-assigning P10a and P10b as 'High Benefit, Low Cost' because of the significant impact these items have on the operations of federal education programs, and because an authorizing statute was accidentally omitted from consideration. Given that reviewers identified educational attainment (P11) as 'High Benefit', I don't think there's any question that they would have assigned the Enrollment items likewise, had they been provided full information as to their importance. A revised assessment should identify School Enrollment items P10a, P10b as "High Benefit, Low Cost", it should include the 1965 ESEA as an authorizing statute, and it should describe the need as 'Used to allocate funds to State education agencies and local education agencies to improve academic achievement." I don't know what it would take to change the final assessment, or if there's a formal adjudication process outside of FR comments, but I think this one warrants a revision. My primary concern about leaving it as-is (i.e,. 'Low Benefit') is that the classification may have unforeseeable consequences down the road. It's easy to envision a future scenario where the Bureau has its back against a budget wall, and is forced to drop "Low Benefit" items. There are just too many examples of this type of seemingly minor issue having significant repercussions down the road because it didn't get fixed/changed at the time it was first identified. This one could be particularly embarrassing because the Bureau's stump speech for ACS specifically suggests that ACS data are critical for supporting federal/state education programs. Yet, the Content assessment suggest that we don't think those programs are particularly important. Again, it looks like this was an unfortunate oversight. It would be easier to do nothing, and assume all will be fine. But I don't feel comfortable with that. Not with current/future budget pressures and political capriciousness as they are. Enrollment needs to be classified correctly so there's no question as to the importance and need for these data. That leads me to the following question: How do we go about changing this? Can it be changed by simple administrative fiat? If not, is there an internal adjudication process that allows for appeal and review? If not, can Census staff submit comments to the FR? Sorry to bother. Guidance appreciated. - [redacted]
4	Is it too late in the ACS content review process for adding new questions/modules? As I am describing below, the survey community and polling organizations are in dire need of good estimates of phone use, especially at the local levels. ACS would be the best suited survey to host questions of this nature...As a survey statistician working in a private research organization, I am responsible for developing the final analysis weights for the population samples that we collect. One of the crucial steps in my constructing the weights is weight calibration to the known population totals. While most of the weight calibration variables come from ACS PUMS (and importance of this resource in our line of work is absolutely critical), an important variable is missing from ACS, namely, which households/individuals have landline phones, which have cell phones, how many cell phones each resident has (including teenagers), and how are these phones being used (personal use, business use, shared between members of the household). Having this information is extremely important, as we collect a lot of data via phone (and a number of large scale federal surveys do, too, including BRFSS, the largest national health data collection carried out by CDC). Currently, we (the survey research industry) have to rely on the estimates from the National Health Interview Survey, and the small area synthetic and composite estimates of the proportions of population who use landline only, cell phone only, use both, or use none. This information is only sufficiently precise at the national level, and most of our surveys are at lower geographic levels, or for subgroups of populations such as households with children. Currently, ACS only asks about presence of a working phone, which, as such, only maps to “no service” category of NHIS. I would like to suggest that the ACS instrument be extended to include additional phone use questions. This will greatly improve data quality in collections by federal and private research organizations carried out in phone mode, in terms of reducing the editing error component of the total survey error. Please contact me if you need any clarifications on this response.
5	At the webinar, there was the two by two table that was used to help decide which items should be proposed for elimination on high/low benefit and high/low cost. I asked if what items were in each cell was available. Ii recall that I was told that that information would be available once he Federal Register Notice was issued. Could you find out about this and send the relevant document to us?
6	I think things like this are always difficult. In this case It seems like BOTH cost and benefit are subjective. Is there any real green dollar cost to gathering the information? As much as we want to try, it is hard to quantify subjective measures.
7	Seems like a pretty lame way of assessing benefit.

8 Oh, interesting…the questions we are concerned about have been taken from the lower left quadrant (low benefit/low cost). I think our point is that "benefit" is in the eye of the beholder, and the expert committee had only 5x2 eyes. There was then some further selection from the lower left quadrant to come up with the questions selected for removal. I don't recall hearing from Gary Chappell how that was done.
I also see that the three questions in the low benefit/high cost quadrant were *not* potential questions for removal, as I said in my earlier e-mail.
[redacted]

From my earlier e-mail:
According to my notes on what Gary said, for a given question…some sort of averaging was done to come up with an (x,y) = (CI,BI) value for that question….All the questions were put on a plot with CI on the horizontal axis and BI on the vertical axis. A "Quadrant Analysis" was done and the questions that fell in the lower right quadrant (low benefit and high cost) were set aside for removal."

9 I am writing in response to the request for comments on the recent Federal Register notice concerning the proposed elimination of questions on marital history (questions 21-23) and undergraduate field of degree (question 12) from the American Community Survey. I believe that this is a very misguided effort to trim some costs in the short run that will have significant long run negative effects on the ability of researchers and statisticians to document trends in marital behavior and choice of major.
Concerning marital history, there is a great deal of evidence that marital disruptions have an adverse impact on the development and wellbeing of children. And it is increasingly well understood that early life experiences have long lasting impacts on key later life outcomes such as employment, earnings, education, marriage, and health. I study this issue using data from longitudinal cohort surveys, but it is crucial to be able to benchmark trends observed in longitudinal data to trends in nationally representative data. This has always been difficult as a result of lack of consistent data, and the ACS questions are a gold mine for this topic. It is hard for me to imagine going back to the old highly inadequate piecemeal approach to tracking marital dynamics. My research on this issue has been supported by an R01 grant from NICHD.I also study the scientific workforce, particularly the life cycle of scientific productivity. This research is supported by a program project (P01) grant from NIA to the National Bureau of Economic Research (PI Bruce Weinberg). We rely heavily on the NSF-sponsored Survey of Doctoral Recipients, for which the ACS serves as a sampling frame. Dropping the question on college major would make the ACS much less useful for this purpose, and will make it more expensive for the NSF to conduct its Congressionally-mandated data collection on the scientific work force.
I strongly urge the Census Bureau to reconsider these cuts to the content of the ACS. These are not trivial cuts of variables that are used in highly specialized research – they are cuts that would affect the usefulness of the ACS in major ways.

10 I am weighing in on the prospective deletion of questions on the ACS. Do not delete the 5 questions on marriage nor the one question on undergraduate education. These questions seem incredible important to the social science bank of knowledge. Thank you for your consideration.

11 As a concerned citizen, I felt the need to voice my concern to you about the proposed change to the ACS that would drop 6 questions from the survey. Collecting information on martial history is of vital importance. The marriage history questions are crucial because the United States has no alternative source for detailed annual statistics on marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage. The federal program to gather detailed statistics from marriage and divorce records was discontinued in 1996; the ACS marital history questions were designed as a replacement. If the marriage questions are eliminated now, the U.S. will become the only country in the developed world that does not generate annual age-specific rates of marriage and divorce.

Additionally, the proposed change to drop undergraduate field of study question question would greatly limit the ability for academic studies of higher education. Specifically this question helps with studies of Scientists, Technology professionals, Engineers, and Mathematicians (STEM). While the STEM workforce is small relative to the overall workforce in the US, research and finding on these workers is of vital importance to the economy. There are thousands of studies on STEM workers already, and the issue of STEM education and the STEM workforce will continue to grow.

Please, to continue to include these six questions on the ACS.

12 Please do not eliminate the 5 crucial ACS questions on marriage and undergraduate field of study. These questions are each important for answering different questions and estimating the effect of policies on real human outcomes. Regardless of your political ideology, quantifying and understanding whether divorce rates are changing over time, individuals are entering STEM fields, or estimating the returns to college major are intrinsically important for an evidence-based policy analysis. Marriage, divorce, and college study are crucial aspects of life that affect the broader economy through the effect on taxes, productivity, and ultimately economic growth and well-being.

If you were to cut these questions, the result would be worse data, and ultimately more expensive piecemeal data collection (oftentimes funded by the US government). Without the sample of the ACS, the result would also be many smaller and potentially biased samples. Please do not eliminate this crucial source of knowledge on how Americans behave; it would be a disservice to many.

13 I think those questions up for review all contribute to better understanding of ACS respondents. The form is already huge – it's always going to be VERY LONG. Removing these seven questions won't fix the too-long ACS, a shortened ACS will just provide less complete information.

14 I a senior research economist at the Institute for Fiscal Studies, the UK's leading micro-economic research center. I did my PhD at the University of Chicago and have used extensively US data. My main research field is labor and family economics. I am very concerned by the suggested cut of marital history questions and degree field. These are very relevant questions, and those on marital history are very important socioeconomic questions.

I am writing to urge the Census not top drop them, as this would have dire consequences for research on important topics, such as socio-economic inequality.

15 I am writing to urge you to keep the marriage and undergrad education questions in the ACS. In my work in family demography I have experienced the shock at finding that the vital statistics discontinued collection of marriage & divorce records in the mid-1990s (and being unable to pursue important research questions because the data just stopped). In fact, this missing data problem was the motivation to add marriage history questions to the ACS. Consequently, researchers like me have turned to the ACS as the best information available to conduct research in this area. If you remove the questions, it will be difficult to find a substitute source of information.

Furthermore, the undergrad questions are of critical importance. Just last week I attended a paper presentation where the individual utilized information on undergrad education in a study on choices related to professional degree attainment. Eliminating the education questions puts important research questions in a state where we may have to rely on fewer sources of information to make important decisions related to policy, which would leave us with less confidence regarding the areas where public dollars can be best spent.

Please reconsider elimination of the marriage history and education questions.

16 Please keep the marriage questions on the ACS. family demographers need these questions to answer questions about how the changing family structures in the U.S. today affect all sorts of outcomes, from labor market outcomes to entitlement program usage. Thank you for keeping these questions!

17 I am alarmed to hear that you are considering ill-advised changes to the marriage and education questions in the ACS. The responses to these questions provide invaluable insights into American life both for academics and the general public. The information collected via these questions are crucial for the work that I and my colleagues are doing in relation to tracking trends in economic well-being (the Levy Institute Measure of Economic Well-Being project).

I think that you and your colleagues must be governed by the Hippocratic oath taken by physicians: Primum non nocere.

18 I am a researcher at Oregon State University. I am writing to request that the American Community Survey keep the 6 questions slated for elimination in future rounds of the survey. Such information will be useful for a variety of important research questions in the future. The question on undergraduate major, in particular, will be of crucial importance for future studies on the returns to various fields of study.

19 As you know, the marriage history questions are crucial because the United States has no alternative source for detailed annual statistics on marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage. Given that the federal government spends millions of dollars annually to promote marriage (National Healthy Marriage Resource Center and the National Center for Marriage Research), it seems reckless to take away the only available tools to researchers to study the impact of these federal dollars. Marriage and divorce is quickly changing in society today and eliminating incident data is a huge loss in our collective knowledge in understanding our society.

For an example of knowledge we only know because we have access to this data, one only needs to look at a recent post by Professor Philip Cohen: (http://familyinequality.wordpress.com/2014/11/06/top-25-cities-for-millennial-divorce/)

 The refined divorce rate in 2012 was 19 per 1,000 married people.
 The overall projected divorce rate for couples marrying in 2012 is about 50%. This requires using marriage, divorce, and widowhood incidence to calculate competing risks. You need all the ACS questions for that.
 We lost about 150,000 divorces during and after the recession. Then divorce rebounded to catch up to its (declining) trend. That's the result of my analysis published in Population Research and Policy Review, which relied on a model using all the ACS individual data in all 50 states.
 People with disabilities are much more likely to get divorced than people without. The magnitude of the difference depends on the type of disability.
 Divorce rates in first marriages are more than three-times as high for Black women as for Asian women in the U.S.
 The 2008-09 refined divorce rate by state was correlated with Google searches for "colt 45 automatic" at .86 (on a scale of -1 to 1).
 The 2011 crude divorce rate by state was correlated with Google searchesfor "vasectomy reversal" at .79.
 The changing pattern of same-sex marriage across states and local areas. We don't know this yet, but we should, and we'll want to, and the ACS is the only way we'll be able to.

Although I know budgets are tight, please consider eliminating the marriage history questions from the ACS.

20 I urge you to please consider a student's perspective on this issue. I have felt lucky to be able to use the American Community Survey's data as I learn how to conduct robust and meaningful research projects. My professors have been able to encourage me to develop these skills by exploring any topic of interest thanks to the breadth of data available to me from the ACS, accessible to me by using the IPUMS database.

The answers to question number 12 regarding field of study are incredibly useful for and pertinent to student research, and the marriage question allows for a wider scope of demographic data to include even in research projects which do not directly study marriage or family life.

Please reconsider the value of comprehensive research before deciding to remove any questions. The value of the ACS for research lies, above all, in the wide variety of information that can be found there. To remove the five questions in consideration would be to diminish the value of what is such an important resource to many.

21 I was informed that the Census Bureau intends to drop several questions regarding marriage and divorce from the ACS. I would strongly urge you to reconsider, as it will be very harmful to the study of marriage decision. Especially in a time when marriage attitudes and practices are rapidly changing, we need the highest quality data to understand both the causes and effects of these changes.

As an example, I have a current research paper, "Accounting for Age in Marital Search Decisions," which relies on the 2011 ACS data. (https://economics.byu.edu/Pages/Faculty/Brennan%20Platt/Platt-Research.aspx) Unfortunately, the 1990 and 2000 census are useless to me because they discontinued the question of "age at marriage." We also look at the NLSY in our paper, but the estimates are much noisier there because of the smaller sample.

Please retain the questions you have been asking regarding marriage. If anything, we need more detail, not less.

22 I am writing to urge the Census Bureau to preserve all the questions in the ACS pertaining to marital history and undergraduate degree field that are currently under consideration for elimination. These questions are critical for countless researchers studying marriage and higher education and are the primary sources of information for nationally representative estimates of changing marriage dynamics and undergraduate majors. Without this information, numerous research agendas spanning the social science and examining some of the most pressing public policy issues will be irreparably harmed. Economists and sociologists trying to understand the relationships between cohabitation history, marriage and divorce will have to turn to other data sources with problematic measurement concerns which raise many uncertainties about research results that are simply not relevant when using the extraordinary data available in the ACS. Ongoing debates about the predictors of preferences and success in a STEM undergraduate major cannot be advanced without the surveillance of changes in undergraduate majors that is possible with the ACS. The many debates around job training and the relationships between the supply of different undergraduate majors and economic growth cannot be advanced without the available measures of undergraduate majors in the ACS.

My own current work examining the relationships between individual marital history and labor market success crucially depends on the reports of marital history in the ACS. I use the responses to these questions to assess how marriage and divorce are both subject to macroeconomic events and contributors to individuals' success finding work and staying in the labor market. This work contributes to the many debates concerning the importance of marriage, the consequences of women's increasing labor force participation and the decline in men's labor force participation. Without the available measures of marital history in the ACS, I simply couldn't undertake this work.

Please consider the lasting consequences of eliminating these two sets of questions from the ACS not only for these many research agendas but also for the countless public policy issues they help inform

23 I am a doctoral candidate in sociology at The Graduate Center of the City University of New York. I am currently studying education, the family, and Filipino Americans, and have done studies on intermarriage, race, and ethnicity. I recently heard that the Census is dropping questions on marriage and one education. I believe that dropping these variables will make it difficult, if not impossible, to understand and analyze what is going on with family and education today. As family and education are important spheres in our society, not being able to have statistical data that measures these areas would be detrimental to social science research, but also to our understanding of our society.

Please consider retaining these questions.

24 I am writing to request that you please reconsider the proposal to drop several questions from the ACS relating to marriage and education. As a researcher, I know that the consistent availability of survey questions over time is critical to assessing social and demographic trends. The ACS is an invaluable data source for understanding the habits and preferences of the US population, the impact of policies, changing social norms, etc. Please do not drop any of the marriage and education questions in the next round of the survey, so that this important work can continue unhindered.

I appreciate your consideration.

25 I am writing in response to the proposal to drop 7 questions from the American Community Survey (ACS).

The Housing Question 6 seems important in determining how many residencies are located in the same building as businesses. This information could be useful for researchers interested in the number of multi-use properties that exist.

Person Question 12 seems like important demographic information for researchers that could also be important for policy makers in the future. However, this question may also be time consuming if the respondent has to look up the "code" that corresponds with their field of study or if their field of study doesn't appear on the list of options. Hopefully moving forward this question can altered to minimize the work involved in answering for respondents.

Person Questions 21a, 21b, 21c and 22 all seem to be important information for researchers studying demographics in this country. 21a,b and c are all binary responses (Yes/No) and should not be too burdensome on a respondent. 22 is fairly straightforward in that respondents only need to answer with a number.

Person Question 23 seems redundant. The information gathered from this question could be determined from Person Question 21a, unless i am missing some other difference. This question could be removed from the ACS without a loss of information.

Overall, the average response time (40 minutes) is likely to cause some people to not want to participate. In order to entice them to participate, it might be a could idea to pay them a small amount (5-10 dollars) for their time. Also, if it is not already online, the ACS should be available for completion online, with the option of "saving progress" so that respondents aren't required to complete the survey in one 40 minute sitting.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

26 I am writing to comment on the proposed changes to the American Community Survey, specifically the proposal to remove the following questions:

Person Question No. 12—Undergraduate Field of Degree—This question focuses on this person's Bachelor's Degree. Please print below the specific major(s) of any Bachelor's Degrees this person has received.
Person Question No. 21a—Get Married—In the past 12 months did this person get—Married?
Person Question No. 21b—Get Widowed—In the past 12 months did this person get—Widowed?
Person Question No. 21c—Get Divorced—In the past 12 months did this person get—Divorced?
Person Question No. 22—Times Married—How many times has this person been married?
Person Question No. 23—Year Last Married —In what year did this person last get married?

I serve as a researcher at WestEd for a variety of projects. As the name suggests, we do research and evaluation for education programs and grants, however, we also work on a variety of programs aimed at improving child welfare. Just last month, I completed a project that used the American Community Survey to estimate the median earnings for STEM and non-STEM fields. Part of this also looked at majors for those individuals in STEM and non-STEM fields. Our client used this information to create a research brief for employers in these fields, and for present and future college graduates. This question is our best estimate of how degrees are being used in the current workforce and should not be dropped. If a modification should be made, I would suggest adding a question related to industry and professional certifications to better gauge how credentialing affects economic well-being. In a time where more graduates, colleges, and employers are using data to make decisions, it is crucial that we give them MORE rather than LESS information.
The marriage questions are equally as important. Part of our research has dealt with needs-assessments related to family and marriage support programs and the wellbeing of children in different economic situations. We understand the importance of a stable household on a child's well-being. Again, instead of eliminating crucial information that can be provided to states and counties about their population, the better approach would be to modify the survey to include questions that reflect the current population landscape, such as same sex marriages and civil unions, and cohabitation. Households today look much different than they did when these questions were added, but knowing the arrangement of the household is equally as important. By eliminating questions related to household composition, we lose crucial information about the well-being of families and ignore how household composition impacts other areas of our economy.
While some of these marriage questions can be found in other surveys, there is usually a sample size problem (CPS March Supplement) or are harder to use outside of income assistance programs (SIPP). In essence, even though the information may still be out there, it is harder to use, again crippling our sySTEM for providing good information to those who need it for the purposes of policy-making.
Good policies and programs are created from good information. Eliminating important information about the population WILL have an affect on the types of programs and policies that are created and maintained, and it's hard to fathom any policy or program created in the absence of information. How can we improve the wellbeing of our population if we don't have the information to properly serve them?
As a researcher, I can personally attest to how these changes will negatively influence my field's ability to provide states, counties, agencies, foundations, and corporations information they need when investing in our population. I hope that the Department deeply considers this response in its decision.

27 I wish to make my voice heard and my opinion known as to the proposed question cuts in the ACS. I am in adamant opposition to cutting questions concerning marital history and bachelor's degree discipline. These data are crucial to the work of many of my fellow social scientists. For some research questions, these data provide the only reliable source of answers; and in a time of increasing variation in marital relations and growing inequality in the labor market, these data are becoming more valuable than ever. I urge you not to make these cuts that will eliminate valuable data for which there are no alternatives in some cases. Please reconsider the gravity of the consequences for this action. I hope you will see the value of these questions and leave them intact for the sake of ensuring high quality research in these areas moving forward.

28 Re Census Bureau has issued a surprise notice announcing their intention to drop six crucial questions from the ACS, including five questions relating to marriage and divorce and one question on undergraduate education.

I am an academic who relied on this data while a doctoral student and also as a researcher for the Army Medical Department, with topics ranging from social mobility, to the interaction of employment with family stability, to the prevalence of breast cancer by race and access to health care. I now depend on these details in developing policy in my position as a director of aging programs for a regional planning organization.

I would be significantly restricted in my ability to understand the populations I serve/have served if this data were eliminated.

29 I'm writing to urge you to keep the marital history and bachelor's field-of-degree questions in the ACS. As a policy researcher investigating demographic trends and economic opportunity, my work relies on an ability to identify these elements of the population. Many of my colleagues, among whom are demographers, labor economists, and sociologists working on a variety of public policy topics, rely quite heavily on the field-of-degree variable and a marital history profile that requires this battery of questions.
I know we're not alone in our reliance on this information – researchers and policy makers across the country require the information provided by these questions in their work. Please retain them!

30 I am writing to you regarding the proposed cuts to be made to the ACS regarding marital history. I currently work as a consultant for mainly non-profit and charitable organizations. Many of the projects I conduct involve gathering and disseminating local demographic information for my clients. The ACS is a crucial part of this process, and marital history provides key information for localities about their demographic trends. Annual gender, racial, ethnicity and age-specific information regarding marriage, divorce, widowhood and re-marriage are vitally important statistics, and to lose the ability for cities to analyze this data alone and within the context of a larger demographic picture would be a devastating loss. These questions provide information regarding marital stability, trends in divorce rate, serve as a point of analysis for related local services, and contribute generally to a full understanding of the local picture in our nation's cities.

Please do not allow these questions to be removed from the ACS. There are many very underfunded organizations that depend on this information to drive successful impact and rely on it in order to maintain their donor base and financial solvency. The effects of this loss would be hard felt by many organizations who are already struggling to collect data to answer their specific questions, and those of their donors. We should be interested in making more information available to such entities, not less.

31 I know there may be many budgetary and philosophical reasons for dropping certain questions from the ACS surveys, but I hope you will not drop the marriage/divorce questions from the surveys. I use the ACS data on an almost daily basis, both for my work for the Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle and for public school districts in the area for whom I do student dropout studies. family status is a huge predictor of some happy and more unhappy outcomes in individual lives. The loss of trend data on marriage will have a very negative effect on our ability to help decision makers in the public and private sectors to find ways to mitigate harmful societal changes and promote good outcomes for people of all ages. Please do not drop questions that are of such importance to those of us using ACS data to serve the common good.

32 Please do not remove the long standing questions of marriage, divorce, etc. from the American Community Survey. They are crucial for long term studies about how societies evolve.

33 As an labor economist, I am extremely concerned by the proposal in the federal register to remove the questions regarding martial history and undergraduate degree field in the American Community Survey. First of all, changing marriage patterns link to changing fertility and labor market patterns which have important implications for population growth, wage inequality, and household wealth. I myself have used the IPUMS marriage questions in several projects. Most recently, I used the marriage variables in a project investigating the impact of school accountability introduction on moving choices of households.

Since I primarily research the economics of education, I know that removing the question requesting undergraduate degree field will be a huge loss. The IPUMS is the only educational datasets with a large sample linking undergraduate major to salaries, occupation, family structure, and so forth. Currently, I am working on a project investigating university level interventions to address underrepresentation of minorities and women in the STEM labor force. In this project, I use data on undergraduate major from the American Community Survey. Without this question, researchers like myself will not be able to identify what share of STEM majors actually become employed in a STEM field. It turns out that there are large differences by gender and race. Much more work is needed on this topic, and without the ACS question, this research will grind to a halt.

I strongly urge the Census Bureau to reconsider its proposed elimination of these questions.

34 I am writing as a concerned Sociology student to comment on the proposed federal regulations to remove the questions related to marriage in the ASC. It would be a huge loss to our society to remove these questions related to marriage. We need to be able to investigate the causes and consequences of changing marriage and divorce rates, especially as they relate to socioeconomic status. The ASC is the only source of statistics on the incidence of marriage and divorce across different socioeconomic subgroups. Please do not remove these questions from the ASC. Without these questions in the past we wouldn't know that trends in marriage and divorce rates are rapidly changing and wouldn't have been able to make progress in investigating why that is. We cannot afford to loose these questions.

35 I am writing to urge that Question 12, Undergraduate Field of Degree, be retained in the American Community Survey. The question is essential to the production of the manpower section of the Science and Engineering Indicators, a congressionally mandated data series produced by the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics at NSF. There is at present no other source for this information. To produce it by a special survey would be extremely costly and provide data of much less quality and utility.
A little background will make the case more clearly. I was the Assistant Director for SBE at NSF from 2000-2004 and had responsibility for the oversight of the NCSES. I supported the Center's work with the Census Bureau to add the field of degree question in order to provide better data at much lower cost and burden to the taxpayer. In order to provide accurate statistics on the scientific and technical (STEM) workforce, as they are required to do by Congress, NCSES employs a dual sySTEMs approach. They use data on the educational attainment of those employed in STEM occupations, and they look at the occupations of those who were educated in STEM fields. Is this manner, they can estimate the size of the STEM workforce whose education is in other than STEM fields, and the size of those whose education in in STEM fields, but are not employed in STEM occupations. Before the addition of the field of degree question in the ACS, the necessary data could only be obtained by a very large post-censal sample survey of those who answered the long form of the census. Such a large sample was necessary in order to identify a sufficiently large sample of those with degrees in STEM fields to be able to identify those who had STEM degrees but were not working in STEM occupations. In 2003 this survey cost $17 million, and would certainly cost more today. The addition of the field of degree question to the ACS eliminated the need for a survey this large. One rarely sees such a favorable cost-benefit ratio in which an extremely expensive data collection can be eliminated by a low cost, low burden item on an ongoing survey.
OMB was very positive about adding field of degree to the ACS as it was the first example demonstrated to OMB that one consequence of shifting from long form to ACS was the loss of the use of decennial data for 'follow on' surveys. This was a compelling reason.
Given the concern about the nation's competitiveness in the global economy and our falling behind in innovation, the data on the STEM workforce are vital for understanding the scope, distribution, and development of the scientific and technical workforce and its importance to the nation's economy. The data from the ACS are necessary to be able to disaggregate the STEM workforce statistics by gender, minority status and those with disabilities, as well as tracking the non-native born STEM workforce. This type of data is important to employers, particularly in rapidly growing high tech industries experiencing shortages of qualified personal.
Beyond the critical use by NSF, the field of degree question is also heavily used by other federal agencies such the Department of Labor, HHS, Administration on Children and families, Department of Transportation, and the Environmental Protection Agency. In addition the field of degree question is used in other indicator sySTEMs, notably the Humanities Indicators (www.humanitiesindicators.org), a public/private venture between the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.
The data derived from the question, together with the other demographic and economic data from the ACS form the backbone of the Science and Engineering Indicators and our knowledge of the size and composition of the STEM workforce. I urge the Department to retain this question on the ACS.

36 Let me add my support to those who protest the elimination of the marriage/divorce questions from the ECS. It was troublesome enough with they were eliminated from the Vital Statistics Program. I certainly hope this entire matter will be reconsidered and the questions retained.

37 I am writing concerning 79 FR 64743, Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; The American Community Survey Content Review Results. I am strongly in favor of keeping all American Community Survey (ACS) questions. Removing any of the ACS questions under review would seriously inhibit the ability of scholars and the general public to understand demographic trends in marriage and educational attainment. As a librarian at a major public research university, I frequently assist students, researchers, and community members in locating statistics. I can attest that this statistical information is in demand.

As detailed by the Minnesota Population Center, "the marriage history questions are crucial because the United States has no alternative source for detailed annual statistics on marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage. The federal program to gather detailed statistics from marriage and divorce records was discontinued in 1996; the ACS marital history questions were designed as a replacement. If the marriage questions are eliminated now, the U.S. will become the only country in the developed world that does not generate annual age-specific rates of marriage and divorce." Furthermore, Science Magazine reports that there is no other source of information on undergraduate major. Removing these questions would either create a major absence of information needed for scholarly research and public policy decision-making or necessitate the development of additional survey programs, creating additional cost and burden.

38 It is my understanding that the Census Bureau is contemplating eliminating asking certain questions, including those on marital status. I am writing to strongly urge you not to do this.
Marital status is an absolutely crucial indicator of economic status. There is considerable research -- including my own-- that looks at the ways in which gender coupled with marital is important and the ways unequal gender relationship have shaped all sorts of economic activity (wages as well as public benefits and employer benefits). it is pretty well documented that one very important mechanism for the reproduction of gender inequality as well as resistance to gender inequality has been marital status. To eliminate this variable would be the same as saying that the ACS should NOT be used to explore key gender issues. It would severely hamper research on gender differences as well as other very important research that explores differences by race/ethnicity, family income, and age -- as marital status also is shaped by and shapes these aspects.

The political fury/discussion over same-sex marriage only highlights the
ways in which marital status is an important civil right as well as politically changing notion, one that is important to document and understand. Eliminating marital status as a variable in the ACS will deny researcher and policy makers the opportunity to understand the broader impact of same-sex marriage changes.

Surely there are other questions that are far less important in terms of
understanding economic (and social) differences than marital status that the Census Bureau might eliminate if eliminating variables is required.

39 It has come to my understanding that the Census Bureau is planning to drop six crucial question from the ACS, 5 on marriage and divorce and 1 on undergraduate education.

I would like to underline that education and marriage are among the most important variables for those studying economic and social cleavages in society, as well as for those making policy on issues of social and economic segregation. Marriage is an institution that can increase social cohesion when members of different ethnicity, social group or geographic backgrounds unite. On the other hand, in-group marriage may strengthen racial, social and economic cleavages. Similarly, patterns of co-habitation and divorce help us to understand and influence patterns of ethnic, social and economic segregation.
Over time the influence of education on people's social position has increased. Now more than ever, educational tracks determine people's occupational outcomes, and thus how much they earn, in what kind of neighbourhood they live, but also, who they will marry. Therefore, it is of utmost importance, to understand the educational track, not just at it's last stage (i.e. obtained degree), but especially early on, when the basis for the educational 'career' is made.

Therefore I would like to appeal to you to please retain the 6 questions in the ACS.

40 I write to urge the DOC to retain question #12 in the American Community Survey regarding college major. Answering this question constitutes a very small burden to individual respondents (averaging less than 10 seconds per person). At the same time, the information gathered is in fact quite valuable to the research and policy community and obtaining comparable data would be impossible or substantially more expensive than the maintenance of Question #12 in the ACS.

I am a labor economist who works in areas related to scientific workforce development and science policy. Data relating current occupation and employment outcomes to college majors is important both in understanding flows into the nation's scientific workforce, and for developing policies to insure adequate numbers and diversity of this workforce. This information is valuable as well for higher education officials as they seek to adjust educational opportunities to projected workforce needs.

41 I am emailing you to protest the planned cuts in the American Community Survey, especially in regards to issues regarding marriage and divorce. As a general citizen, I am fascinated how this information is used by social scientists in understanding and improving our society.

Please note my protest and please let me know if you have any questions.

42 I am writing in response to the request for comments on the proposed changes to the American Community Survey, as printed in Vol. 79 of the Federal Register, pages 64743 - 64745.

I understand that 7 questions are slated to be removed from the American Community Survey, as a result of the 2014 ACS Content Review. While most of the questions targeted for removal are reasonable, I find the proposed removal of Person Question #12 troublesome. Person Question #12 asks respondents about the major(s) of their Bachelors Degrees. I understand that the National Science Foundation has used the responses to this question in its efforts to understand trends in the American workforce. I doubt this is the only agency that uses these responses in an official capacity.

The data gathered from this question also has had a major impact on scholarship. A review of the academic literature finds many examples of scholars who, in recent years, have used this data in their research. Carroll, Assane and Busker (2014) published an article entitled "Why it Pays to Major in Economics" this summer in the Journal of Economic Education, which examines the individual earnings of students who held bachelors degrees in economics. These authors used data from ACS's Person Question #12. Byrd, Dika and Ramlal (2013) published the article "Who's in STEM?: An Exploration of Race, Ethnicity, and Citizenship Reporting in the Federal Education Dataset" in the journal Equity & Excellence in Education. They, too, used the data from ACS's Person Question #12. In 2011, Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce released a lengthy report (https://cew.georgetown.edu/whatsitworth) entitled "What's it Worth?: The Value of College Majors," which analyzed ACS data, including responses to Person Question #12, to determine how college graduates' incomes were impacted by race, gender, and major.

These examples are just a small sample of the scholarship that has come out of this ACS data. The value of this data only increases with each passing year, allowing scholars to perform longitudinal analyses. Discontinuing the collection of data on respondents' baccalaureate major(s) now would hinder the potential value of the data already collected.

One viable option, if the Census Bureau would like to save respondents some time in answering this question, is to transform the answer into a multiple choice question. Potentially, respondents could choose from a list of 10 or 15 major categories, such as: Social Sciences, Life Sciences, Health Sciences, Liberal Arts, etc.

Thank you for your time in reading and considering these comments.

43 Please continue to collect all information on marriage history and status. This most critical institution has irreplaceable demographic value, and more so, civil value. Whatever we can do to study and thereby support marriage is necessary for our success as a culture.

44 While I certainly understand budgetary constraints, the removal of the Field of Degree item could not come at a worse time. Higher education is currently facing an enormous amount of pressure to show the value of a college degree. Current state funding models and forthcoming federal funding models will require institutions to have a much better understanding of the various career pathways made available by specific undergraduate fields. Many institutions are only now starting to understand the power of the ACS dataset (the FOD question item in particular); but given the recent exposure and influence of the work of Anthony Carnevale, at the Center on Education and the Workforce, at Georgetown University, the utility/benefit of this question item to institutions and consumers alike should increase dramatically in the very near future.

Please consider retaining this question item in the ACS.

45 I write to express my opposition to the proposed elimination of 6 crucial questions from the ACS.

The 5 marriage history questions play an essential role in making the ACS the most reliable source of information on divorce in the US. Without them, the US will become the only country in the developed world that does not generate annual age-specific rates of marriage and divorce. The question on undergraduate field of study has already proved its value to the NSF Workforce Statistics survey program and in thousands of research papers.

I hope you will reconsider the proposal to cut these questions from the ACS.

46 I am writing to oppose the proposed removal of the following questions from the ACS:
Person Question No. 12—Undergraduate Field of Degree—This question focuses on this person's Bachelor's Degree. Please print below the specific major(s) of any Bachelor's Degrees this person has received. Show citation box
Person Question No. 21a—Get Married—In the past 12 months did this person get—Married?
Person Question No. 21b—Get Widowed—In the past 12 months did this person get—Widowed?
Person Question No. 21c—Get Divorced—In the past 12 months did this person get—Divorced?
Person Question No. 22—Times Married—How many times has this person been married?
Person Question No. 23—Year Last Married —In what year did this person last get married?
One of the most currently complicated and fastest changing aspects of American culture is the transition to adulthood. Adults are now marrying later and more often (in the sense of having multiple marriages) than ever before. First marriages often fall apart due to difficult economic circumstances, and second marriages can be more successful - removing these aspects of the survey would hide the extent to which marriage is changing in America. There are many, many important correlates with marriage and the number of times someone has been married - especially related to mental and physical health.
Additionally, with the changing economy and its emphasis on knowledge-based skills (especially computer programming and statistics) and the federal government's emphasis on providing better access to STEM knowledge and careers, it is crucial that we keep track of undergraduate majors.
To safeguard against the proliferation of old ideas about the state of marriage in the U.S. and to help us continue to promote the pursuit of science and math careers to keep the U.S. on the leading edge of innovation, it is crucial to keep these questions in the ACS.

47 The marriage history questions are crucial because the United States has no alternative source for detailed annual statistics on marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage. If the marriage questions are eliminated now, the U.S. will become the only country in the developed world that does not generate annual age-specific rates of marriage and divorce. I rely on the data for purposes of my scholarship and teaching.

48 I recently read that the census bureau is proposing to drop several questions to the ACS. I am writing in particular regarding Question 12: Field of Undergraduate degree.
As of yet, this field has likely seen little use among researchers, however its importance is growing exponentially as time goes on. Currently the survey responses from this question are the only accurate measurement of the real differences in wages between different university graduates in the entire world.
I have personally used this data set to demonstrate the effects of wage changes on undergraduate major choice over the last several years, but it is equally important across all industries (in fact, my first position after finishing graduate school was specifically to work in this data for salary research). Cutting this question out of the survey will eliminate the only true measurement of how much each major pays, which is perhaps the single most important unanswered question when we are looking at our evolving labor force and university student body.
Please reconsider the withdraw of this question, there is nothing else that can even attempt to substitute the value this has made to my and my colleagues' research into undergraduate education outcomes, and will severely hamper efforts to help guide future students into rewarding careers given their own personal interests and attributes.

49 I'm writing in to let you know how important is to keep the marriage and divorce questions, as well as the Bachelor's degree field of study on the ACS, for the work that I do. Please consider not removing the from the ACS survey.

The Washington Area Women's Foundation uses these data to understand women's demographic characteristics in the region, and the impact of college majors on women's lifetime earnings and labor force participation.

50 I am writing to protest the decision to drop six marriage questions from the ACS. As an economist whose research focuses on family issues, these questions are incredibly valuable in many contexts. For example, these questions enable researchers to investigate the likelihood of first marriages, age at first marriage, likelihood of divorce and re-marriage, among many other important questions. I want to emphasize that the ACS is the ONLY recent reliable source that allows researchers to understand trends in marriages and divorce. Dropping these questions would be a great setback to analyzing key public policy questions.

51 My name is [redacted] and I research topics related to family and education. When I heard that the Census Bureau intends to remove questions regarding marriage, divorce, and educational attainment from the American Community Survey, I knew I had to speak up or risk losing valuable information.

Please do not let these questions be removed from ACS. They are important to a number of different researchers.

52 I am writing to make my opinion known that I think it would be a huge loss to demographers, sociologists, and other social scientists in this country if the proposed questions on marriage and undergraduate education are indeed dropped from the ACS. These questions provide valuable data and are often involved in long-term studies which are currently underway.

53 I implore you not to to eliminate all five questions in the ACS that describe marital history. Please, do not drop the six crucial questions from the ACS, including five questions relating to marriage and divorce and one question on undergraduate education:

In the past 12 months did this person get—Married?
In the past 12 months did this person get—Widowed
In the past 12 months did this person get—Divorced?
Times Married—How many times has this person been married?
In what year did this person last get married?

For those of us who study family demography or education, this would be a huge loss. The marriage history questions are crucial because the United States has no alternative source for detailed annual statistics on marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage.

54 I want to add my voice to those who are dismayed that, not 18 months after the last proposed changes to the American Community Survey, it is necessary to reiterate how important the proposed questions are to modern research.

Interestingly, much of my current research would be impossible without the questions on marriage – in particular, the year last married – and field of undergraduate degree. I am studying the migration patterns of highly-educated couples across 320 locations (273 metro areas and 43 state remainders). One of the important questions in recent years has been whether the college degree of the wife had any impact on the decision of whether to move to a large city. Existing research by Compton and Pollak (2007) found, using Panel Survey of Income Dynamics data, that the degree of the wife was irrelevant in determining location decisions of couples that moved. As rich and detailed the PSID may be, the sample sizes are dwarfed by those in the ACS, and permit a much more precise analysis for more recent data. My research using ACS data 2008-2011, presented at the last two conferences of the National Association or Regional Science (NARSC), finds that the degree of the wife matters.

The information on college degree field is also important. I find that couples who possess "urban degree" – degrees whose holders tend to be concentrated in larger cities – are more likely, in turn, to move to larger cities when they do move.

Of course, it is not possible to justify keeping the marriage and degree field questions for just a single researcher. Fortunately, that's not what is at stake.

1. Increasingly, researchers are recognizing the importance of family structure in determining labor market, schooling, and other social outcomes. Losing information on marriage and divorce in the ACS means losing information at high levels of geographic detail so crucial in identifying the importance of various channels that vary geographically.
2. The issue of income inequality continues to be of important policy interest. In a world in which college education is increasingly expensive, and yet seen as a crucial tool to reduce inequality, it would be too bad if one were to lose the ability to distinguish between college graduates in terms of their field, for field in turn likely reflects various abilities – for example, quantitative and analytic – of individuals.

I'll be happy to discuss the matter at greater detail if desired.

55 We need more family composition data from the Census Bureau to improve our understanding of the circumstances of New York City residents, not less.

56 Please do not remove this information!!

57 As a researcher, it is critical to have information such as marriage and education. Please do not proceed with the recently announced deletions from the ACS survey.

58 I am writing to request that the Census bureau maintains the questions on marital history and undergraduate field of study in the American Community Survey. In particular, I use the question on undergraduate field of study in my undergraduate Econometrics course to show differences in earnings by field and how these differences have changed over time. This question seems key to helping explore the question of whether or not it is going to college that matters, or if what one studies in college matters. Given the rising costs of college and declines in wages for most income quintiles, this is an important question to address. Furthermore, it is quite salient for undergraduate college students and is one way to help convince them that data and data analysis matter.

59 I oppose the proposal, included in the October 31 Federal Register, to remove questions concerning marriage and undergraduate education from the American Community Survey (ACS). The responses to these questions are important to current social science and future history.

60 I am writing to request that you do not drop the ACS questions about marriage and divorce from the survey process. The data from these questions are valuable for research that directly impacts public policy. Losing these data would make it harder for both government and academic researchers to draft appropriate policy for the country.
I understand that there are costs to collecting data and that these need to be considered. but there are benefits as well, many of which cannot be monetized accurately. However, this does not diminish their importance. I urge you to reconsider dropping these questions so that researchers will have the data necessary to understand the nation's demographics. Public policy will be ineffective without a thorough understanding of the people in this country, and these data help provide that.

61 As a research student at Carthage College I would like to urge that the six variables in question not be dropped from the ACS. The variables in question are directly used in my study of the demographic factors of family units in the determinant of migration decisions. It is for that reason that I wish to show my support for keeping the variables in question intact as they are. Specifically the marriage variables, which has been at the center of my study for the last few months.

62 I am writing to voice my concern at the proposed elimination of the five questions related to marriage and divorce and one question related to undergraduate education from the American Community Survey, and express my hope that these important questions will be retained as they are rich sources of data that are integral to effective research and public policy.

Data on marriage and divorce are important for understanding family structure in this time of rapid change. Of particular interest to me, these data can be used to identify and enact social programming and public policy that is effective and more accurately targets vulnerable populations. To truly target families and households in greatest need of assistance and to understand how these programs benefit those persons, it is vital to understand how family units are structured. Collecting data on undergraduate degrees is also important. Higher education has come under greater scrutiny while becoming more accessible. The ability to link basic demographic information with field of undergraduate study can provide rich data about academic specializations, including highly narrow fields that would otherwise not be available through smaller sampling schemes. This is a basic step in building comprehension and useful information about undergraduate education, which is particularly important as the number of persons attending undergraduate increases.

As an employee of the Minnesota Population Center at the University of Minnesota I have had the opportunity to come into contact with many different researchers using ACS data for a huge range of topics. The scope of what these persons are able to do with data is incredible; I have been delighted and privileged to learn about research that advances a more thorough and nuanced understanding of our country and valuable suggestions on how to better serve its people.

Good statistical data should be a point of pride, specifically in a developed country. Collecting these data indicate a commitment to understanding the populace of our country and using that understanding to make informed decisions that benefit the country as a whole, as well as those in greatest need. To understand the diverse and changing face of America it is important to have thorough data collection in large, nationally representative surveys that allow us to analyze and understand both broad trends, but also small sub-populations. It is important to allow for nuanced focus into groups that may be overlooked or, for reasons of safety and anonymity, cannot be captured in smaller surveys. Understanding how families are structured and persons' educational backgrounds are important in doing this. The American Community Survey is a vital source of data that allows for a better understanding of, and subsequently, better service to American communities. It is my deeply held opinion that the elimination of these six questions would hamper the value of the ACS and the research and positive social change the ACS data enable.

63 Please do not eliminate the marital history and undergraduate degree field in the ACS. It would be a major blow to advances in understanding the changing demography of the U.S. in several ways. Economists in particular would suffer to understand marriage and labor market outcomes.

64 Moving forward, the need for accurate and timely data on demographics is
crucial to formulating appropriate policy. Please do not delete
critical questions from the ACS!

We need to be able to understand all facets of marriage and education in
order to understand our society, and this is currently the only source
of age-related marriage data for the US for any small population subgroups!

65 I'm writing to express concern over the proposed dropping of several questions on the ACS. While I understand that the government wants to simplify the questionnaire, dropping the questions on marital status will inhibit the ability of those researcher studying economic demography and family dynamics from making valuable contributions to the existing body of empirical work. This will cloud the ability to work on evaluating the economics returns to marriage, and the social cost of varying marriage rates across spatial units and generations.

Additionally, the questions on type of undergraduate attainment are critical to understanding the differing returns to various educations, and to provide meaningful inputs to reforms of the way American higher education is funded and prioritized.

I am strongly in opposition to dropping these questions from the ACS.

66 The marriage history questions in the ACS are crucial because the United States has no alternative source for detailed annual statistics on marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage. The federal program to gather detailed statistics from marriage and divorce records was discontinued in 1996; the ACS marital history questions were designed as a replacement. If the marriage questions are eliminated now, the U.S. will become the only country in the developed world that does not generate annual age-specific rates of marriage and divorce. This would seriously limit our ability to make informed, effective policy.

67 I understand that the next round of the ACS will not include a question that asks the respondent about the major of their bachelor's degree.
This would be an unfortunate omission. It is important for students, researchers, and educators to be able to link the choice of major with subsequent labor market and other outcomes. The answers to this question have been widely used in research.
I realize that the ACS cannot be infinitely long, and tradeoffs are inevitable, but keeping this question should be a high priority.

68 Hi. Just a short note asking that you do all that you can to prevent the removal of questions from the ACS relating to marriage, divorce, and undergraduate. For social scientists, these questions are essential data in trying understand all sorts of phenomenon with important public policy implications.

69 I urge the Department of Commerce to retain the seven questions in the ACS proposed for elimination:

Housing Question No. 6—Business/Medical Office on Property—Is there a business (such as a store or barber shop) or a medical office on this property?
Person Question No. 12—Undergraduate Field of Degree—This question focuses on this person's Bachelor's Degree. Please print below the specific major(s) of any Bachelor's Degrees this person has received.
Person Question No. 21a—Get Married—In the past 12 months did this person get—Married?
Person Question No. 21b—Get Widowed—In the past 12 months did this person get—Widowed?
Person Question No. 21c—Get Divorced—In the past 12 months did this person get—Divorced?
Person Question No. 22—Times Married—How many times has this person been married?
Person Question No. 23—Year Last Married —In what year did this person last get married?

I do research on sustainable community development and neighborhood change. The specific aim of my research is to understand why neighborhoods change with a long-term goal of developing interventions to improve neighborhoods. My work has been published in social work, public health, and urban studies journals. I have used the ACS as repackaged by the University of Minnesota as well as Geolytics, Inc. I am currently doing a project that classifies neighborhoods based on education level and family structure. If the ACS eliminates the questions about education level, marriage and divorce, it will make it more difficult, or even impossible to continue this line of research. I have also done research on age-friendly communities. An important aspect of age-friendly communities is proximity to businesses and medical offices.

Thank you for taking this comment. I look forward to the final rule.

70 Quick note to ask that removal of the BA Major and the marriage questions on ACS be aborted. My personal research deals with education and the post sec major is an important data element for the ACS to retain. The retention of the marriage questions seem to be basic demographic data that should be retained as well.

Please retain the ACS question on marital history and BA major.

71 I understand the Census Bureau is considering dropping questions from the ACS concerning marital history. I believe the ACS is the only annual source of age-specific marriage and divorce data. As a social science researcher this seems like a bad choice for US policy. Specifically, research consistently shows the US to be an outlier in its marriage patterns. For example, unwed mothers are far more common here than in Canada. Moreover, increasingly research suggests this fact accounts for a large part of the differences between the US and other countries in important economic attributes like intergenerational mobility. If we don't have data about this basic characteristic we will be unable to advise important policy decisions going forward. I strongly urge a reconsideration of this plan.

72 I would like to comment on the proposal to drop the marriage & divorce questions (21a,b,c,22,23) from the ACS. Since the US is one of the only high income countries that does not maintain a comprehensive integrated vital record system, dropping these questions seems quite imprudent. They are central to basic demographic analyses, projections about household composition at retirement and for children's well being. Future research and simulation studies on the costs of child support, income pooling for children and the retired, projected pensions all require strong estimates of the state, transitions and duration of marriages. Dropping these questions may produce marginal cost savings in data collection but at the price of developing sound actuarial models for national policy choices.
Thank you for your time

73 Hello, I am writing to you today to urge you and the Census Bureau not to cut the marriage questions and undergraduate degree question from the American Community Survey (In the past 12 months did this person get—Married?, In the past 12 months did this person get—Widowed, In the past 12 months did this person get—Divorced?, Times Married—How many times has this person been married?, In what year did this person last get married?).

As a PhD student in sociology with an interest in urban families and demography these questions are essential for my current and future work. To cut these questions would be a huge detriment to our larger society. families are changing immensely, and it will be crucial for social scientists and policy makers to be able to track these changes. For instance, these are the best data with which to study LGBT families, a growing population. Further, as people live longer, they are more likely to re-partner in their older years, these data provide us with useful statistics on this re-partnering. In fact, for both of these populations, these are the best data we currently have.

Social scientists are already left with the bare minimum of questions on the ACS after many of these questions were cut from the long-form Census. It would be a mistake to further limit the questions with which we can study trends and differentials in our nation. To cut these questions would result in the US being the only developed country not to generate annual age-specific rates of marriage and divorce, not a distinction we want, I think.

The Bachelor's degree question has proven to be a wonderful source of data for studies on higher education. The ACS is now the premier source of information on the characteristics of the STEM workforce, and elimination of the question on field of degree would leave us with no data sources large enough to study small but crucial academic specializations. There have been hundreds of new studies on the impact of college majors on lifetime earnings and demographic behavior. A simple Google Scholar searh suggests that the question has already been used in several thousand research papers.

In summation, to cut these questions now to save a little money and time on the ACS would be a huge mistake, one that generations of social scientists, policy makers, and Americans will have to pay for with subpar data and thus, subpar national level research.

74 I have recently heard that the Census Bureau is planning to drop the ACS questions regarding multiple marriages and also undergraduate field of study. I am currently a PhD student in economics at the University of Maryland, training to become a labor economist.

I have done previous work looking at the age at first marriage, and plan to conduct future work that depends on the marital history. These variables will be necessary to understand the relation between multiple marriages and marital history on labor market outcomes.

As a labor economist, and a population research, I hope that you can reconsider this decision to preserve valuable information on population and labor dynamics.

75 I have heard that the Dept of Commerce is planning to drop census questions on marital status and undergraduate education from the ACS. As a professor who studies community and economic development, I feel that such an omission would have profound and deleterious effects on our ability to accurately study and address community problems. Please do not give in to these short-sighted attempts to save money.

76 I heard that announcing you intend to drop six crucial questions from the ACS, including five questions relating to marriage and divorce and one question on undergraduate education. That would be a huge loss to those who study family demography or education.

As a person who is intensely interested in marriage, and statistics about marriage, I urge you to keep these questions in order that the public could get the best possible information regarding marriage and education.

77 The dropping of these questions from the census survey will negatively affect a five year statistical study currently underway. The removal of this data should not be considered.

78 I write in dismay after reading that the Census Bureau plans to drop the question on number of times married from the ACS. As a historian of U.S. marriage patterns for mixed nationality couples I know the number of times married is the only reliable measure of marriage number, and it makes possible statistical analysis on the kinds of groups I study in important ways. I urge you to keep the marriage questions more broadly, for they are useful to scholars in various fields of endeavor.

79 We're avid users of Census data for our research. What's both crucial and beautiful about Census data is its consistency – particularly the Census' ability to provide consistent questions over time. That's why we're dismayed to find out that 6 questions may drop from the next ACS.

We'd highly advocate that the ACS not drop any questions from the survey. Doing so seriously stunts both the continuity of the data and our ability to see how recent generational shifts in marriage and educational attainment impact other factors.

80 As a researcher who works with ACS data all the time, I fully depend on this data to communicate the experiences of the poor and homeless people and families Catholic Charities serves here in the Twin Cities, as well as identify potential state legislation that will serve to improve access to educational equity among lower income children of color.
Tracking marital status allows us to continue sound the alarm about the connection between the rising tide of children living in poverty and the drop in marriage among lower income people.
We also need the detailed information on undergraduate majors for our educational policy makers to identify and address the STEM professions supply demand gap.
We urge The Census Bureau, who has long been our trusted and trustworthy partner in research and policy formation, to stay the course and keep these six crucial questions.

81 I conduct research on health insurance usage in the US, and frequently incorporate Census statistics in my modeling procedures. Marital history & status are critical indicators that I use on a regular basis. Cutting these questions from the ACS would be a major detriment not just to me, but to many of my colleagues in the private and public sectors who use these data on a regular basis. The Census is perhaps the most important publicly available source of US demographics. When the Census chooses to reduce data collection, those who depend on its data either are forced to reduce the quality of their work, or must look elsewhere -- sometimes to expensive private vendors -- to retrieve this vital information. Making demographic data as rich as possible will help keep the Census relevant in an era where data volume is high, but data quality & relevance is not necessarily at par. Please don't degrade the Census' value by cutting important questions like these.

82 It has come to my attention that the American Community Survey is intending to no longer carry data on marriages and divorces
I feel this is a mistake, this is a valuable body of data for those of us in the world of demographic and economic modeling realm.
With the policies shifting in many states to support same-sex marriages, it is as important as ever to maintain good statistical indicators of marriage and divorce.
Please advance this note of support to others involved with the ACS to preserve the statistics on marriages and divorces.

83 I am a PhD student in economics at Harvard, and I'm writing in regards to the possible removal of questions on the American Community Survey regarding marriage and undergraduate education. This dataset is one of the most useful for economists (and I presume other social scientists) to understand demographic changes and its economic effects.

In regards to my own specialty (finance), understanding how family formation and education relates to consumer income and consumption demand is one promising path forward in the understanding of household finance, so it would be unfortunate if the ACS is not useful in regards to this work. I would imagine finance is not unique in its broad indirect interest in demographic data.

84 I was just informed that the Census Bureau has proposed a drastic set of cuts to the American Community Survey (ACS), which would eliminate all of the questions related to marital history and undergraduate degree field.
I would just like to express my deep concern about this. I do research in the field of health and labor economics. More specifically, I am currently investigating the potential benefits of going to college. In my research the question on what filed did you major in is of absolute importance, since graduates with different majors face very different labor outcomes.
In addition, the marriage history is also obviously important, since we know that there is a strong correlation between marriage history and health effects, for example, something that I also study.
I would therefore like to ask that these two questions are NOT cut out of the next survey.

85 I understand the Census Bureau is considering cutting five questions related to marital history and undergraduate education from the future ACS. I implore the Census Bureau to reconsider these cuts. As a journalist who writes about demographic data in the Seattle area, this would be a great loss to me, professionally – and to the thousands of readers of the Seattle Times. There is no substitute for this data at the state and local level.

86 I'm a PhD student in economics. I have been using ACS for quite a few projects on occupational choice and marriage market outcomes. Marriage is one of the most popular topics in social sciences. I sincerely hope that ACS can keep those questions. I will be a big loss if it's discontinued.

87 Please do not remove any questions from the survey. Important information.

88 The decision to drop six questions (5 on marital status and 1 on education) will create significant hurdles for researchers like myself in carrying out projects. I am a Ph.D. student in economics whose research critically depends on the availability of such questions to make my research designs both more precise and accurate. I strongly urge you to reconsider this decision.

89 I was alarmed to learn that the Census is considering dropping the marital history and Bachelor's field of study questions from the ACS. This would make the U.S. the only developed country that does not generate annual age-specific rates of marriage and divorce. As an economist, I have used similar marriage information in research on child support enforcement. I also use these statistics as part of my teaching material for an undergraduate course on Women in the Economy. The Bachelor's field of study question has also added greatly to knowledge on the difference in men's and women's careers. Much of the earnings gap between men and women is occupation-based.

The loss of this information would greatly impoverish our understanding of the interaction of the economy and the family.

90 My name is [redacted] and I am Director of Simulation and Data at the Roybal Center for Health Policy Simulation at the University of Southern California. Our Roybal Center is funded by the National Institute on Aging, which is part of the National Institutes of Health. Our mission is to develop better models to understand the future of health, health spending, and health care delivery and to explore what current trends imply for policy.
One of the key data sources that we use in our simulations is the American Community Survey. The ACS is used to assess and forecast trends in education, work, marital status, and childbearing. These variables are key predictors of health and healthcare spending and are critical to our forecasting work. At present, the ACS is the best data source for our purposes. Removing questions regarding marital history and education would severely diminish the usefulness of the ACS. I urge you not to remove these questions.

91 At a time when understanding the changing dynamics surrounding marriage is critical, it is hard to understand why those questions would be targeted for deletion from the ACS. We researchers rely on the continuity provided by these questions being consistently asked and reported. We are committed to utilizing these data to fullest advantage.

92 I am upset to learn that seven ACS questions are on the chopping block. I am very interested in tracking STEM fields across time and would be devastated if this question was taken away from the ACS. Additionally, I am interested in how this is correlated with marriage patterns across time. Yet, these are also questions that are proposed to be cut! It would be a mistake to delete these questions and remove our ability to track these trends over time. Please reconsider deleting these questions.

93 [Subject: Keep the marriage questions please!]]
They're important to answering important questions about family demography and education!

94 I am surprised to see there is another attempt to remove questions on marriage and divorce from the USA census. Recent debates on gay marriage reveal the huge importance still attached to marriage in the community from almost every political and social perspective.
It is impossible to understand what is actually taking place without data. We will be unable to analyze the actual social changes taking place throughout the USA and to compare them with changes elsewhere in the world. This data also informs us about the lives of children and the likelihood of mutual support for those in old age. It will help us to interpret approaches to home ownership and in the future it will help us to interpret inheritance patterns.
For those scholars like myself whose research often depends upon comparative analysis this will remove a crucial illuminating source of consistent long term information.
I hope this decision will be rescinded.

95 I was aghast to discover the marriage history and undergraduate degree field questions in the ACS may be removed. In the School of Human Environmental Studies, I belong to the Human Development and family Studies area. The ACS – in particular the 5-year data – is crucial to our ability to conduct applied research and develop effective outreach and intervention. We study family and community systems, and my particular focus is in rural areas. We will no longer be able to track important changes in family sySTEMs as we attempt to help communities grapple with persistent poverty, food insecurity, obesity, health disparities, educational attainment concerns, and rapidly changing demographic structures. In Arkansas specifically, we need to be able to track educational attainment and particularly STEM graduates as we seek to improve the quality of our labor pool, especially among underrepresented groups and in rural communities.

Please retain these questions. They may seem to be of low benefit to some users, but they are fundamental for our work.

96 I am writing to express concern that the Census Bureau proposes cutting questions about marriage and education from the ACS. I think it is a bad idea at this time. As an institution, marriage is being transformed by the legalization of same-sex marriage state by state. This is a critical moment—in fact, there might not be a worse moment to abandon these questions on the ACS. If it happens, the U.S. will become the only country in the developed world that does not generate annual age-specific rates of marriage and divorce, right at the time that marriage (and divorce) have become options for millions of Americans previously denied it. The ACS is the only source of information about the changing incidence of same-sex marriages and the characteristics of the same-sex marrying population. No other survey is large enough to measure these populations accurately. Many researchers—especially up and coming demographers and sociologists—need this data to create new knowledge about American society.

I am also concerned about the proposal to eliminate the question about undergraduate major. Given the boatloads of money being poured into both specific majors (especially STEM) and undergraduate education in general, it is very useful to have a consistent, broad based source of data about the degrees students are earning. In addition to public money, many of the nation's young adults are incurring huge amounts of debt in order to earn their degrees. Educators and other researchers need and will continue to need data about what students major in over the years, in part to assess how well spent was all that money from both public and private perspectives.

I urge you to leave untouched the current marriage and undergraduate degree questions.

97 I am a PhD candidate at the University of Chicago Economics Department and I am writing you to ask you to reconsider dropping the following questions from the ACS:

Person Question No. 12—Undergraduate Field of Degree—This question focuses on this person's Bachelor's Degree. Please print below the specific major(s) of any Bachelor's Degrees this person has received.
Person Question No. 21a—Get Married—In the past 12 months did this person get—Married?
Person Question No. 21b—Get Widowed—In the past 12 months did this person get—Widowed?
Person Question No. 21c—Get Divorced—In the past 12 months did this person get—Divorced?
Person Question No. 22—Times Married—How many times has this person been married?
Person Question No. 23—Year Last Married —In what year did this person last get married?
Marital status is very often a crucial control in studies on the labor market, because the incentive to enter/exit the labor force or the employed pool is different when the person is married. I used these questions in my research extensively and so did other scholars. The unavailability of this variable would create considerable selection problems in the sample, thus invalidating promising research work. Question 12 is also of interest, especially for those who study inter-occupational mobility and the negative effects of graduating in a recession (see Oreopoulos et al.). Although the academic community that I belong to recognizes the need to minimize the burden for the respondent, I ask you to reconsider dropping these question from the ACS on account of the greater good that they provide.

98 I was surprised to hear the Census Bureau is considering cutting several important demographic questions from the American Community Survey. I wanted to make my opinion as a Ph.D. student in the department of economics at UCSD known on this issue.

In particular, I use the information on bachelor's degree field of study to map degrees into job placements. My coauthor and I are mapping scholarship funds into college degree program enrollments, and then mapping those degrees into classes of jobs. The goal of this research is to ask whether our funding of scholarship programs is helping to train the workforce we as a country want. For example, are we training people for jobs that are easily replaced by machines or outsourced, or are we training people for more desirable growth fields?

I also have previously used the marital status questions to model retirement decisions, specifically how being married impacts the optimal decision to retire. The timing for such life events is important for determining retirement decisions because of the years of planning retirement takes.

Pulling these questions from the ACS will be potentially damaging to academic research at a time when we really should be collecting MORE data, not less. There are a lot of important economic questions that require use of these data, and it will be quite disappointing if they are indeed dropped from the survey.

Thank you for your consideration, and I hope in the end the Census will realize how useful these questions are to many researchers around the world.

99 Please consider keeping the following survey questions in the American Community Survey:
[1]The number of times married
First and foremost, it would significantly affect scholars of family demography. Economists would also suffer some loss if this question were omitted - given the significant economic effects of marriage and divorce on affected families. This question also provides a history of incidents with significant economic ramifications for the individual and household.

[2] In what year did this person last get married?
[3] In the past 12 months did this person get—Married?
[4] In the past 12 months did this person get—Divorced?

Marital stability and instability can be significant predictors of investments in children, and can also provide a clear reflection of economic and social pressures on formal family structures. Keeping these questions in the survey gives researchers the opportunity to investigate these links between significant life incidents, sociology and the economics of the household. Furthermore, the studying the related outcomes for children rests solidly on the data gathered from these questions. (The children will not have the opportunity to provide this information themselves for decades on average).
Thanks in advance for your consideration.

100 I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposed elimination of 6 questions from the American Community Survey questionnaire. The questions regarding marital history and the question addressing Bachelor's degree field of study. Not only are these questions highly valuable to researchers and policy makers examining trends in higher education and family dynamics, but I feel they will also be crucial in fostering a national community in the new data age.

The American Populous is hungry for information of a statistical nature. The data collected in the American Community Survey is not only important today in helping us understand where to distribute our resources, but will continue to be important far into the future as these data become the narrative of our changing country. As a researcher at the Minnesota Population Center, I have a special vantage point from which to see the convergence of both academic and popular interest on exactly these kinds of questions. Marital and educational history are extremely salient concepts that allow individuals to imagine themselves as part of the national fabric, fostering our American Community.

The American Community Survey is the ideal source for data on marital history and Bachelor's degree field as the consistency, accessibility, and quality of the data produced by the ACS perfectly suits the wide rage of individuals who will use these questions to both describe the American Community and to understand their relationship to it.

Continue collecting data and providing quality statistics for America about all of its communities. Continue asking about Marital History and Bachelor's Degree Field of Study.

101 I am writing to you (as I'm sure are many others) to request that you reconsider the removal of several of the marriage items from the ACS. I am a health researcher who has only just begun to work with the ACS via IPUMS. The removal of these questions poses a grave risk to our ability to ask fairly basic questions. Worse, removal of the "times married" field in particular fails to understand the modern institution of marriage (no longer a one-and-done proposition but instead much more fluid), and questions about "lock-in" in marriage markets are nearly impossible without these data. We as a community of researchers are entirely reliant on these ACS questions, since there are no other reliable time series of these data (for example, the federal government stopped collecting detailed divorce data in 1996). I hope the collected pleas of many IPUMS users and other researchers will be adequate to sway you to keep these questions in the ACS.

102 I work at the Minnesota Population Center, and it has come to my attention that seven questions are slated for removal from the ACS survey. While I think the marriage questions are very useful for measuring complicated estimates regarding marriage in our country, I specifically advise the Census Bureau not to remove the undergraduate field of degree question. This question is especially helpful for researchers to measure the returns to certain field degrees in the US. This is especially crucial to helping attract young people to the fields of science, math, and health, by demonstrating with data that there are economic returns to pursuing those fields.

103 I add my voice to many labor economists to say that it would be madness to drop questions on education and marriage if your job is to track the American labor force and to understand forces that affect American competitiveness with the rest of the world.

As a student of the late Professor Gary Becker and the very much living Professor James Heckman, I echo them in pointing out that the BIGGEST change in each individual's labor productivity is brought about by careful investment in education and training in cognitive and social skills.

Here is an illustration of the problems America faces: Here even at this premier college economics program, the University of Chicago has a decreasing fraction of white American students choosing the Economics major. Why? Because there are cultural and ethnic differences in the way our nations children are taught and encouraged to acquire basic numeracy and math and analytic skills. America is very clearly falling behind the rest of the world (especially Asia and South Asia) in this part of education and training of tomorrow's labor force in critical STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) fields, including economic sciences.

Furthermore, the NUMBER of laborers in the USA will be greatly affected by married women's decisions to have children: fertility choices have been shown to be extremely sensitive to value of time and policy responses that lower each parents' cost of rearing well-educated, civic-minded citizens of tomorrow. If fertility continuing to be low in the USA and other developed nations then IMMIGRATION POLICY REFORM critical for renewing and revitalizing our nation's labor force.

I cannot see how the government can DROP the marriage and education questions unless they are acting like ostriches and hiding from reality rather than insisting on getting the data in order to make INFORMED POLICY DECISIONS.

Pardon the emphatic use of CAPITAL LETTERS, but these issues are of FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE to the health of this country.

104 I am writing to request that the Census Bureau not drop the question describing a graduate's undergraduate major from the American Community Survey. This information is particularly important for researchers, such as labor economists, seeking to understand career earnings profiles.

105 I'm writing to urge you to seriously reconsider the proposed cuts in questions about marital status and undergraduate education from the American Community Survey. It seems strange that the Census Bureau would elect to eliminate basic demographic questions that are fundamental to the study of marriage and education.

Without annual breakdowns of marriage and divorce rates by age, sex, and race, population projections will be compromised. The five marital history questions were designed to replace statistics formerly generated from vital records. Academic research of all kinds on a variety of topics that are directly or indirectly related to marital configuration will be compromised.

The question on undergraduate education has been a goldmine for academic studies of higher education. The ACS is the premier source of information on the characteristics of the STEM workforce, and elimination of the question on field of degree would leave us with no data sources large enough to study small but crucial academic specializations. Hundreds of new studies on the impact of college majors on lifetime earnings and demographic behavior have been conducted using ACS data on undergraduate education. A simple Google Scholar search suggests that the question has already been used in several thousand research papers.

Please retain these crucial ACS questions.

106 I'm a PhD student/labor economist in University of Pittsburgh, and I want to urge the Census to keep marital history question and undergraduate fields question. I have several ideas that might use marriage data and I know several colleges are very keen on this topic as well. Really hope Census could keep it!

107 I am currently PhD student in Economics and I am also a user for IPUMS. I got email today which said Cencus Bureau has intention to drop Question No.12-Undergraduate Field of Degree. I was so surprised that this question is defined as low benefit.

Lots of Economists do care individual's major choice and how it is related to the future occupation and income. In addition, there are many articles on the newspaper and magazines arguing major choice in college.

Thus, it will be huge loss for the researches and the whole society if the Cencus Bureau drops this question!

Thanks for considering my requests!

108 I am writing to ask the Census Bureau to please reconsider the recent decision to drop marriage questions from the ACS. The ACS is an incredibly valuable resource for faculty and students in economics (my field), sociology, demography, and many other areas of academic study. I have used the ACS myself in some of my published research and many of my students have used it for projects that are immensely valuable to them. Dropping questions from the ACS or other surveys over time reduces the value of these surveys by limiting the kinds of questions that can be answered with them, since often the researcher needs many years of data in order to have sufficient sample size to generate statistically significant results or to be able to relate changes in state policies (which occur over time) to changes in outcomes.
I know that substantial resources are required to keep surveys like the ACS going, but I hope that officials at the Census Bureau and all levels of government appreciate the great value of the work that is made possible by the ACS, including helping to provide answers to many questions of vital importance in setting public policy.

109 I am shocked to hear that the Census Bureau is considering dropping the question on bachelor's degree major field from the ACS. This question, which was added in 2009, is critical for researchers who are trying to understand how students form decisions about their field of study and the implications of those choices for subsequent outcomes such as employment and wages. There is no other representative annual dataset that has such information. During the past few years, a burgeoning field of study has emerged using data from this question. Scholars using these data would have poor alternatives if the ACS drops this question. I would strongly urge the Department of Commerce and the Census Bureau to maintain this question.

110 I urge you to retain the current ACS questions regarding marriage, divorce, and Bachelors education.
If the ACS marriage questions are eliminated, the U.S. will be the only country in the developed world that does not generate annual age-specific rates of marriage and divorce. In addition, the institution of marriage is changing rapidly: This is not a good time to eliminate our most powerful tool for investigating the causes and consequences of those changes.
As to education, the ACS is the best source of information on the characteristics of the STEM workforce, so elimination of the question on field of degree would leave us with no data sources large enough to study small but crucial academic specializations.
Answering the ACS is time consuming, but so are many civic duties, such as voting. All of us who use the ACS greatly appreciate the (often unique) detail it provides about American society.

111 I have just been informed that six questions relating to marriage and education have been dropped from ACS. These questions are critical less so to my research, but to my teaching duties in a very popular Ethnic Geography class that I teach. I implore that the ACS include these critical questions.

112 I'm writing you in response to the proposal to eliminate the ACS questions around Marital Status and Undergraduate Degree field. I'll leave it to the sociologists to provide you insight on why removing the marital status would be a horrible idea, and focus on the the downsides of not having the undergraduate degree field.

In research that I have conducted with Greg Schrock here at Portland State University, we have focused on the migration patterns of the nation's young and college-educated, as individuals "sort" themselves across the nation's largest cities. This trend, of course, has significant policy implications, as the nation's cities compete for mobile human capital. Much attention has focused on this topic (see research by Bill Frey at Brookings or by Ed Glaeser at Harvard), and was just featured in the NY Times Magazine (http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/21/magazine/will-portland-always-be-a-retirement-community-for-the-young.html?_r=0).

What our research is also revealing is that not only do cities have an under (under) abundance of young and college-educated, but there is evidence to support that individuals are sorting based on degree completion (e.g. Portland not having as many individuals with undergraduate business degrees compared to say, Atlanta), which has obvious economic implications. More directly, we are finding that certain degree fields are leading to higher rates of unemployment and underemployment. To more carefully consider this issue, we just deployed a survey in Portland asking individuals their degree field to compare to census (ACS) data.

If you need more evidence or further explanation on why not having these data would be detrimental to economic and social science research, please contact me. I sincerely hope that the Department of Commerce more carefully consults with academics and public policy folks across the nation before making such a bold and ill-considered move.

113 I hope this email finds you well. I am a researcher at the Peterson Institute, and I am writing to comment about the proposed elimination of questions from the ACS. First, I cannot stress enough how much we need consistent surveys. When questions change or are removed, comparative research becomes impossible. Second, there is an active debate about establishing links between marriage, poverty, and economic inequality (see, for example: http://www.newrepublic.com/article/118709/marriage-wont-cure-poverty-single-mother-emphasis-obscures-issue) Without ACS (and CPS) questions on these topic, we cannot have an informed policy debate. I hope that you will reconsider any elimination of questions from the ACS.

114 I'm writing in response to the request for comment on the proposed changes to the American Community Survey. I'm asking that you please reconsider removing the questions relating to marriage and undergraduate field of study from the ACS.
As a data journalist, who used to work for The Chronicle of Higher Education, and now works for a magazine that reports on issues of race and income inequality in Chicago, these questions provide crucial data on topics like marriage rates, divorce rates, and types of degree by race, gender and other demographic characteristics. No other survey collects equivalent data on these changing and highly charged issues. For example, bachelor's degree major, together with earnings and other household data, can provide some crucial data to answer the most highly charged question in higher education data: is a college degree worth it and for whom?

I hope you'll take into consideration the needs of journalists like myself, as well as researchers and others who rely on these ACS data for their work, and save these questions from the chopping block.

115 The National Center for Children in Poverty at Columbia University conducts policy-oriented research with the goal of improving outcomes for low-income children and their families. We rely on the American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample as an indispensable data source for our work. Because family structure has important associations with family economic security and child development outcomes, we closely track trends in family structure, such as marriage and divorce patterns. The ability to link annual family structure data to a wealth of additional demographic, economic and geographic variables makes the ACS an invaluable resource. I strongly urge the Census Bureau to retain questions 21a, 21b, 21c, 22, and 23 in the annual ACS. In our view, the information provided by these questions is of High Benefit to the research community.

116 I want to request that you do not drop the ACS questions that pertain to marriage and divorce. This data is used by myself and many of my colleagues in conducting economic research that impacts national and state policy. The ACS is a valuable resource for economists and those that want to make society a better place for us all.

Please reconsider dropping the questions so we can continue to study marriage and divorce, amongst other important issues that the ACS addresses.

117 My name is [redacted], I am an MPH candidate at the University of Michigan. I am a cartographer that focuses on disease mapping, often using data from the American Community Survey as some of my variables.

I am very concerned with your possible decision to take marriage data off of the American Community Survey. This data is often very important in determining chronic disease trends in my field, and would be a huge detriment to many other areas of research including those in family demography and education. If we do not have access to this data, it is very possible that those who are a part of a vulnerable population or those who are under-represented are not properly taken in to account. Taking this data off would be a huge disservice to many americans, as well as a huge detriment to the greater good of identifying vulnerable populations, deciding risk factors, and looking at possible confounders in data.

Thank you for your time.

118 I hope that this finds you well. I am teacher of population and a user of IPUMS data. The report that appears in the Federal Register indicates that the Census Bureau intents to drop six crucial questions from the ACS, including five questions relating to marriage and divorce and one question on undergraduate education. For those of us who study family demography or education, this would be a huge loss. The change would significantly harm our nation's statistical infrastructure. Please reconsider this plan.

119 My name is [redacted]. I'm a transportation planner The six ACS questions relating to marriage and divorce and undergraduate education you want to drop are very important to understanding the transportation trends and needs of families and young people such as undergraduates. Transportation planners need this information to discover opportunities for introducing car-sharing and other sustainable transportation options for families and young communities.

120 I recently recive infromation that several qustions important for demographers will be removed from the ACS. While I know every quetion cost money and time number of times married is very important to understanding life course trajectories and only the census provideds national statistics that can be matched will local data. Please do not axe that question.

121 I am contacting you in regards to the notice that some questions relating to marriage and divorce will be dropped from the ACS. As an Economist studying questions related to population aging, I wanted to let you know that I think these questions are really important for researchers to understand family structure and demographic change.
Obviously population aging is a major issue in most countries, and family structure has a lot of implications for how financially ready individuals are when they retire. I hope that these questions will be kept.

122 I am writing to oppose the proposed removal of questions relating to higher education (major field) and marriage (multiple questions). The ability to engage in time series analyses of earnings by undergraduate major (potentially an issue of major importance as accountability moves into higher education) would be destroyed by removing this higher education question. Also, linking particular fields of study to the study of career choices and economic outcomes in general are vitally important. In addition, the marriage questions are immensely important as U.S. society undergoes large scale shifts in domestic relations, including, among other things, the increasing prevalence of single parenthood and same sex marriage. Preserving the marriage questions will enable demographers and analysts to better understand changing nature of the American family.

123 The CDC and its partners in State and local health departments use these seven questions slated for elimination from the ACS to identify and monitor trends in social determinants of HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, and Tuberculosis prevention and control.
Without these questions, our prevention and control programs will lose the ability to monitor important social determinants to advance the Nation's disease prevention and health promotion objectives.

124 I strongly protest the change in ACS policy to removing questions related marital status and undergraduate education from the ACS survey.

In addition to providing detail necessary to plan for and evaluate the effects of federal policies and programs related to marriage, marital status influences family stability and income and can be influential in understating student progress and retention above the influence of school setting or educator. Loss of these data would significantly hamper nation-wide correlation studies.

To understand workforce needs and meet curricular demands, it is critical to know the status of Bachelor's degree field of study.

I sincerely hope ACS will reconsider dropping these questions.

125 Questions on marital history in the American Community Survey are crucial for understanding the effectiveness of child support programs in the context of changes in marital behavior. Child support programs are among the most significant welfare programs. In 2007, child support programs distributed about $25 billion. According to an authoritative study, "Without child support, child poverty would increase by 4.4 percent." Eliminating marital history questions from the American Community Survey will hurt children.

Both widening income inequality and the development of online learning point to the importance of understanding educational achievement. Removing the ACS question on undergraduate field of study is bad economics. Removing it will lessen prospect for understanding and alleviating income inequality. Removing that question will hinder development of new ways to provide education to those who most need it.

I strongly urge the Census Bureau to keep the marital history and Bachelor's degree field of study questions in the ACS.

126 I am an assistant professor of economics at BYU and I am writing you in regards to the proposal to drop certain questions from the ACS. In particular, I am quite bothered by the ACS proposed plan to drop the specific question about one's college major. It has been extremely difficult for academic researchers (economists, in particular) to evaluate the role of specific skills in shaping labor market outcomes. This is an important and budding research question and to cut this question from the ACS would be extremely inadvisable, given our limited understanding of these issues. The value of a college degree is not equal across disciplines, and understanding the consequences of this for employment and educational investment is a critical research inquiry given the recent economic conditions. Ultimately, it will be important to be able to have long time series of data on specific majors and understanding how they shape labor market outcomes - the ACS cutting out this data now would prevent such studies. I am happy to discuss further about this and give examples of questions and concerns that are at the forefront of researchers' minds and why the ACS data is critical to these studies.

127 I am writing to oppose the proposal to drop the ACS question on baccalaureate major. Data from this question has led to important improvements in understanding the role of higher education in labor markets. These improvements are not just academic, but have the power to shape and guide policy to improve higher education offerings, and ultimately our economy and the well-being of our residents. Here in California, we have used the data to motivate state investment in higher education. We have no alternative sources of this data, so losing the question would be a severe loss.

128 I think it's extremely important to keep the marriage questions in the survey as they currently exist, in order to allow for important and informative studies to continue to take place and shed new insights into the current state of the U.S.

129 Hi Jennifer, information regarding the field of study is extremely valuable to researchers and policy-makers. With large differences in returns to college majors, and increasing student loans, it's all the more important to collect these data. I would strongly urge the Bureau to keep collecting this info.

130 I am shocked to hear that the Census Bureau is considering dropping the question on bachelor's degree major field from the ACS. This question, which was added in 2009, is critical for researchers who are trying to understand how students form decisions about their field of study and the implications of those choices for subsequent outcomes such as employment and wages. There is no other representative annual dataset that has such information. During the past few years, a burgeoning field of study has emerged using data from this question. Scholars using these data would have poor alternatives if the ACS drops this question. I would strongly urge the Department of Commerce and the Census Bureau to maintain this question.

131 I would like to express my concern with the plans to abolish several marriage questions from future panels of the ACS.
In the past, significant research projects have relied on these data points. The most prominent research I am familiar with is concerned with the Earned Income Tax Credit -- a program which is primarily directed at married couples. As a graduate student in economics, I have used this data in my research on the Earned Income Tax Credit, too. This government program was introduced following economic experiments and it is important that the effects of one of the government's largest expenditure programs is further researched. The data collected by the American Community Survey is crucial for this type of research; Research that provides the foundation for optimal policy.

I urge you to reconsider the decision to abandoned some of the marriage questions on the ACS.

132 Please do not drop the family variables from the ACS.

133 I'm a data journalist from NPR. I use the ACS very frequently, and I want you know that the data you and your staff collects is invaluable to our reporting. In particular, data related to marriage and relationships are very important to us—particularly for the ACS. The timeliness and sample of the data are critical for journalists doing the work that I do.
Also, I would like to plug how very important undergraduate field of degree as field for the ACS. Education and type of education is first-order variable that will very pertinent to the discussions related to the gender wage gap, inequality, and mobility. It needs to be in the ACS.

134 I am writing in regards to recent petitions to eliminate certain questions related to marriage and divorce from the American Community Survey (ACS). I am a PhD candidate in Sociology at Stanford University with a particular focus on understanding trends in marriage in the United States. I would like to urge the Census Bureau to continue including these questions, as they are vital to my own research as well as that of many of my colleagues. Unlike many other countries, the United States does not keep a federal registry of marriages and divorces that take place, leaving demographers in a difficult position when understanding and predicting marital trends in the United States. Despite the cost of retaining these questions, I can assure you that without these questions a much larger amount of government money will be poured into additional data collection, which will yield much less accurate results.

135 The marriage questions that are being dropped from the ACS are supremely important to demographic research and our understanding of non marital birth.

If the marriage questions are eliminated now, the U.S. will become the only country in the developed world that does not generate annual age-specific rates of marriage and divorce. The marriage history questions in the ACS now provide our only reliable method of measuring the level of divorce.

Personally, I have used the ACS information to inform other datasets I work with. The ability to access information about broad marriage trends is hugely important and has vast implications for all kinds of research projects, even those that do not directly use Census data.

Considering how much marriage trends have changed, with increases in non marital child bearing and decreases in marriage among low educated groups, it is imperative to have access to as much comprehensive information as possible.

I urge you to keep the questions as they are.

136 I am a researcher at the Pew Research Center. We are a frequent user of the ACS marriage history questions. These questions provide critical (and the only publicly available) information about the new marriage & divorce rate, remarriage rate, and how American family changes on a year-by-year base.
For example, I did two reports on the topic of intermarriage. I used the marriage history question to generate the report "One-in-Seven New U.S. Marriages is Interracial or Interethnic" (http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2010/06/04/marrying-out/) and "The Rise of Intermarriage" (http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2012/02/16/the-rise-of-intermarriage/) Both reports have received tremendous amount of media attention. I still get phone calls from reporters about the 2012 report. We plan to continue on our research about the intermarriage in America. It will be a great loss for us as well as for the public if the ACS decided to discontinue the marriage history question.

BTW, we just released a report last Friday on remarriage, (http://abcnews.go.com/Lifestyle/census-data-reveals-marriage-rate-rise/story?id=26915348) it was mainly based on the ACS marital history questions as well.
I sincerely urge the Census Bureau to KEEP these questions. Thank you very much for your consideration.

137 This email is to request retention of the questions relating to marital status choice of major field of study in American Community Survey (ACS),
Information from these questions is of great befit to researchers in economics.
One example is to measure wage differentials.
Data on major field of study is of crucial importance.
For example, if one finds women or individuals in another demographic group earn less than those in another group – this difference may be related to a difference in choice of major.
If one finds a wage differential attributes it to discrimination, another may reply: "women choose psychology and men choose engineering – this explains the difference."
Information on major field of study could help researchers address such an argument.

138 I just heard that the marriage related questions (marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage) may be removed from the ACS Survey. I ask you to reconsider. There are many areas of research, whether academic, professional or governmental which rely on that data to produce relevant reports. Similarly, the Bachelor's degree field of study question is also important in exploring research related to education, society and economics.
Recent changes in the census have rendered it less useful in many ways, particularly when striving to compare different eras and to understand the economics of citizens. Please do not continue to decrease its utility. It is a great investment for both public and private society.

139 My name is [redacted] and I am an undergraduate Economics student at Rice University. As I am sure you are very much aware now, many individuals find the six questions slated to be removed from the ACS to be extremely useful in answering very specific questions about marital status in the United States. I feel personally involved because I completed a group project which used, at one crucial part, ACS data on marital status among immigrating couples from various countries. I do not know of any other data set with the statistical power of the ACS that could have helped. I hope my small anecdote helps in your decision.

140 Dropping the following questions from the ACS would severely harm the study of education and demography. Just today I listened to a talk that used 21a. Changes from the past year matter for what is going on with the respondents today. These sorts of questions can tell us what changed for respondents over the past year - important when we're not just looking at the correlation between marriage and an outcome, but in the change in marriage and that outcome. We can answer more causal questions with the latter approach, and understanding the marriage market would be severely hampered by the loss of these questions.
Question 12 is important as we continue to debate the importance of college degrees and what effect they have on future outcomes. Too many researchers just say that a person has a college degree - but the sort of degree they have and what they studied matters as well. Losing this sort of question would prevent us from studying the effects of different sorts of majors and courses of study on future outcomes.
Thank you for your time, and have a great day.

141 I am very distressed that the Census Bureau is considering dropping questions about marital history and undergraduate education from the ACS. These questions play a crucial role in understanding ongoing changes in the American family. Information about marriage and divorce is critical to important policy decisions, and it would be very unfortunate if we were to lose this resource now.

142 The marriage history questions are crucial because the United States has no alternative source for detailed annual statistics on marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage. The federal program to gather detailed statistics from marriage and divorce records was discontinued in 1996; the ACS marital history questions were designed as a replacement. If the marriage questions are eliminated now, the U.S. will become the only country in the developed world that does not generate annual age-specific rates of marriage and divorce.
These are crucial both of interest in themselves and as "control variable" useful in many studies in the social sciences, that enable the user to obtain better estimates of the net effect of given policy options, after these variables are taken into account. Without including them, the quality of U.S. research will be far below those of other nations, and our knowledge of the potential outcomes of various policies under consideration far less accurate than is acceptable in current academic practice.

143 I am writing to express my opinions that the Department of Commerce should not drop the questions on marriage history or the question on undergraduate field of study from the American Community Survey. Both of these questions are important for research that can inform public policy and eliminating them will lead to a loss of useful information for policy makers.

The marriage history questions are crucial because the United States has no alternative source for detailed annual statistics on marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage. The question on undergraduate field of study has proven to be a goldmine for academic studies of higher education. The ACS is now the premier source of information on the characteristics of the STEM workforce, and elimination of the question on field of degree would leave us with no data sources large enough to study small but crucial academic specializations.

Please do not drop these questions.

144 I strongly urge the U.S. Census to keep the questions on marital history, divorce, widowhood, and re-marriage. Social scientists that study the American family have been observing changes in the American family with an emphasis on the extent to which Americans will continue to form traditional families or even have families at all. There is no longer a "typical family." Questions on blended families, non-marital families, etc. are crucial both to students of the family and policy makers.

I strongly urge the Census to continue these crucial longitudinal questions that have long been used to chart changes in the American family.

Thank you for your consideration.

145 I am writing to request that the Census Bureau continue to ask marriage questions in the ACS data collection. These questions are important to researchers studying economic demography including myself. Currently I have students researching using this ACS question to understand how marriage trajectories and education are linked. Last year I had a student use these questions to examine the relationship between marital status and mortality. I hope you will take the marriage questions off the chopping block.

146 As a researcher on domestic higher education policy, I think we'd lose a lot of information by omitting the ACS question on college major. That single question has led to a slew of recent research on earnings differences by major, none of which will be possible going forward should that question be removed. I'd urge ACS to reconsider.

147 Please try to keep all past questions!

148 Come on now. You can't be monkeying around with the questions. Those questions are vital. And what do you gain by removing them?
Please leave the questions in. Have a heart. Do the right thing.
Remember, leave all the questions alone. Change is bad. Or at least this change hurts those who research that data.

149 Many researchers rely on all of these questions. Please keep them in the survey!

150 I am writing to urge you to keep all five of the marital history questions proposed for deletion from American Community Survey. These questions allow at extremely low cost the ACS to be the last remaining national level data source for the study of marriage and divorce trends. Dropping these questions, as is proposed in the Federal Register, would be a major loss to the ACS's stated goal of providing "data users with timely demographic, housing, social, and economic data every year that can be compared across states, communities, and population groups."

Detailed knowledge of trends in marriage and divorce is available on a nationwide, representative basis only from the ACS. The question on "number of times married" is crucial for inferring information about the entry into 1st marriage among the never married and the frequencies of remarriage. Furthermore, because the ACS includes a wide range of geographic areas and racial and ethnic groups, this question allows demographers to study important differences between subpopulations. The questions on divorced, widowed, and married in the last 12 months are all needed in order to do monitor social and economic trends in a comparative and up-to-date manner.

In particular, the question on "number of times" is needed is it allows researchers to construct marital life tables from the ACS data for the transition from "never married" to "married". Without this question, unverifiable and potentially misleading assumptions must be made in order to study marriage behavior over time and across groups.

Please let me know if I can be of any assistance in providing you with additional details on how important this question is for the study of demographic behavior in American society.

151 My name is [redacted] from Miami, Florida and a doctoral candidate in economic analysis at the Autonomous University of Barcelona.I study and plan on writing my dissertation on migration and the development and transmission of human capital within families.

I have been apprised of a looming decision to remove key demographic questions on marriage and education of individuals surveyed. I can honestly state that along with those in other social science disciplines that rely on the use of the micro surveys to study population dynamics that for economists who study family dynamics this will be just as pressing. These data on marriage and education are invaluable to help generate the validation of search and match, bargaining, or even newer models that try to capture the types of decision processes that not only lead to assortative matching within society; but also the consequences of this on human capital through investment in child education, consequences of marriage on health or just household health investment, inequality, and policy analysis related to such work.

The loss of these data will drastically affect the growing work of researchers like myself who rely on these sets of data to test if we have properly captured the dynamics to warrant credible policy recommendations on education, taxation, health, migration, and so many other topics that we are only now starting to touch upon that may stem from family economics.

I would strongly ask that you continue to allow these data to be collected and reported for the wider benefit of a society that relies on policy makers to make decisions based on sound research.

152 I am writing to voice my concern that the marital history questions may be removed from the American Community Surveys. I am an associate professor of sociology whose are of research interest includes gender and employment. I have used ACS data for multiple projects, including most recently research about veteran status and employment. In fact, because of the sampling, the ACS is one of the best national surveys to use to understand demographic and social issues related to veteran status. In particular, the marital history questions offer great potential for researchers interested in a host of questions related to marital history, family structure, and employment. In my case, I am particularly interested in how military service is connected to changes in family structure, and the implications for the economic well-being of military veterans. Losing these questions would mark a substantial blow to social researchers such as myself who rely on federal data collection to answer research questions with reliable nationally representative data. All of this does not even begin to address the larger concerns many of my demography colleagues have about the potential of losing these questions: how else can the US generate reliable basic marriage and divorce statistics about population subgroups? The ACS is the only data sources large enough to provide such data.
I sincerely hope the Census Bureau will reconsider the elimination of these relatively low-cost, simple questions that provide a wealth of data to social researchers and demographers.

153 On behalf of academics everywhere, I ask you to maintain the 6 questions slated for removal as part of the ACS. It is critical for data analysis that questions be available on a continuous basis. By keeping just 6 questions you will enhance thousands of datasets.
Thank you for your consideration.

154 I am a PhD student in Sociolgy at the University of Chicago and I think dropping the undergraduate education and marital history questions from the American Community Survey would result in a huge loss for researchers, policy makers, and the American public. Educational attainment and marital status are key demographic characteristics associated with a host of outcomes such as health and socioeconomic status. These measures are key for understanding social processes, and removing them from the survey would result in a gap in our knowledge.

155 I'm writing to urge you to keep the six questions on the ACS survey. I am a grad student in the History department at Harvard who relies on IPUMS data for my research on the history of education, and the data made possible by consistent data points across time is crucial. Please keep these questions, for the sake of continued research. As education becomes increasingly central to policy debates, especially in the context of rising social inequality in the United States, having consistent data to conduct research will be crucial.

156 I am a PhD student in Economics at Harvard, and I'm writing to protest the proposed removal of the question about undergraduate degree field in the American Community Survey.

I have been working on a paper investigating the effectiveness of government programs designed to incentivize students to enter into Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) majors and occupations. As a large-sample survey with data on both major field and occupation type, the ACS has been an invaluable, unparalleled resource. Without the undergraduate major field data, the effectiveness of these programs would be incredibly hard to evaluate.

Removing the question on undergraduate degree field would thus be a tremendous blow to this important line of research. I hope the Census Bureau will reconsider removing this question.

157 I am a PhD student in the Economics Department at Clemson University, South Carolina. I am writing to you to show my support for retaining the five questions relating to marriage and divorce and the one on undergraduate education.

I am specializing my research in family Economics and right now I am researching the effect of the marriage and labor market on the human capital investment in daughters by their parents (in South Asia). My experience from this has shown me how important marriage and education data is for analysing many important socio-economic questions and how hard it is to get such quality data.

The United States is one of few countries where quality data can be collected and it is important that such data continue to be available.

158 I am university researcher and professor who makes extensive use of Census data. I used these data through graduate school to complete my dissertation and now as I write research articles and advise graduate students. Questions about marriage and divorce, along with undergraduate education are essential to important research by myself and others on economic inequality. While I understand your duty to minimize the burden on your respondents' time, I assure you that these questions are of high benefit and urge you not to select them for removal.
Thank you for your kind consideration.

159 I write to voice my deepest concern about the elimination of the marital history and bachelor degree questions from the ACS. As a law professor who specializes in family law, obtaining reliable information about family patterns and their relationship to socioeconomic status is absolutely essential to my research and teaching. I regularly use this data in my writing (I publish in top law reviews and have a book that just came with Oxford University Press), and not having the data will severely compromise my ability to write about the important changes in family form. Moreover, there simply is no substitute for this kind of information. As you know, the United States maintains excellent birth data, but finding reliable data on marital histories is much more challenging. The ACS is my primary source of information. In short, please do not eliminate these questions. It would be an enormous disservice to our country.

160 I have been made aware of the proposed changes to the questionnaire, eliminating questions regarding marital history.
My research was made possible by the ACS questions you are about to eliminate.
I study the relationship between marriage and acquiring citizenship in the United States.
Marriage is one of the pathways to citizenship and the information on the number of marriages is crucial in determining whether the current spouse and his/her citizenship status could have influenced the citizenship status of the respondent.
In fact, I would love to have information on previous spouses.

Please, I would really appreciate if you would reconsider eliminating these questions.
The assimilation of the foreign born has been an important research topic and marriage certainly plays a large role.

161 I am a Graduate Student at Clemson University, interested in the field of Labor Economics and more so family economics. My current term paper focuses on the separate effect of migration on earnings of wives and husbands. Hence, questions that pertain to marriage; whether couples are still married, their individual earnings, educational characteristics are very important features to look at, among other things.
Many papers in this area of research rely on ipums data to carry out country level studies. I'd thus like to request you to reconsider the matter of dropping questions. They are an important source of information for us,as researchers and we hope to be able to rely on them in the future too, to conduct meaningful research.

162 I would like to show my discontent with the plan to drop the marital history questions from the ACS. The fact that those questions have not been used by federal agencies in the past doesn't mean that those questions are useless. Many researchers interested in demographic changes need access to high quality information on marriages. There are no other places where we can get accurate information on those questions. So I join other researchers in asking for those questions not to be dropped as the benefit of the data as captured by what can the government do with those questions is misleading: there are other benefits for research purposes.

163 My name is [redacted], and I'm a researcher at Harvard. I teach economic demography to sophomores at Harvard I am also an economic demographer, and I was horrified when I learned that the ACS might lose some of the marriage variables in the next waves. I teach economic demography to sophomores at Harvard, and since they are in the middle of pulling together their data for their final papers, I forwarded each of them this email. To point out that data _comes_ from somewhere – someone has to get this info, so that the rest of us can try to understand what is going on in family formation in the US. For instance, these things are key for understanding marital vs. non-marital fertility (I work on fertility in particular), or the long-run implications of such factors for US families and the kids that grow up in them. I do hope you reconsider! These pieces of information are so central to what we can ask with this data!

164 HI. I am concerned that you are dropping this question from the ACS. The undergraduate degree field is an important control in earnings models where you try to control for things that can explain earnings – such as undergraduate degree. This is important for examining discrimination by race or gender or for the lack of women or minorities in science, technology, and engineering fields. Typically we control for the education one had and one's fields of education. So deleting this field in the ACS will be detrimental to our understanding of earnings and occupational paths, as well as the extent of race or gender discrimination. Please do keep this field.

165 As a college instructor who teaches the sociology of the family, I rely on the ACS to give my undergraduate students the most up-to-date information on household structure and family trends in the United States. Until the CDC stopped reporting divorce trends, I relied on those data to show my students how families are changing over time. The marital history question tells us how marriage and divorce rates are associated with economic and social climate, how prevalent widowhood is across different age groups, how the duration of marriage varies by race, ethnicity and age at marriage. I cannot imagine teaching the demography of US families without these data.

As a researcher who has written on marriage and divorce in the US and other countries, I am especially interested in new trends in marriage and divorce. In particular, we now have the possibility of comparing outcomes for heterosexual and same sex marriage; we can investigate geographic and socioeconomic variation in these trends, and the ACS is the only study that can give us reasonable sample size for small populations.

I sincerely hope that the Census Bureau reconsiders the proposal to drop these questions.

166 I am a graduate student of Economics at the Graduate School USA in Washington DC and a full-time management consultant. In both of these capacities I can appreciate how valuable American Community Survey microdata are, and I thank you for providing this valuable service.

As it has come to my attention that the Census Bureau is requesting comments about its proposal to remove marital history and undergraduate degree questions from the ACS, I am writing to express my concern and register my dissent. Removing these questions would prevent researchers from being able to collect valuable information of great use to the intellectual fabric of our nation.

Please consider the studies, findings, and discoveries that would be lost not only unto us but to future generations with the elimination of questions of the utmost importance to both marriage and education.

167 As a data scientist, I appreciate the enormous value data provides our nation and all those seeking to understand the forces that influence it. One of those forces is marriage and its dissolution through divorce. However, with the proposed removal of questions pertaining to number of marriages and divorce as well as the others, we will have no reliable metric whereby we can better understand how our nation is impacted by these events. No one who has been through or experienced a divorce will say it hasn't changed them in some way. It is these changes that we seek to understand. How they impact children, the spouses themselves, and the nation as a whole. Please, retain these questions, so that we can retain our understanding of their impact on our nation.

168 I am aware of the intention to remove the number of times married question from the American Community Survey. As an ACS user I can say that this would be unfortunate. It is really important to link marriage histories and trajectories to social outcomes related to health, employment and social capital in order to better understand what is happening in American society and to better tailor family-related policies to fit the modern American famil(ies).
Thanks for your consideration.

169 I'm a Canadian sociologist who uses the ACS from time to time. I am writing to express my concern about the proposed elimination of the five marriage and divorce questions and one undergraduate education question. It is vital that longitudinal surveys maintain their comparability over time, and many researchers depend on these questions to track important social issues. Please do not drop these questions from the survey.

170 I am writing in reply to the comment request made by the Census Bureau on 10/31/14 concerning proposed removal of questions from the American Community Survey.
Education and family are two elements of life that are only becoming more complicated as this century proceeds. To that end, it is important to retain questions about bachelor's degree - field of study and marriage history in the ACS. These tools broaden the possible scope of demographic research, and are valuable to social scientists across the country. I urge the Census Bureau not to remove them from the survey.

171 Good morning!
I believe that the intention to drop six crucial questions from the ACS, including five questions relating to marriage and divorce and one question on undergraduate education would significantly harm the nation's statistical infrastructure.
I would to ask the Department of Commerce to do not do this change.

172 families are one of the most important institutions for the development of future generations. In order to understand the economy it is highly beneficial for us researchers to be able to understand patterns through the marriage questions in the ACS, which might be removed. Please do not remove them.

173 I am writing to you once again in support of the ACS marriage questions. I am a scholar who focuses on internationally comparative work on family issues, among others comparing the US to European countries. The information from the ACS is absolutely crucial for our research.

Across much of Europe and Germany specifically, where I am based, governments have massively increased funding for family relevant surveys over the past years. For instance, Germany improved their census and microcensus questions on families and added new ones. In addition, the German government is funding several new large scale multi million Euro panel surveys on family issues. Among those are Pairfam, the Panel Study of Intimate Relationships and family Dynamics (http://www.pairfam.de/en/study.html), FiD, families in Germany (http://www.diw.de/en/diw_01.c.402584.en/families_in_germany_fid.html). Europe is further heavily investing in comparative data collection such as the GGS Gender and Generations Programm and SHARE the Survey of Health, Aging an Retirement that provide new insights on family dynamics .

European governments are making these investments for good reasons, even in times of austerity. Put simply: given demographic change and massively changing family dynamics that are tightly linked to social inequality, we need to know what is going on in our society to design appropriate policy tools.

While we are excited about all the new data efforts on this side of the Atlantic, it is painful to see how the US, once a forerunner in national statistics, is considering to cut some of the most basic and most important questions on family issues.

I really hope you will re-consider and save the ACS marriage questions.

174 I am writing to ask that the Census Bureau NOT delete questions about marriage and education from the ACS. The elimination of these items will hinder future research on demography and on education. So, I urge you to reconsider.

175 It has come to my attention that the Census Bureau has issued a surprise notice announcing their intention to drop six crucial questions from the ACS, including five questions related to marriage and divorce and one question on undergraduate education. As an academic researcher, I am concerned that the removal of these questions will hinder future economic research and weaken our statistical infrastructure. These questions are vital to future studies related to marriage dynamics, policy analysis, and higher education. These data are the only source of information for applied economists to estimate empirical models that yield vital knowledge. I urge the Census Bureau to consider the inclusion of the following questions in the ACS survey for future time periods:

- In the past 12 months did this person get—Married?
- In the past 12 months did this person get—Widowed
- In the past 12 months did this person get—Divorced?
- Times Married—How many times has this person been married?
- In what year did this person last get married?
- Specific undergraduate major(s).

176 As a user of the American Community Survey, I am always keenly interested to make sure that the data generated is robust, effective and maintained over time for analysis. I have noticed the proposal to cut a series of questions related to marriage trends as well as one on undergraduate education.
I am writing to express my concern over this decision. As noted in the Federal Register, these are low-cost questions, which begs asking why they are automatically put on the chopping block. And though the analysis suggests they are low benefit questions, the nation's researchers who deal in social, family and education demographics beg to differ.
The ACS marriage questions allow researchers to understand the changing face of the U.S. from a family perspective -- the socioeconomics of marriage, the timeline for marriage/divorce, same-sex marriage, geographic differences beneath the level of the state, intergenerational patterns in the purpose and outcomes of marriage -- and help explain why changes occur. From a policy perspective, especially considering that so many programs (tax dits/breaks/subsidies to name a huge one) are tied to marriage, it remains crucial to understand dynamics and drivers of these fundamental family events.
With respect to the education question, this information remains important for any study of higher education in the U.S., as well as studies that seek to understand the changing nature of the U.S. economy and our human capital.
I note that I am not a family or education demographer whose primary
interest is marriage or college statistics, so please don't think me subject to disciplinary capture as a way to write off my opinion. I am an environmental researcher whose domestic interests focus primarily on transportation and urban development. Yet these questions remain important even in my seemingly less-related field. When I work to identify who uses a bus, explain variation in bus use and attempt to predict the affects of additional policies,
based on ACS data, understanding marriage dynamics of a two cities or two ethnic populations for comparison remains crucial. Even the detail of what field of study for undergraduate education may yield interesting and important findings if, for instance, certain types of economies (predicated on certain types of college degrees) may react differently to sustainability policies.
Perhaps these seem like excessive justifications, but they're actually the real statistics-policy nexus in which I work when studying, for example, low-income commuters in Washington, DC.

I strongly urge the safeguarding of these questions in the ACS.

177 I am dismayed by the proposal in the Federal Register that six questions on marital status and education history be dropped from the ACS. If they are dropped it will have a devastating effect on marital and education research in this country. There are no other sources of data sufficient to replace what these questions provide. I urge you to do all that you can to protect these questions on the ACS for the good of the country's statistical infrastructure. Thank you for you time.

178 I am a current finance and economics student who thoroughly enjoys conducting intellectually stimulating research at FIU, therefore, I am asking that you do not remove the marriage questions from the ACS! It is imperative to research to have these questions as part of the data gathered in order to conduct research of higher significance.
Please consider all the positiveness that stems from scholarly research before you remove these crucial questions from the survey!

179 As an associate professor of economics at Portland State University, I urge you in the strongest terms I can muster not to emasculate the American Community Survey by stripping out six essential questions on marriage and university education.

- Removing previously chosen questions from one of the premiere national household surveys is always a bad idea unless the questions were malformed or should not have been chosen in the first place, which is certainly not true of the questions currently on the block.

- Marriage and education interact with almost all social and economic issues. Removing these questions makes all the other information in the ACS much less informative.

- Understanding change over time is usually more important than levels per se, so that continually measured data over time is especially important.

Thank you for your attention.

180 The news that the Census Bureau is determined to drop from the ACS all of the questions related to marital history and undergraduate degree field is difficult to comprehend. As one who regards your data as the ultimate for me in studying and analyzing West Indians in comparison to African Americans and Non-Hispanic Whites via ACS, would devastate my academic inquiries. I ask that you do not carry the elimination of the aforementioned questions from the survey.
It would be a great disservice to the entire world academic community. Regards.

181 Please add my voice to the chorus of scholars deeply concerned about the proposed loss of questions from the ACS. Although I do not use the marital status questions in my current research, I have no trouble identifying the benefit to demographers, economists and other social scientists. I believe that the Census Bureau has gravely underestimated the benefits to these questions, and therefore that the cost-benefit calculations underlying this decision are badly flawed.
My personal concern is about the question on undergraduate fields of study. My ACS-based research examines regional differences in labor cost, returns to education, gender differences in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), and teacher labor markets. Information about bachelor's degree field is important to all of these policy-relevant questions. I have barely scratched the surface of the research questions made possible by information on undergraduate fields of study.

I agree with others who have argued that answering this question has incredibly low cost for individuals. The benefit to the scholarly community is large. I urge you to reconsider and retain this question.

182 Please do not drop questions related to marriage and divorce from the American Community Survey. The lack of information that the ACS previously provided can have far reaching effects.

Not having this information can prevent or undermine potential programs and policies that assist families.

Grant giving agencies often want the type of information you are deleting before they will fund a project.

Many universities have departments and courses that focus on marriage and the family. They train students to work with at-risk populations. The types of information you provide help drive the course content. Should socioeconomic differences in marital conflict leading to divorce be stressed in the courses or are the risks the same for all groups. Is age a factor in divorce or do only young couples divorce? Are the implications the same for different for all age groups?

Should experts in the field of education administration discuss having more programs for children from disruptive homes be considered because of continuing rising divorce rates, or are they not needed as much because divorce is on the decline, or are rates much the same so the status quo can be maintained?
Will we be able to compare with other countries? If theirs are lower, might we not learn something from them, except we won't know if lower or higher without good data.
Divorce can send women plummeting into short-term poverty. Seems to me knowing trends in divorce would help with social support systems.
And so on and so on.
You all have the more accurate data. Please do not drop such important key variables.
Thank you for rethinking your decision.

183 As part of our work for many communities, we conduct needs assessments to identify what problems exist in a particular area and help non-profits and local governments prioritize where to focus their limited resources.
The data collected on marriage history questions are critical to the analysis we provide on family stability, single person households, and several other factors which allow us to understand issues impacting children and elders in the communities we study. The loss of these data would severely impact our ability to identify needed programs and processes to ensure the most vulnerable of our citizens receive the help they need.
Please do not remove these data from the survey.
Thank you for your consideration.

184 My co-author and i are working on the economics of marriage. we seek to understand why couples are formed and why they dissolve. Marriage is key to understanding child welfare, poverty trends, demand for housing, the need for childcare services. Our current project uses ACS marriage history and we are planning to use it in the future. Please keep all marriage related questions!

185 I am writing to request that the questions on marital history and education not be removed from the American Community Survey. These questions are essential in the ongoing research on marriage, divorce, remarriage, etc. There truly is no alternative source with the same geographical coverage. With the elimination of the questions on marital history, the US would become the only developed country not to track age-specific rates of marriage and divorce. Economists, demographers, sociologists, and others rely on these data.
The question on Bachelor's Degree major field is essential for ongoing research on higher education, particularly the study of STEM workforce issues.
The elimination of these questions would provide a small cost saving but at an enormous cost to the research community and the United States understanding of critical public policy issues.

186 Please consider keeping the questions related to marriage and education in the American community survey. These questions help to better define the broad range of social forces which influence and shape our larger understanding of the demography of the US

187 Please don't drop these questions. They are crucial for studies of the family and household including studies related to discrimination, wages, and many public policy issues such as poverty and welfare. Such demographic variables are also useful for looking at differences across states in areas as diverse as health care, drunk driving, and labor force participation.
Many thanks for your willingness to consider not dropping these questions.

188 As a demographer and economist, I strongly encourage you to not drop the 6 questions relating to marriage and undergraduate education. The ACS serves as our statistical foundation for questions regarding marriage and education, topics that are hugely important to the US's economic growth. It would represent a huge loss.

189 As an historian who works with the census, especially the IPUMS sample at the University of Minnesota, I'd like to comment on the foolishness of dropping the marriage question. The enduring value of the census is compromised by eliminating such an obvious category of aggregate national data.

190 The current proposal to remove six questions regarding marriage and divorce as well as undergraduate degrees will significantly harm the nation's statistical infrastructure.
My MA paper focused on racial differences in educational homogamy. The work was hard to do because data on marriage, divorce and remarriage was so very difficult to come by. I gave up on this line of research because we did not have enough data. The idea that we would be losing any ability to collect such data is unbelievable to me.

191 Please receive the attached pdf "RemovalOfACSRetrospectiveQsPotrykus2014" as my reply to 79 FR 64743 "Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; The American

192 When one looks at the economic health of individuals, households and communities, marital status (married or in a domestic partnership vs. single, divorced or widowed) and education levels (the achievement of a college degree vs. a lower level of education) are highly correlated to economic vitality, social standing, and a wide variety of social and health indicators. Communities with a higher percentage of married households tend to have higher income, higher education and better health. While I'm not sure that the marital status questions perfectly capture the complexity of various domestic relationships possible in the US today (just as traditional racial definitions don't really capture the issue of "mixed" race), eliminating them on a cost basis is in a word "silly." It is one of the most basic demographic questions of everyone interested in government data. If anything, you should consider revising the questions to make them better define current living arrangements, rather than simply not asking them. Likewise, education level has become increasing more complex, the defining line for personal success is no longer high school graduation, but some kind of college degree. Those who start but do not finish college do not have the credential, but tend to have the large loans, so in some senses, they are "worse off" than those who stop with high school and go into the military or find employment.

The purpose of the census is to be able to accurately describe who people are and how they live, and how this varies across geography, social group and time. Eliminating these questions will have a huge negative impact on those in government, non-profits and private businesses who are trying to understand and serve the American public. I strongly recommend that you other find a less vital place to cut costs or assert the importance to all of us of knowing who we are, how our lives are going and where our lives could be improved. Particularly at a time where some who should know better are questioning the value of marriage and of education, failling to continue to collect information on these topics would be very short-sighted.

193 Please do not drop from the survey the questions pertaining to marriage, divorce, undergraduate education, etc.
They provide invaluable information about certain important socio-economic characteristics of the country and its states, localities.

194 In light of the recent announcement of planned changes to the American Community Survey, I am writing to urge that the marital history questions on the American Community Survey be retained.

I am a professor of psychology at UCLA and an adjunct behavioral scientist with the RAND Corporation in Santa Monica. In both of these jobs, I study marriage, and I have relied on data from the ACS in multiple publications and research projects. Specifically, I am involved in research on the effects of deployment on military marriages, funded by the Department of Defense. In a recent publication stemming from this work (attached), we evaluated the widespread assumption that the marriages of servicemembers were more vulnerable to divorce than were the marriages of comparable civilians. To accomplish this, we needed reliable population data on civilian divorce, and the ACS provided them, allowing us to demonstrate that, during the period of greatest stress on military families, divorce rates were still higher among civilian marriages than among comparable military couples.

195 I am writing to express my dismay regarding the proposed Census rules to drop six crucial questions regarding marriage, divorce and undergrad education.
These are important data items for work that I do and done by my colleagues in economics, sociology and demography.
Please do not institute these changes.

196 I would like to express my dismay at the proposal to drop the marriage history questions in the American Community Survey. These questions provide critical data on marriage and marriage stability in the United States. Understanding whether particular policies or economic conditions affect marriage has extremely important implications for the well-being of many Americans. Marriage and divorce are changing rapidly in the United States, and removal of these questions will be detrimental to my research and the research of many other scholars who aim to understand these patterns.

197 I am sending this email in regards to the plans to eliminate the survey questions related to marital history and undergraduate degree field. As a student who has used ACS to study changing patterns in marriage and cohabitation and as a person who hopes to continue studying changing demographics in the U.S., I believe these questions are vital.
Since marriage patterns have been changing rapidly over the past few decades, it is important for researchers to study how marriage rates vary by socioeconomic status, age, and race. Also, studying the fields in which people get their bachelor's degree can help researchers predict what fields will have a surplus or deficit of qualified workers.
I hope I am able to convince you to keep these topics on the ACS.

198 As a US population researcher, I strongly oppose the removal of marital history questions from the American Community Survey. In its current form, the ACS is the only source of national-level data on trends in marriage, divorce, and remarriage by age. Understanding these trends is fundamental to good public policy at many levels of government, especially during a period of rapid changes in the institution of marriage. We cannot make effective policy in the areas of retirement, children's benefits, health insurance, and education without knowledge of marital patterns.

In short, eliminating the ACS questions would have high costs and low benefits. I urge the Dept. of Commerce to reverse its decision.

199 It has come to my attention that the American Community Survey is planning to drop questions related to marriage and bachelor's degrees. I am dismayed to hear that these questions may be removed from the ACS. While my own research doesn't require this sort of information, many of my colleagues rely on these data for their studies. The cost of keeping these questions is relatively low, and the benefit of good data on these issues is extraordinary. Thousands of researchers rely on the ACS to provide data on subjects like these, which otherwise have no large-scale measurement. Science and inquiry relies on an abundance of data to help draw conclusions, policy recommendations, and educational literature. Data like these allow us to make compelling generalizations that enable us to understand our culture and community. I beg that you reconsider eliminating these questions, and err on the side of collecting more data rather than less.

200 I am writing in support of saving the questions on marriage and undergraduate field in the American Community Survey.

The question on undergraduate field is not available in other data sets, and has important implications for understanding the returns to education and the gender wage gap.

In terms of the marital history questions, I just talked to a student who wanted to do a paper on the effect of income on the probability of getting married, and he was able to do what he wanted because the ACS has a variable indicating whether you were married in the past year.

201 I learned about the intention of the Census Bureau to drop six questions from the American Community Survey relating to marriage, divorce and undergraduate education. I am a doctoral student utilizing the ACS as data for my dissertation. I think this change would be harmful to the statistical analysis we could do with the data being collected. Also, we will fail to collect the same set of data for the future. This will lead to a lack of knowing confounding factors in our population. Therefore, I petition for this change to not occur and the ACS to continue having those six questions included.

202 Please do not remove this question from the ACS. I just finished a preliminary analysis using this variable. The analysis reveals the differences in unemployment rates of young adults with STEM majors by race. Many scholars belief that racial differences in labor market outcomes STEM primarily from skill differences, but these differences among STEM majors poses a strong challenge to this belief. I am not aware of any other data base that would allow me to do this type of analysis.

I have a colleague who examines the need for work visas for certain specialized immigrant workers. I'm not sure how to evaluate the need for these workers without this variable either.

I think this question may incorrectly appear to be a "low benefit" variable only because it is relatively new and few researchers are aware of it. I'm sure that overtime, it will become a routine part of analyses of the transition of young adults into the labor market.

203 I am deeply disturbed about the proposed cuts to the American Community Survey (ACS), which would eliminate all of the questions related to marital history and undergraduate degree field. I am not sure why these questions are proposed to be cut but I can tell you that they both are very timely for use in research. The American family is in flux and these questions are vital for understanding the changing nature of this institution. As both a teacher and a researcher of higher education, I can tell you that the undergraduate degree question is also important. There are serious questions being debated in the public at large about the value of a college education, including specific degrees. Using the ACS it is possible to examine the 'performance' of certain degree tracks over time, as well as to monitor trends in the types of programs students are concentrating in (which could also be useful for employers and the persons who study labor market dynamics).

I urge you to strongly reconsider eliminating these questions from the ACS. The considerable harm their loss would cause in terms of understanding these key components of two of our major social institutions (family and education) cannot possibly be worth whatever small amount is saved.

204 With reference to the 2014 ACS Content Review Results (10/31/14) I would recommend reconsidering the decision to drop the following survey item.

Person Question No. 12—Undergraduate Field of Degree—This question focuses on this person's Bachelor's Degree. Please print below the specific major(s) of any Bachelor's Degrees this person has received.

In light of the ongoing legislative efforts to authorize "Feed the Future" as a priority, higher education seems to be a key factor in promoting "partnerships with institutions of higher education". Data on the educational background of people can provide the information necessary to implement efforts like "Feed the Future."

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you.

205 I am writing to express my grave concern about the Census Bureau's recent decision to remove the marital history and college major questions from the ACS. Globalization and technological change have resulted in massive changes in the social and economic environments of the American people. We all know that the Great Recession has had huge impacts on people's family-related decisions (including marriage and divorce). While people are often still struggling to find jobs, we do not seem to have enough workers in STEM fields. The only way to really understand how people's marriage and divorce decisions have changed through time, and more importantly, why they have changed, is to analyze individual level data. Similarly, to understand how people make decisions about what to study, how these decisions respond to economic conditions, and how college major choice affects economic conditions in the future, we need to have large samples of high quality individual level data. While there are certainly smaller specialized data sets available, none have large enough samples to analyze some of the most important questions in these fields.
I hope that you will change your mind about dropping these very important variables. Please feel free to contact me with any further questions. I would be happy to discuss with you how I have specifically used these data in the past and how I plan to continue using these data, and specifically those questions in my future research.

206 It's not my place to declare what the Bureau should do with its limited budget, as I obviously haven't performed the relevant cost-benefit analyses. But, cost aside, I wanted to throw in my two cents about how the ACS question about college majors is valuable to researchers. Labor economists in particular are forever looking for a robust measure of human capital. Knowing whether a person graduated from college is useful, but it's even more useful to know the field the person studied. After all, workers with engineering diplomas are likely to possess more valuable skills (in terms of both knowledge and raw ability) than workers who studied, say, French poetry.

Without a strong measure of human capital, it's difficult to investigate questions about the returns to education. It's also difficult to match workers with similar skills. When Andrew Biggs and I analyzed the wages of public- versus private-sector workers, we did our best to generate an apples-to-apples comparison by controlling for human capital differences. We discovered that controlling for college major -- as opposed to controlling only for college graduation -- made a significant difference in our results.

The table above comes from our analysis (http://www.aei.org/publication/the-impact-of-act-10-on-public-sector-compensation-in-wisconsin/) of Gov. Scott Walker's public-sector reforms in Wisconsin. It shows the wage premium (a positive value) or wage penalty (a negative value) associated with working for the Wisconsin state government relative to the private sector. The premium/penalty varies depending on the dataset and the skills controlled for. But notice the difference between the last two rows. The premium is 1.0 percent when using the standard controls along with PUMAs (geographic areas). But the premium goes up to 5.6 percent when degree fields are included.

Apparently, Wisconsin state workers tend to hold college degrees in fields that are less valuable than the degrees held by college grads in the private sector, with obvious implications for a pay comparison. That's the kind of result that we would not be able to observe in future years if the ACS changes go through.

As I said, I realize that Census is operating under a budget constraint, and I won't try to argue that the ACS question about college majors is necessarily more important than other questions included in the survey. But I do want you to know that there are a lot of researchers out there who value it.

207 My understanding is the Census Bureau as announced that it plans to eliminate six crucial questions with regard to its information compiling. Those questions are in the categories of marriage, divorce and undergraduate education.

Please do what you can to reverse such plans! If carried out it would be a huge loss to the thousands of people around the country who work on family demography and education.

Again, please reverse the plan to drop these six questions.

Thank you for your consideration!

208 I am wondering why the field of degree is being dropped from the ACS. It is such a new variable and data collected was just beginning to gain some traction. Can you please explain the reasoning?

209 The 'long census form' aka American Community Survey is unconstitutional and is not only violating citizens privacy, it is using tax dollars to perform 'market research'. At a time when the concern is reducing the national deficit, it makes no sense financially to expend tax dollars on this effort. Let the marketing firms do the work themselves. The information is already there at the local and state level without invading anyone's personal privacy. I would also think that your concern would be lawsuits by citizens who are getting alarmed at our
eroding civil rights. I personally will never, ever answer this survey and if you try to force me to comply, I will be filing a lawsuit against your agency as well as the census bureau. I suggest that you do the right thing and just scrap the 'long census form'.

210 I am writing to support the include of the marital history questions in the ACS. I conduct research on the effect of family structure (marital history of parents) on children's educational outcomes. Marriage matters for children, and understanding marital transitions is important for policies related to children. I have a second body of work on the effect of marriage on male and female earnings. My research shows that marriage has a causal effect on the male marriage premium. Thus it is very important to understand marital history when examining the significant economic impact of marriage.

I urge the Department of Commerce to keep these questions in the ACS!
...
(2nd email) I am writing to support keeping the field of degree question in the ACS. As an economist that studies the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) workforce, understanding which individuals have degrees in STEM is essential for my research. In addition, the ACS is used as a sampling frame for the National Science Foundation's National Survey of College Graduates. Without the field of degree question, it would be very costly and difficult to identify the STEM workforce for NSF's important surveys. Finally, the ACS field of degree study has improved the quality of social science research on the returns on various fields of study. Instead of cutting this question, the ACS should also ask the field of degree for the highest degree (e.g. for Master's or PhD) as well.

Thank you for considering this request.

211 As a PhD student in sociology I want to express my concern about reducing questions related to family/marriage and education. Understanding how society is changing over time requires data on institutions such as marriage, and education. Despite the fact that federal agencies are not leveraging the data there are numerous academic communities who rely on the data for their analytical support as they look at American society and provide insight into changing social/cultural dynamics. I fully support continuation of the questions to ensure there is continuity in data.

212 Ms. Jessup, I'm writing regarding the questions on marital history on the ACS. It is crucial that these be retained. I'm sure you know that these questions are our only good source of information about divorce since the Federal program to gather statistics from marriage and divorce records was discontinued almost 20 years ago. Without these questions, we cannot keep track of trends. Furthermore, the U.S. would be the only first-world society not to have such records.

213 I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed changes to the American Community Survey as published in the Federal Resister on October 31st. The removal of seven questions from the survey would have an adverse impact on studies on the links between households, education and economic activity. These questions serve as critical control variables for the purposes of social science research. While all of the proposed changes are concerning, as a social scientist studying the relationship between education and the economy, I find the proposal to remove Person Question No. 12 particularly concerning. Data on undergraduate majors is critical to understanding the links between college majors and how these majors are being received by the labor market. In addition, the data provided helps to establish current and future trends for college majors which are becoming a critical factor in helping to inform parents and college-bound students about everything from income earning potential by undergraduate major to unemployment rates by major. Removing this question would do a great disservice to policymakers, academics and applied economists who study this area.

214 I understand that the Census Bureau has issued a notice announcing its intention to drop six questions from the American Community Survey (ACS), including five questions relating to marriage and divorce and one question on undergraduate education.
For those of us who study family demography or education, dropping these questions would be a huge loss.
The marriage history questions are crucial because the United States has no alternative source for detailed annual statistics on marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage. If the marriage questions are eliminated now, the U.S. will become the only country in the developed world that does not generate annual age-specific rates of marriage and divorce.

The question on undergraduate field of study has proven to be a goldmine for academic studies of higher education. The ACS is now the premier source of information on the characteristics of the STEM workforce, and elimination of the question on field of degree would leave us with no data sources large enough to study small but crucial academic specializations.
I urge you to consider keeping these questions as part of the survey.

215 Ms. Jessup, I'm writing regarding the questions on marital history on the ACS. It is crucial that these be retained. I'm sure you know that these questions are our only good source of information about divorce since the Federal program to gather statistics from marriage and divorce records was discontinued almost 20 years ago. Without these questions, we cannot keep track of trends. Furthermore, the U.S. would be the only first-world society not to have such records.

216 Dear Census Representative: I am a sociologist and researcher in the area of gender and opportunity in STEM.
In order to keep track of equality of access to fields of study we absolutely need
Census data on field of study.

217 Regarding the Census Bureau notice dated October 31, 2014, I would like to register a strong objection to the proposed elimination of "Person Question No.12--Undergraduate Field of Degree" from the American Community Survey.

The aggregate choice of undergraduate field of mastery has broad policy implications for the US economy as a whole, for immigration policy, and for the health of the middle class. The proportion of adults with degrees in so-called STEM subjects -- science, tech, engineering, and math -- holds a particular importance for the capacity of the economy to create good jobs. The distribution of skills and knowledge gained via vocational and technical programs outside the undergraduate college framework is likewise of importance for job creation, economic competitiveness, public security, and the capacity to operate and maintain infrastructure.

Accordingly, I strongly urge that Question No. 12 be retained in the ACS. It would, in fact, be desirable to broaden the question to include vocational and technical degree or certificate fields.

218 As a researcher and user of the American Community Survey, I am writing to request that the marriage history questions on the ACS be retained. These questions are vital for understanding trends and patterns in marriage and divorce. I understand the need to simplify the ACS as much as possible, but the loss of this important information is not justified in terms of survey expense or the length of the survey. Please reconsider the choice to remove them from the ACS.

219 I write today to voice my opposition to the Census Bureau's proposal to remove the marriage, divorce, and detail of the respondent's undergraduate education questions on the American Community Survey. These questions are important data to gather, particularly for those of us who attempt to use the responses in our research. I have used these data numerous times to support ongoing research.

?

Eliminating these important questions creates significant difficulties for those conducting longitudinal research on related issues. Further, without the data derived from these questions, it will be difficult to compare and correlate these human activities with data collected in other countries.

I am sympathetic to the published intent, which is reportedly an attempt to simplify the survey. However, this seems to be a unique instrument gathering this data. I therefore urge the Department of Commerce to retain the marital history questions and the undergraduate education question.

Thanks you for your consideration. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me.

220 Please find the attached letter regarding the Census Bureau's plans to drop the marriage questions from the American Community Survey. I am surprised that the state demographers have not protested on your doorstep. When I worked for the Minnesota legislature (2001-2007) we used these data at the state and community level for much of our costing out of proposed changes in legislation as well as basic demographic data on the citizens of our state. I implore you not to delete these important questions...
The National Council on family Relations (NCFR) is a multidisciplinary organization of family researchers, educators, and practitioners. Active since 1938, we publish three peer-reviewed academic journals, hold an annual national conference, and provide training and educational opportunities for family professionals.

As the executive director of NCFR, I am writing to express my concern over the proposal to drop five family-related questions from the American Community Survey (ACS). For those who study families, this change will be a major loss. As you know, the federal program to gather detailed statistics from marriage and divorce records was discontinued in 1996, and the ACS questions wre designed to fill this gap. Dropping these questions will have severe consequences for the quality of family research in the United States.

The ACS is currently the most reliable source of national, state, and city data on the frequency of marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage. Moreover, the ACS is the only data source that can measure marital behavior in relatively small groups in the population, such as Asian Americans and individuals in same-sex marriages. The ACS also provides the best quality national data for estimating the effects of social programs and policies on married and unmarried populations.

Speaking on behalf of the NCFR membership of 3500 family scholars, I strongly encourage the Census Bureau to retain all five questions on marriage and divorce on the ACS. The small estimated savings from dropping these questions cannot justify the harm done to family research and the nation's statistical infrastructure.

221 Dear Ms. Jessup, I write to express my support for continued inclusion of the Field of Degree question in the ACS. The ACS serves as the sampling frame for the NSCG, which is the only nationally representative data set that provides detailed information on the college-educated workforce. Elimination of the Field of Degree question on the ACS will have a severe impact of the quality and timeliness of data of NSCG and will also limit our ability to analyze economic and societal outcomes associated with all college majors and occupations, not only those with STEM degrees or occupations.

222 I was shocked to find out that the marriage questions could be dropped from the ACS. Knowing marital status is critical for research addressing important policy issues, for instance, questions about poverty and single-parent families.

223 PLEASE do not remove the questions on undergraduate degrees obtained and the six questions about marriage and divorce from the American Community Survey. These questions provide essential data for a number of purposes: In the case of the question about degree, this is critical tp understanding the paths by which students enter--or do not--various fields of study. As our nation so desperately needs more women and people of color in STEM fields, understanding these educational and career paths is essential and this question is needed to do that.

And, as American families are becoming so much more diverse and complex, understanding these patterns is also critical. I use these data almost daily in my own writing, research, and teaching and cannot imagine not having access to such information.

I realize the value of shortening the survey, but the elimination of these questions will not save that much time.

224 I am writing to contribute to the many voices that would like to emphasize the value of keeping the marital history questions on the ACS. Specifically, these questions have unique and high value for those of us who are engaged in attempting to understand changes in the family lives of U.S. citizens:
Person Question No. 21a—Get Married—In the past 12 months did this person get—Married? Show citation box
Person Question No. 21b—Get Widowed—In the past 12 months did this person get—Widowed?
Person Question No. 21c—Get Divorced—In the past 12 months did this person get—Divorced?
Person Question No. 22—Times Married—How many times has this person been married?
Person Question No. 23—Year Last Married —In what year did this person last get married?
In the absence of a national repository of marriage statistics, the loss of these items would do tremendous damage to our ability to understand family change. I strongly implore you to listen to the voices of researchers who recognize the irreplaceable value of these items. Please do what you can to keep them in the ACS, even though the items do not have an "agency constituency."

225 I'm working on a story about the proposed elimination of 7 questions from the ACS. Steve Ruggles at the University of Minnesota says eliminating the five marriage questions would hinder accurate forecasts on the future demands on Social Security is based on a flawed procedure that ignored national uses of the data gathered in the ACS.
He also says that eliminating the college degree question would quadruple the cost of a National Science Foundation survey of recent college graduates that is used by economic and labor market planners.

Is there someone at the Census Bureau or Department of Commerce interested in discussing this subject? My deadline is noon on Friday. I can be reached today through Friday at [redacted]

226 I just learned that you are considering cutting some questions from The American Community Survey.
I want you to know that as an instructor, I find the ACS a valuable instructional resource. Students are captivated by the chance to look at real data. Of the 7 questions on the chopping block, all but Housing Question 6 have been pathways to engage students in data analysis, a skill I think we need to encourage in this generation.

227 I am writing briefly to offer my strong support for the continued inclusion of items 12, 21a, 21b, 21c, 22, and 23 in the American Community survey. As a demographer and sociologist with strong research and teaching interests in family and education, my job would be considerably more difficult, and my field impoverished, without this important source of data on these vital turning points in the life course. In addition to their importance, I would add that the individual response burden for these items is extremely low, as it requires recall of very salient aspects of individuals' lives. Of course, that same salience that minimizes response burden also increases the importance of maintaining these important items in the ACS.

228 I am a population scientist at the University of Texas at Austin who relies on direct and indirect support from the federal government, particularly from the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, Census Bureau, and other federal statistical agencies, to conduct my research and train the next generation of population scientists. Without a complete FY 2015 omnibus appropriations bill, these agencies, along with the rest of the federal government, are left in state of uncertainty and inability to make short and long-term investments.
• Before the current continuing resolution expires on December 11, I urge you to work with your colleagues in Congress and with the Administration to pass an omnibus Fiscal Year 2015 appropriations bill, restoring more stability and certainty in the federal appropriations process and in the federal government.
• Thank you for your attention to my views.

229 Please find attached a comment from the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics FS) in reponse to the Federal Register Notice on the . American Community Survey Content Review Results.
Founded in 1981, COPAFS members represent over 300,000 individual researchers, educators, public health professionals, civic groups, and businesses that rely on the quality and accessibility of statistics that can only be effectively collected by the federal government.
Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
...
I write to commend the systematic approach that the U.S. Bureau of the Census has taken in reviewing the content of the American Community Survey (ACS) and the transparency with which the ACS Content Review results have been reported.
However, a number of the members of the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS) are concerned that inadequate account was taken of the small area uses, legislative mandate, and federal program-related benefits of ACS Person Question No. 12 regarding Undergraduate Field of Degree. We wish to make five points about the benefits of this question, within the context of your review methodology.
1. Person Question No. 12 is the sample frame for another critically important federal survey. ACS respondents who have at least a baccalaureate degree create the sampling frame for the National Science Foundation's (NSF) National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) to conduct its National Survey of College Graduates (NSCG). The NSCG is an entirely unique longitudinal survey that permits examination of the characteristics of college-educated individuals over time, including: Educational histories: Primary work activity (e.g., teaching, basic research, etc.), Publication and patent activities; Salary; Satisfaction and importance of various aspects of job; School enrollment status; Sector of employment (academia, industry, government); Work-related training; gender, race and ethnicity, disability status, and other demographic data.

2. The NSCG, which relies on Person Question #12, is mandated by law. NSF collection and reporting of statistics about the participation of women, minorities, and persons with disabilities in science and engineering education and employment is mandated by the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (Public Law 96-516). If ACS Person Question No. 12 was discontinued, NSF would have to reproduce a national survey to identify Baccalaureate degree holders, an action that would be highly cost inefficient and would possibly violate the Paperwork Reduction Act (Public Law 104-13).

3. Person Question No. 12 and the NSCG that is based upon it, do provide the only data by which the success of a long-standing, major federal program can be measured and tracked. That program is Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education, first formalized in the Science and Technology Equal Opportunities Act of 1979. Several Federal agencies have statutory responsibility to provide STEM education, including: the Department of Commerce, Department of Energy, the Department of the Interior, Department of Defense, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
STEM education for women, minorities, and (more recently) the disabled has been a stated high priority of every U.S. president for 35 years. For example, in his State of the Union Address on January 31, 2006, President George W. Bush announced the American Competitiveness Initiative to address shortfalls in federal

230 Please see the attached letter from [redacted], APS Chief Executive Officer and [redacted], APS Director of Education and Diversity…
Thank you for allowing us to provide input regarding the decision on removing seven questions from the US Census' American Community Survey. The instructions were to provide comments on four points:
(a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility
(b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information
(c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected
(d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology

The American Physical Society recommends that of the seven questions slated for removal, that one of these seven be retained: Question No. 12, Undergraduate Field of Degree. We have no comment on any of the other six questions. Below we provide justification for retaining this question.

Regarding condition (a):
This question is one of the only ways in which data can be gathered from the workforce on the types of employment for students who pursue education in physics. Many undergraduate degree seekers in physics take jobs in areas that are not specifically labeled as "physics," consequently, as the American Physical Society (APS) works to improve undergraduate education in this country, we rely on data of this sort to ascertain where physics-educated students seek and find employment. The APS and its sister organization the American Association of Physics Teachers are currently investigating precisely these questions with a national task force, the Joint Task Force
on Undergraduate Physics Programs (www.aps.org/programs/education/undergrad/jtupp.cfm) to help guide the improvement of physics education into the next several decades. Data from this source will be included in our analysis of student's job and career choices.

Regarding condition (b):
Question No. 12 is a very simple question that requires very little time for an individual to respond. No significant analysis is required by respondents, merely a recollection of their degree title. Consequently, we feel this has little impact on total survey response time. In addition, any other form of collecting this important information would likely be more costly and less accurate.

Regarding condition (c):
We do not feel this question requires any changes. It is already clear and straightforward.

Regarding condition (d):

231 It is my understanding that the Census Bureau is seeking to reduce the numbers of questions asked on the American Community Survey (ACS) in an effort to reduce the amount of time required to complete the survey. As part of that effort you are thinking about removing the question about the undergraduate degree field from the annual survey.

I write today to ask that you not do that as it is the way in which we acquire to learn of the benefits of individual college majors. In an era when completing college is a national initiative and there are many efforts to provide information to prospective students about the kinds of results that could be expected from completed study in various disciplines, the removal would be the wrong move to make.

I am currently consulting with a pair of California community colleges who are seeking to develop educational programs that meet local labor market needs. They are also intending to find ways to promote those programs, and the value of attending college, to residents who are in the relatively lower socio-economic sectors. Absent the information developed through this question on the ACS the community colleges will not have the concrete data to make the case to prospective students. Many of those students had not dreamed of attending college and do not often appreciate what that experience would do for them as the call of the streets and the lure of anti-social life styles is ever present in their world.
While I appreciate your concerns and the sincere efforts you are making to recraft the ACS question set, please do not remove this one item.

232 My name is [redacted] and I recruit and career coach high school and college students everyday. Last night I was a guest lecturer at the University of Nevada and I used some of the census data for undergraduate degrees as it relates to earnings potential. Today I got word that the U.S. Census Bureau has proposed to eliminate the collection of data for the undergraduate field of degree from the ACS. I urge the Census Bureau to reconsider this elimination because the data has an rapidly growing local, regional, and national demand by higher education stakeholders as the costs of attendance continues to rise. The most important stakeholder is the students and family members that make an important decision about investing in education and use the data to evaluate the potential return on investment that an undergraduate degree can have.
Thanks for your consideration and happy holidays!

233 I understand that the Department of Commerce is considering a move to eliminate the collection of data on the undergraduate field of degree from the annual American Community Survey. While we realize that this would lower the time the respondents spend on the survey, this information is critical in understanding economic benefits of individual college majors – information that, as a school district – we make available to high school students as they look at their options and opportunities.

It is important for students to have all the information they can while they are considering their future, whether it's in engineering or the arts. How they balance careers and volunteer opportunities, college majors and minors, and the workforce in general is particularly critical in these years when the college degree is often the threshold for good jobs.

Our school district, like many others, strongly recommends that that this element remain in the ACS.

Thank you for your consideration.

234 I respectfully request that you NOT remove the questions on undergraduate degrees obtained and the six questions about marriage and divorce from the American Community Survey. These questions provide essential data for several important research objectives. For example, the question about degree is critical for understanding the paths by which students enter--or do not--various fields of study. We need greater representation of women and people of color in STEM fields, and understanding these educational and career paths is essential. This question is needed to conduct research that achieves this understanding. Many of my colleagues use these data in their writing, research, and teaching. Not having access to these data would seriously hamper their efforts. Given the increasing complexity of family and family-like relationships, the questions about marriage and divorce are also critical for our understanding of this complexity. I strongly urge you to keep the entire survey as it is.

235 It has come to my attention (via Georgetown University's Institute for Labor and the Workforce) that the Bachelor's level major field of study item might be eliminated from the American Community Survey. Please do not exclude this. Although I have had a career in data based institutional planning, research, assessment and reporting, and appreciate consideration for reporting burden, I can say that this survey item "packs a punch". Good information mileage is gleaned from this data element, information that supports government concerns about return on investment.

236 Can I ask why we would stop such an important follow up of our graduates? Also, how do I obtain data for my state, Missouri.

237 Are you folks nuts? Sure, when I was at ED, I either edited or built from scratch 3 national longitudinal
study data sets that covered postsecondary territory for NCES, and sure, I am now on a design team for the proposed "Eurograduate" survey of the EC. So you can write me off as biased. But if you don't have
this 1 question item in ACS, (a) you absolutely cripple its analytic capacity in matters of the intersection of education and labor market, and (b) we lose the power of triangulation in U.S. data.

238 I've heard from multiple sources in the higher education community that your department is considering removing the field of undergraduate degree from the ACS. This has raised serious concern as many organizations in the higher education community rely on this data to understand education level and degree and its economic impact. As there is a concentrated effort to get more students to attend and complete college, this question is an important piece of information. Please keep this question on the survey.

239 Seldom have I seen such a bad idea come from the Census Bureau. The ACS is the only data set that provides timely information on the field of study. In a period where people are making claims about the desirability of majoring in various fields (e.g., STEM), removing the only data source that can actually provide information about peoples field of study. To retreat from our efforts to measure field of study at this juncture is foolish.
I am currently writing several papers using the field of study and have included three papers that researchers at CMU, Duke (Sanders is now at Duke) and I have written using the field of study. Among the more shocking finding is that the range of mean earning by field of study is as large as the high school versus college wage premium. Letting Census drop the question is a really bad idea.

240 It recently came to my attention that the US Census Bureau plans to end its collection of data on undergraduate degrees to streamline the American Community Survey. I urge you and your agency to please reconsider taking such a measure. Many academic researchers, university research centers, and others who provide nonpartisan information to the US public rely on these data.

While I can understand the need to shorten the questionnaire, it is my sincere hope that you may find an alternative. The US Census Bureau provides Americans with essential data, much of which cannot be easily obtained by researchers. Given the myriad changes affecting the academy and many professions, the ACS data are vital to keeping the nation informed on many issues.

Thank you for your attention to this message.

241 I believe it is a TERRIBLE idea for the census bureau to drop the various marriage questions from their questionnaire. Marriage produces healthier outcome for both children and adults than their single counterparts. The questions are not overly burdensome. As noted in the STAR Tribune business section:
http://www.startribune.com/business/283000111.html
The United States will become the only country in the developed world that does not generate annual age-specific rates of marriage and divorce, and would lose its only reliable measure of divorce rates.
I believe it is a mistake to drop these questions when the country needs MORE INFORMATION about a faltering but necessary institution not less.

242 I am writing to comment on the proposed deletion of the field of study question from the American Community Survey, which was published in the Federal Register as Document Number 2014-25912.

To promote careers in engineering, computer science and the physical sciences, it is important to provide students and parents with information about salaries earned by degree holders in these fields and others. The most reliable source of this information is the American Community Survey (ACS). If implemented, the proposal to delete the "field of study" question from the ACS would undermine efforts to promote these careers, which are of central importance to the nation's economy.

ACS data on field of study has recently been used by the New York Fed in the report "Are Recent College Graduates Finding Good Jobs?" (Abel, Deitz and Su, Current Issues in Economics and Finance, Vol. 20, No. 1) and in the FiveThirtyEight.com report "The Economic Guide to Picking a College Major" (September 12).

The negative impact of deleting the field of study question would clearly outweigh any cost gain from such an action.

Thank you for your consideration.

243 I noticed in the October 31 Federal Register that DOC is proposing to remove the item about field of degree from the American Community Survey. In my view, the removal of this item from the survey and the responses from the databases would not serve the economic development, workforce, or research interests of the United States.

The data in this survey are used to understand university degrees and career paths, correlate discipline specialties with employment and salary information, and correlate educational and career with other demographic information.
The National Science Foundation does some special surveys in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields and careers. However, the degree-field information from the ACS encompasses the full range of degrees and the broad population of the United States. In addition, comparison of the ACS over the many years it has been administered, allows insights to be gleaned about important trends.
I urge the DOC to continue to include the degree-field in the ACS.
Please do not hesitate to contact me, if you have any questions.

244 I write as a graduate student, educator, and researcher to briefly plead for the necessity of keeping these types of questions on the ACS. Below are two small snippets of the many types of research questions that will be severely limited by this decision.

1. As lesbians and gays are achieving the right to marry across the country, being able to do a statistical analysis on marriage rates is fundamental to understanding how marriage equality is impacting this community.

2. Underrepresented racial and ethnic minorities within the STEM sciences is still a problem within Universities across the country. The data on field of study helps researchers note trends within these groups and help to promote change in access to various types of disciplines for these groups.

Thank you kindly for your time and I do hope these important questions will remain on the ACS.

245 I do not support the proposed removal of field of undergrad study from the ACS. This information is valuable to help policymaker and researchers understand the relationship of degree programs/fields of study to workforce needs/trends/etc. In a time where there is too little information to inform policymakers about the intersection of workforce and education, we shouldn't be eliminating such an important data point used by so many researchers.

Thank you for your consideration.

246 I am writing to provide comment regarding proposed changes to the American Community Survey (ACS).

I understand that the Census Bureau is proposing to eliminate questions related to marital history and undergraduate degree field. I regularly use both of these variables both in personal academic research, and in my professional capacity as an Economic Analyst for the Real Estate Research team at Zillow, the country's leading source of information and data on for-sale and for-rent homes. The elimination of these variables would severely hinder my work and destroy a unique and valuable source of insight into the American population.
I use the marital history variables to understand the housing choices of Americans at pivotal moments of their lives. Young adults tend to rent their residences, but marriage is frequently followed by home purchases, and this ACS variable allows us to assess the timing of these decisions, and estimate the drivers of young adult homeownership -- whether long-term downward trends are driven by the delay of marriage and family formation, or whether it is driven more by local economic factors. Similar analyses pertain to older adults who are recently divorced or widowed, and often shift from homeownership to renting.
The variable related to field of undergraduate study is also essential to understanding differential labor market and housing tenure outcomes. There is a growing recognition in economic and sociological studies that the simple categorical variable "highest level of education" is insufficient to capture extremely heterogenous labor market and societal outcomes. Without additional data on field of study, we would be unable to distinguish between the mass of Bachelor's educated adults. Understanding which fields of study are most remunerative are an equally essential input for high school students considering where to invest their time and financial resources as they pursue higher education.
With these arguments in mind, I strongly encourage the Census Bureau to not eliminate these essential variables from the American Community Survey.

247 More and more of the work I do on reducing poverty and making individuals more resilent to man-made and natural disasters depends on individual family characteristics. Outcomes improve when people have stable families or what we can recreate the conditions that stable families offer.

Better understanding of marriage and family human capital has the capacity to reduce the cost of our federal entitlement programs and disaster response and hazard mitigation.

You can change and improve what you don't understand. Please keep this important data about marriage in the census ACS.

We are counting on you.

248 I'm writing with respect to the proposal to eliminate questions from the ACS. I'm a research associate at the Urban Institute (and the managing editor of our blog). I can't tell you how highly I value the ACS! I'm currently using it as the primary data source for an innovative new look at violence declines in cities since 2005.

My coworkers and I - who are so dedicated to research on expanding and strengthening the safety net, and removing barriers to access - use the family structure and demographics questions every day across hundreds of topics, projects, and policies. In our mission to provide rigorous and reliable evidence about policy and outcomes, it's important to control for key variables that might confound results. Important aspects of selection and identification could turn on knowledge of marriage and education choices; without those data our research would be less rigorous, our estimates less precise, and our ability to impact communities for the better less strong.

I understand that in today's political and economic climate it is often necessary to make painful cuts. I strongly urge you not to cut here.

249 Hello. I am a sociologist who reports on trends in marriage, fertility, and the barriers that face women working in STEM fields.

The ACS produces the only sample sizes large enough to study marriage and divorce trends disaggregated by various subgroups in a period of rapid social change. Futhermore, women's under-representation in STEM is linked to their choice of college majors, so knowing one's field of degree is essential for meaningful analyses.

Please prevent the elimination of these critically important items on one of the most robust data sources our country generously makes available.

250 Please do not remove:

Person Question No. 12—Undergraduate Field of Degree—This question focuses on this person's Bachelor's Degree. Please print below the specific major(s) of any Bachelor's Degrees this person has received.

The answers received from this question will be useful for generating statics on a variety of significant issues, such as number of minorities graduating from STEM fields.

251 Attached please find my response to the proposal to remove the marital history questions from the ACS. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions… [Text of attachment]...I am writing to you in response to the U.S. Census Bureau's intention to eliminate five questions on the American Community Survey (ACS), as described in a notice posted to the Federal Register on 31 October 2014 (https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2014/10/31/2014-25912/proposed-information-collection-comment-request-the-american-community-survey-content-review-results). These five questions focus on the marital history of the Survey's respondents, addressing specifically whether a respondent married or divorced or was widowed in the 12 months prior to the survey, how many times the individual has been married, and the year in which he or she last got married (if ever-married).
The Census Bureau itself explained several years ago the justification for including precisely these questions in the ACS (http://www.pop.umn.edu/sites/www.pop.umn.edu/files/Census%20Bureau%20Justification%20for%20marriage%20history%20questions.pdf):
Measures of marital transitions will allow the ACS to provide estimates of marriage and divorce rates, as well as flows into and out of marriage. Information about rates, flows, and duration are critical for more refined analyses of eligibility for program services and benefits and of behavioral changes resulting from federal policies and programs. Besides the ACS, no other data sources exist that can provide the level of detail necessary to plan for and evaluate the effects of federal policies and programs related to marriage.
The rationale today is no different from, and no less important than, that stated originally. From a sociocultural perspective, it is imperative to be able to take the pulse of the nation with regard to the marital behavior exhibited by its people: to take stock of past and current experience, to forecast future trends, and to determine differences in behavior among the many subgroups comprising our population. By analyzing the ACS, a survey of substantial size, we are able to shed light – to an extent not possible if we were to rely on other, smaller surveys – on the behavioral patterns and trends across subgroups. These subgroups may be drawn, for example, along racial and ethnic lines, or by differing levels of educational attainment, or geographic location, such as on a state-by-state basis.
Just as important is the fact that marital status both determines and is determined by any number of other factors. These may include, for example, childbearing, education, health, and economic well-being.
With the data obtained from these questions in the ACS, our understanding of where we are and where we are heading with respect to a range of social and economic issues is greatly enhanced. In the absence of these data, that understanding will be severely limited. For example, we will have a much more difficult time forecasting the fertility of American women and thus the future growth of the American population. In turn, we will miss the opportunity to understand critical needs of our country in the coming decades and will be ill prepared to address these needs as they appear. By eliminating these questions, we will, for example, be markedly hindered in our efforts to estimate future demands upon the Social Security System.
In short, using the ACS, our ability to paint a detailed portrait of marital behavior and its correlates across America is unmatched by that associated with any other data set available to us. It will be a profound loss not only to the relatively narrow community of scholars who analyze these data, but more importantly, to the community of policy makers who will profit so meaningfully from their continued availability.

252 We are in a revolutionary change in policy-making where we have the ability to analyze data to inform and influence public policy. As a student at the Goldman School of Public Policy, it is incredibly important for me and other researchers to have access to demographic and education data to make informed decisions in public policy. I urge you to keep the six crucial questions from the ACS relating to marriage, divorce, and undergraduate education.

253 Please Save Marriage Questions on ACS

254 I am writing to you to express my concerns about the proposed elimination of several questions on the ACS: question 12 (on college major) and questions 21-23 (on marital status) . Removing these questions would undermine the capacity or researchers and reporting agencies to monitors important trends in the US population.
On question 12: This is a very low burden question with high payoff for monitoring a) the stock of human capital in this nation and b) economic returns to different fields of study. ACS Q12 is critical to our capacity to monitor the stock of human capital among our growing population of college graduates. Whether misplaced or not, legislative and public concerns about our STEM workforce persist. Q12 provide a snapshot of fields of study and, with time, provides an analysis of trends in fields of study. This makes possible efforts to redirect students through incentives for different fields. As important if not more so, Q12 serves as the basis for the National Science Foundation's studies of the survey of college graduates, a survey that provides a wealth of information about pathways in and returns to STEM careers.
Removing this question, which carries with it a 9 second burden (and is only asked of college graduates, roughly 1/3 of the population) would seriously undermine the government's ability to track trends in STEM
fields and respond through policy.

On questions 21-23: Sara McLanahan, in her presidential address to the Population Association of America a decade ago, summarized a wealth of data pointing to the 'diverging destinies' of children born in America to single and married parents. The ACS provides one of the primary avenues for tracking these diverging destinies by providing cross-sectional and updated trend estimates for the incidence of marital
formation and dissolution. family formation is a key piece of the social metabolism of this nation and of the social and cognitive milieu in which children develop. Monitoring these data helps to inform varied
programs of public assistance but also informs our understanding of likely future trajectories of inequality among our youth. The burden of response is quite low and the benefits high.
I urge you to retain questions 12 and 21-23 on the American Community Survey. Removing these questions would result in very small savings but incur substantial costs to our capacity to monitor and respond to
important social and economic trends in our nation. Thank you for considering my views on this important topic.

255 This is [redacted] from the University of Chicago. I am a fifth year PhD student in the Department of Economics.] I am writing to you to express my concern when I learned that the Census Bureau wants to drop all marital history related questions. It will have a great negative impact on myself because it will basically DESTROY my dissertation.

Marriage is the basic unit of the society. Economists have reached the consensus that it is understudied. For example, many macroeconomic and growth patterns cannot be fully explained without considering demographic and fertility changes. Questions about marriage status and education should be considered the essential questions of the questionnaire.

My dissertation studies the interactions between college education and marriage. In the first chapter "Premarital Investments and Multidimensional Matching," I explain two key questions using the questions the Census Bureau wants to drop. I am using this paper as my job market paper to find a job in academia right now.
First, I explain the relationship between age at first marriage and one's personal income. I needed the questions
"Marital Status"
"Times Married—How many times has this person been married?"
"In what year did this person last get married?"
to actually calculate age at first marriage.
Second, I study why more women than men go to college. A key explanation is the gender differences in college major choices and occupational choices. I would not be able to provide empirical support without the "Bachelor's degree field of study question" the Census intends to drop.

In my second chapter of the dissertation "Pre-Matching Gambles," I look more closely into gender differences in major and occupational choices. I would not be able to conduct cross-country studies without the degree field of study question. Almost all other countries, developed and developing alike, have included this question. I find it ridiculous and ludicrous that US is considering dropping the question.

In my third chapter of the dissertation, I plan to study remarriage and divorce patterns, and their changes over time. The following questions will be handy to have.
"In the past 12 months did this person get—Married?
In the past 12 months did this person get—Widowed
In the past 12 months did this person get—Divorced?"

In summary, dropping these questions will destroy my years of work, and any subsequent work on it. We will NEVER reach a full understanding of the society without these questions on the questionnaire. Please let Census Bureau reconsider their decision.

Please do not hesitate to contact me about any additional information. I'm also attaching the URL to the first two chapters of my dissertation. (As you can see, over

256 IPUMS asked me write. (I know, I know. lol) Though I always prefer to read the source material, which thankfully, they provided a link to. I noticed that IPUMS made no mention of Housing Question #6 in their petition drive. They seem concerned only about the marriage and undergrad degree questions being dropped. I would submit that "Is there a business (such as a store or barber shop) or a medical office on this property?" is pretty important in today's economy, where at-home businesses are tremendously facilitated by high speed internet. Heck, even when I was little I went to a pediatrician who's office was in his home.

Overall, the proposal to drop a mere 7 out of 72 questions isn't terribly convincing. "Respondent burden" is vague. I don't think a 72 question survey is that much more burdensome than a 65 question survey. ;) And they were all deemed "low cost." If the issue is paperwork, I think you'd be much better off reformatting and rewording. For example, "This question focuses on this person's Bachelor's Degree" is not only a wordy sentence but an entirely unnecessary one. (Btw, "this person" over and over is exasperating. Why not just "you?") You could also save ink and perhaps paper by dropping the copious use of bold font and those big dark circles around white question numbers along with the needless vertical lines connecting them. There are plenty other, more efficient ways to make it look nice and readable.

As far as "low benefit" is concerned, I'll just take the Census Bureau's word that particular federal depts don't have much use for certain questions. But federal depts aren't the only ones using this info, and policy is often influenced by studies conducted outside of gov't. So while I have no personal stake in this, I would recommend keeping those 7 questions which do provide insight into our rapidly evolving society, and instead focus on reformatting and rewording to reduce costs and respondent burden.

257 I wish to comment on the Interagency Council of Statistical Policy's recommendations to remove Questions 12, 21a, 21b, 21c, 22, and 23 from the American Community Survey. In particular, as an economist and applied demographer, I disagree with the Council's finding that these questions are of low benefit. Both Question 12, asking abut undergraduate field of study among bachelor's degree recipients, and the remaining questions about marital history, are of critical importance to the most fundamental aspects of our economy and society: a well functioning education and labor market, social mobility, and economic growth.

Since the field of study question was added to the ACS in 2009 (at the express behest of the National Science Foundation to save money by avoiding a duplicative survey), thousands of research studies have used the information in this question, and hundreds have explored the interaction of fields of study with geography, earnings, family instability, further education, workforce participation, and many, many other factors. I personally have used these data to develop web tools that allow prospective college students to see how initial and mid-career earnings vary by major, so that they may make more informed choices about which field of study to pursue (http://www.upjohn.org/models/collearn/home.php). Several school districts have already used this tool to allow students to explore career options. More recently, with The Hamilton Project, I have used these data to show lifetime earnings trajectories for 80 majors and variation in lifetime earnings within each of these majors: http://hamiltonproject.org/earnings_by_major/. This site has received several hundred thousand hits and major media coverage from The Washington Post, Slate, Vox, and many other major media outlets. We are also using these data to showcase a student loan repayment calculator which allows users to see how much of their earnings will be needed to service student loans for 80 different majors: http://hamiltonproject.org/student_loan_calculator/. These tools have the potential to provide an invaluable public service in providing guidelines for what are reasonable students debts to bear, and they could not have been provided from any other data source. Moreover, when there is such great concern about skills gaps, both nationwide and over metropolitan areas, in STEM fields and others, why on earth would you consider removing the question that can speak to these very issues?

The marriage history questions are also of vital interest and importance. Recent work by Raj Chetty and his colleagues has looked more deeply into social mobility more deeply than previously possible. One of their most striking findings is the strength of the correlation between social mobility and the rates of single parenthood (generally motherhood) in an area. Indeed, family instability has been tied to a host of lower socioeconomic outcomes (education, earnings, arrest and conviction records, to name a few) in the fields of economics, sociology, and public health. The ACS offers unique and unparalleled access to information on these marital transitions that no other data can provide, as only the ACS allows tying marital history to age, race, work status, income, education, and geographic distributions. Vital Statistics data or other surveys collected by the National Center for Health Statistics do not allow such tabulations or analyses. With renewed public interest in policies to promote stable families (e.g., National Marriage Project, the book Generation Unbound), only the ACS can allow examination of the effects of state-level policy initiatives, or trends in same-sex marriages and family formation, or differences in younger-age and older-age divorces. It would be tragic mistake to cut these questions merely because federal statisticians do not currently use them for sub-state analyses, although many other researchers do, and influence public policy in the process.

I sincerely urge the Census Bureau, the Commerce Department, and the Office for Management and Budget to keep these questions in the American Community Survey. They are inexpensive and are of low time burden, but they are of HUGE benefit to researchers, policymakers, and the public.

258 I am writing to urge you to reconsider removing the marital history question from the ACS. I have used ACS data (including this question) in research on the relationship between race and poverty for single mother households (both in research published in the Journal of Marriage and family and in on-going research). I believe that this question provides us with some vital information about variation in this relationship and helps us better understand what conditions may be related to single mother households experience of poverty.
Thank you for your consideration of this comment.

259 We write to you as leaders of the Association of American Colleges and Universities to urge the Census Bureau to retain the Undergraduate Field of Degree question in the American Community Survey. Answers to this question in the survey provide crucial national data to inform needed change in policy and practice in higher education in the United States. At a time when policymakers at the national and state level as well as researchers are keenly focused on the return on individual and public investment in higher education, it is absolutely essential that we have accurate information about how college graduates fare in employment after they graduate. It is also extremely important that we understand better the relationship between particular educational pathways and post-graduation outcomes. Removing the question would deprive us of much-needed data unavailable from any other source.

Representing the membership of AAC&U, comprising more than 1300 higher education institutions, we have a keen interest in the valuable data generated through the American Community Survey. AAC&U is the leading national association concerned with the quality, vitality, and public standing of undergraduate liberal education. Its members are committed to extending the advantages of a liberal education to all students, regardless of academic specialization or intended career. Founded in 1915, AAC&U membership now includes an extremely wide array of higher education institutions—including accredited public and private colleges, community colleges, research universities, and comprehensive universities of every type and size.

AAC&U just last year made excellent use of the data generated from the American Community Survey. Collaborating with researchers at the National Center on Higher Education Management Systems, we published an influential report, How Liberal Arts and Sciences Majors Fare in Employment, by Debra Humphreys and Patrick Kelly. This report provided important analysis of education and employment trends and has informed the ongoing dialogue about higher education reform in states and around the nation and the world.

As the media coverage of this report (see attached report), including in The Chronicle of Higher Education, Inside Higher Ed, Wall Street Journal, Forbes, and USA Today, among others, indicates, there is considerable interest in these findings. Data from this particular question on The American Community Survey also has been used recently by researchers at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences for their Humanities Indicators project, a highly influential initiative informing policy and practice across educational sectors and levels. The ACS provides an essential and singular opportunity to obtain comprehensive national data with a high degree of statistical validity.

Speaking with the support of the AAC&U Board of Directors Executive Committee, we urge you and your colleagues to reconsider the recommendation to eliminate Question 12.

260 1) Yes, eliminate the field of degree question. That information can be obtained via higher education institutions. Few graduates work in the field of their degree, so the information is mute in determining the direction of education vs job opportunity

2) NO, leave the martial status question on the census.
a) I am an amateur genealogist. The marital status question on past census records has allowed:
* the opportunity to locate spouses and family relations that would otherwise have not been known to exist.
* These relationships allow for collecting family history, and connecting with other family members, close or distant, who share specific medical issues (cancer, heart disease, depression, etc.)

b) Martial status also provides sociologists data to
* study changes in human nature, desentagration of American society,
* recognize societal changes that allow educators to determine needed changes in interaction between teachers and students
* determine changes in teaching methods based on the previous note

261 I support keeping the six questions in the ACS microdata. Proper study of marriage and undergraduate education have never been more important. Whatever side of whatever issue you are on, proper data lays the foundation for civil discourse. Please do not remove questions relating to some of the most important domestic issues of our day.

262 Please find the attached letter regarding the Census Bureau's plans to drop the marriage questions from the American Community Survey. I am surprised that the state demographers have not protested on your doorstep. When I worked for the Minnesota legislature (2001-2007) we used these data at the state and community level for much of our costing out of proposed changes in legislation as well as basic demographic data on the citizens of our state. I implore you not to delete these important questions...
[Text of Attachment]...The National Council on family Relations (NCFR) is a multidisciplinary organization of family researchers, educators and practitioners. Active since 1938, we publish three peer-reviewed academic journals, hold an annual national conference, and provide training and educational opportunities for family professionals.
As the executive director of NCFR, I am writing to express my concern over the proposal to drop five family-related questions from the American Community Survey (ACS) For those who study families, this change will be a major loss. As you know, the federal program to gather detailed statistics from marriage and divorce records was discontinued in 1996, and the ACS questions were designed to fill this gap. Dropping these questions will have severe consequences for the quality of family research in the United States.
The ACS is currently the most reliable source of national, state, and city data on the frequency of marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage. Moreover, the ACS is the only data source that can measure marital behavior in relatively small groups in the population, such as Asian Americans and individuals in same-sex marriages. The ACS also provides the best quality national data for estimating the effects of social programs and policies on married and unmarried populations.
Speaking on behalf of the NCFR membership of 3,500 family scholars, I strongly encourage the Census Bureau to retain all five questions on marriage and divorce on the ACS. The small estimated savings from dropping these questions cannot justify the harm done to family research and the nation's statistical infrastructure.

263 Please see the attached letter regarding the proposal to drop several questions from the American Community Survey. I sent a copy of the same letter a moment ago, but I think my email may not have reached your office successfully...
[Text of Attachment] I am writing as [Job title removed]. NCFR is a multidisciplinary organization of family researchers, educators and practitioners. We have been active since 1938 and publish three peer-reviewed academic journals, hold an annual national conference, and provide training and educational opportunities for family professionals.

The American Community Survey (ACS) is the most reliable source of national, state, and city data on the frequency of marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage. Moreover, the ACS is the only data source that can measure marital behavior in relatively small groups in the population, such as Asian Americans and individuals in same-sex marriages. The ACS also provides the best quality national data for estimating the effects of social programs and policies on married and unmarried populations.

As president of NCFR, I wish to express my concern over the proposal to drop five family-related questions from the ACS. As you know, the federal program to gather detailed statistics from marriage and divorce records was discontinued in 1996, and the ACS questions were designed to fill this gap. Dropping these questions will have serious consequences for the quality of family research in the United States.

Speaking on behalf of the NCFR Board of Directors and our members, I strongly encourage the Census Bureau to retain all five questions on marriage and divorce on the ACS. The small estimated savings from dropping these questions cannot justify the harm done to family research and the nation's statistical infrastructure.

264 As a genealogist who has been using the census records for 35 years I wish to comment on the two questions on the Census Bureau's proposals to remove two items from future censuses. (http://www.populationassociation.org/2014/11/06/census-bureau-invites-public-comments-on-proposal-to-remove-marriage-and-field-of-degree-questions-on-the-acs/)

Comments on:
marital history (questions #21a-c, 22, and 23) Keep.
field of undergraduate degree question (question #12) Keep

For items (a)-(d) I can't comment on them as they see to pertain more to those familiar with the internal workings of the Census Bureau.

265 Please do not remove any questions from future census forms. . It goes without saying that future genealogical research will become more complicated with past census only
reporting full family information on the long form (only 10% of the nation was provided the long form), and if future information does not include family status.

266 Having read through the proposals to remove certain information from upcoming census questionnaires, I would like to request that one item not be removed: Marital status.
As a historian and professional genealogist, this information is so important. We depend on that information in tracing our family trees and preserving family records. It is not used for any other purpose.
Would you please consider leaving this question on future census forms?

267 http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/congress/ACS_Federal_Uses.pdf as I see on page 206 the question is asked how person #1 is related to person #2. For those states without equal marriage rights the only choice for me is "unmarried partner," that's wrong. I would choose "Husband or wife" but since it's not legal for me in this state I must choose the other choice.

As far as marital history, Question #21a-c goes, we need to back up to Question #20 - there needs to be 6 categories 1) now married 2) widowed 3) divorced 4) separated 5) never married —> SKIP to I 6) NEVER ALLOWED TO GET MARRIED. #21 a, b, c - keep them.#22 - delete #23 - delete.

#12 under field of undergraduate degree question - keep

268 Please don't drop the marriage info from the census records.

269 Please do not exclude important information from future census. Such as:

* marital history (questions #21a-c, 22, and 23); and
* field of undergraduate degree question (question #12).

This information is vitality important for historical and genealogical purposes.
Thank you for your consideration.

270 Please don't get rid of relationship status in the Census!
This is crucial when doing family history research!

271 I wish to comment on the proposal to remove the marriage questions on the ACS. As a professional genealogist, this piece of information is a critical one in determining family relationships. Not only do I research past generations, but as a consultant with SNA International, I contract with the Department of the Army to locate the living relatives of soldiers who went missing in WWI, WWII and the Korean War for the purpose of gathering DNA samples in order to match remains, if found, so that the soldier can be buried under his name rather than as an unknown soldier. The inclusion of the marriage relationship in the latest census records available to me, 1940, are key and will continue to be a key piece of information as more census records are made available. I believe that dropping this piece of information from the census record will be very detrimental to genealogical efforts in the future.

272 I have taught sociology 101 and family sociology for 35 years. I have also written a book about couples who met on the internet (Double Click, Hampton Press, 2005), fwiw.
The Census is the only study of the whole US population that gives us this much reliable, valid information. The state of marriage is evolving, and we really need to know who is marrying, remarrying, divorcing, and how many marriages. People who study these issues have to have baseline measures about what's actually going on to counter opinion that is often biased or politically motivated. In contrast, I could understand if people objected to questions (not there) asking how many sexual partners you had this year and how long each lasted and so forth. Marriage and divorces are handled through the States, regulated by law so these are part of a public institution.

273 This question is one of the most basic statistical data information about the population of the U.S.A. and trends in American Social Status changes.
As a professional genealogist, the removal would also make future research of ancestral relatives a daunting exercise. The information on previous census' going back to the 1880 census where spouses and children were identified as such, has aided millions of American's in learning the history of their families.

274 Marriage information is vital to genealogical research, and census records provide a reliable place for researchers to get such data. Please leave that question on the census!

275 The information being left out is not important to some, but very important to others. Last time household member names were ommitted.
Now something else is being ommitted.
Eventually everything will be omiitted/ Why not do it the right way or just don't do it.
The info is misleading, only being used to "prove" what the government was it to "prove"
As it is now, it is just spending money hiring people to do something that really isn't important enough to have meaning.
By the way, if there is a "race" field, the only thing in it should be "Human", isn't that correct?
A useless tax-paying, law-abiding citizen.

276 After reading the proposals to remove information from census questionnaires, I would like to request that the Marital status not be removed.

As a amateur genealogist, this information is extremely important in my research. I, and many other researchers, depend on that information in tracing family trees and preserving family records. Many times it is the only way to validate family relationships that confirm you got the correct records.

I would think now that States are changing their marriage laws, this question would be more relative than it has been in the past.

Please consider leaving this question on future census forms?

Thank you

277 Re: Census survey questions re marriage, divorce, widowed status
I think that these questions are valuable for understanding issues related to sociological changes in our society. They are also very valuable information for genealogists. I do not think they should be dropped from the survey.

Please reconsider and do not drop these questions.
Thank you.

278 I am an amateur genealogist. My sister, [redacted], and I have been researching our family history for many years and depend on census information and other historical documents to assist us in our research. I have memberships to numerous genealogy web sites and Facebook pages as well.

We both would like to say that eliminating marital information from the census records would serve a huge disservice to genealogy research. There are times that discovering evidence of a marriage on a census record is the one bit of information we need to further our research and prevent months or even years looking for one tidbit that would break through the brick walls encountered by all genealogists, amateur and professional alike.

Historical documents have disappeared due to fires, floods, etc. I have read stories of documents having been discarded because they were not deemed important. An intentional deletion of information does not make sense to me. I consider this proposal to be intentional.

I hope that this proposal does not come to fruition.

279 I sincerely hope that we will keep the questions on marriage, divorce, and undergraduate education in the ACS data. These statistics are vital to an understanding of society and its change over time, and their loss would undercut the value of so much past and present work.

In the past, I have used similar data from Taiwan's census records under Japanese occupation for a stronger understanding of marriage customs and patterns. Marriage itself is such a complex and fascinating institution where financial decisions, familial relations, social customs, and any number of other factors meet. Marriage exposes insights across so many fields; losing this information would be an enormous loss.

I also feel that losing information on undergraduate majors is unnecessary -- the question seems so simple and basic, and I feel it is revealing about what students are learning, how they prepare for the job market, et cetera. This information could show us how new fields have grown or old fields have reimagined themselves.

In short, I cannot understand why the US, in this day and age, should choose to not collect this data.

280 Having read through the proposals to remove certain information from
census questionnaires, I would like to request that one item not be
removed: Marital status.

As an amateur genealogist, this information is vital in tracing family connections.
Without that information future generations will be unable to trace the spousal family connection.

Please consider leaving this question on future census forms.

281 I understand that the bureau is considering removing questions regarding marital history from the census questionnaire. This information is critical to researchers and will make it difficult for those genealogists gathering information. Please consider this a must have going forward. Thank you.

282 I am opposed to the question regarding marriage & degrees being removed from the census.

283 I will admit, I write for selfish reasons, as I am the family genealogist. The little question is the difference between knowing if a couple are husband and wife, or just cousins or brother and sister living in the same household.

But what about people studying the changes of family in America? I am sure the census is used many times for studies concerning things like this.

I do hope you will consider the affect this will have on things other than genealogy. Although I am writing for my own personal reasons, I also see other reasons this would change the use of the helpful information the census provides.

284 Genealogists need/use this marriage/degree information to complete family histories.
We depend on that information in tracing our family trees
and preserving family records. It is not used for any other purpose.

285 Please do not remove these items as it will effect genealogy search for future generations. Thank you.

286 Please do not remove records that aid in genealogical research; we have so little to go on and by removing records would just add to
our research problems. PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE THE RECORDS

287 Please keep these fields in the Census.
• marital history (questions #21a-c, 22, and 23); and
• field of undergraduate degree question (question #12).
They are very important to help correctly identify families during ancestry research. Our country is proud of our heritage, and it's the historians and genealogists that help preserve this heritage and connect our populace to its proud history.

288 I read your request for comments about removing the marriage and Degree questions on the ACS with horror. The census information is not available for viewing until 70 years after the census has been taken. For genealogists, this information is needed to research their family. Genealogy is the 2nd largest hobby in the country and is used by many people for lineage research and researching possible health issues. Perhaps the field should be modified to be either single, married or partner.

As for degree questions, this is also useful information as it helps us to see the individual instead of just dry questions requesting information such as on appliances, etc..

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

289 In response to the notice regarding a proposal to remove seven questions from the American Community Survey (ACS):
• marital history (questions #21a-c, 22, and 23); and
• field of undergraduate degree question (question #12).

Marital History is a must stay. being a genealogist this severely comes of importance. Undergraduate degree can go. as as some would say who cares. its unnecessary

Importance that needs to stay is age, marital status, sex.race. birth place. parents birth places. occupation and if immigrant yr, and address

thank you

290 I am not a professional genealogist, but I do use the census to do genealogy. The census of previous years has been very valuable to me in the research that I do. I expect it will be valuable to future researchers also.

The information concerning marriage has been extremely important to anyone doing research. It would be a shame to lose that information. Please reconsider leaving that information in the federal census.

291 Please do not eliminate informational questions such as marital status,etc. in the 2020 census forms.

292 I am writing to express my opinion that marriage and relationship information should continue to be included on census records for the sake of genealogical research in the future.

293 As a genealogist, DAR and UDC member, I was confused as to why the marriage record and the degree of education was going to be omitted from future census. I am totally confused as to why this information isn't needed. Identifying a married couple and the number of years married has helped to sort out the children and which wife they belong to, when there is a second wife with children.

Why change something that has been recorded since 1850 when the wife and children were named for the first time, prior to that they were just a nameless mark.

Please consider this email a request to not make these changes.

294 I understand that the Census Bureau has announced a plan to drop six crucial questions from the ACS, including five questions relating to marriage and divorce and one question on undergraduate education. The social science community's efforts to help us understand what is happening in society would be greatly hampered if these questions were removed. If we don't know what is going on in society, we are all in the dark. Think about what we wouldn't know if we hadn't had these questions for the past decades! It is important to have these linked with other ACS data, so it is not sufficient to say that we have other places to go for marriage and divorce info – we need it linked in tightly with the detailed data in the ACS.

We respectfully ask that you do not remove these questions. A free society depends on knowing the facts, and these are very basic facts that we simply must know. The ACS is essential, and it should not be diminished in this way.

295 The census records are very valuable for genealogists and we certainly encourage you to continue listing marriage and family group records plus occupations. Thank you.

296 I am deeply concerned about the potential loss of several very important questions to the American Community Survey. I have written a response in the attached letter…
[Text of attachment] I was deeply concerned when I read the Census Bureau is strongly considering dropping several tremendously important questions from the American Community Survey such as whether the respondent experienced a marriage, death of a spouse, or divorce in the last 12 months, a question on the number of times married, and bachelor's degree field of study.
For those who study family demography or education, eliminating these questions would be a major loss. The questions related to marriage and family are a vital source of data for our nation's statistical infrastructure. These questions are extremely important for understanding aspects of remarriages, stepfamilies, and family in mid to later life. Without these questions, it would be impossible to construct a life table for first marriages, or to estimate the percentage of people who have ever divorced. Right now, the ACS is the only data source that allows us to calculate accurate annual nationally-representative divorce rates. It would be an embarrassment to become the only developed nation that doesn't calculate age-specific rates of marriage and divorce. Adding these questions even just a few years ago has largely increased our knowledge of marriage and divorce trends for recent U.S. history. For example, Kennedy and Ruggles used these ACS questions to correct and adjust erroneous divorce rates from other data sources that had badly compromised divorce data largely due to response bias (Kennedy & Ruggles, 2013).
I'm also very confused why the Census Bureau would want to drop these questions. The Census Bureau highlighted important reasons to justify adding them to the survey in 2008, such as several federal programs and policies. To quote the Census Bureau in 2008, "no other data sources exist that can provide the level of detail necessary to plan for and evaluate the effects of federal policies and programs related to marriage" (Census Bureau, 2008). It is troubling that these benefits were not considered in the Census Bureau's cost and benefit analysis determining which questions to drop from the questionnaire.
Dropping the question on bachelor field of degree would also be hugely problematic. The field of degree information is used by researchers and the National Science Foundation (NSF) to estimate trends in women and minorities earning science and engineering degrees. In addition, answers to this question determine the sampling frame for the National Survey of College Graduates.

297 I support retaining insurance question in ACS and adding questions to capture ACA Marketplace participation.

The ACS represents an invaluable annual source of health insurance information at the national, state and local level. With its large sample size, it is also the source of information on insurance coverage, or lack of coverage, among subpopulations of interest, including disparities populations. The introduction of the Health Insurance Marketplace dramatically changed the way health insurance is purchased; however, the ACS health insurance series is not designed to pick up enrollment in the Marketplace. Tracking enrollment in the Marketplace is important given the resources invested to provide broad access to quality health insurance products. As the Census Bureau contemplates removing items outlined in the Federal Register, please consider adding 'Marketplace' to the list of sources of coverage and adding additional questions on premiums and premium subsidies aimed at tracking the health insurance market.

298 I am writing to you in regards to the proposal to remove marriage and field of degree questions on the ACS. As a genealogist, I adversely oppose this proposal. The census records are an invaluable tool to obtaining family information and removing the marriage data removes a key element used by every genealogist. It becomes a more difficult task to determine if a link is a valid one when the data is no longer available to us. IS the woman whose listed 2nd in the household a wife, a child, a niece, a servant, a boarder? Who knows if you remove that key piece of information. Someone doing the research 100 years from now will never know who their relatives from this era are if we remove this vital piece of information from a tool we have used for a long time.

Please do not lose these elements that provide linkages to our ancestors. They are important to us.

299 I recently heard some of the Census ACS variables will be dropped (marriage, divorce, widowhood. and remarriage). I believe all the variables are important and meaningful. Please reconsider removing these as many of these variables are useful for understanding and analyzing the changing demographic trends. Researchers across the country use this data and find all the variables valuable. In fact, we often use older data and hope that the present day ACS includes similar variables.

I truly appreciate the Census and the ACS, use the TIGER/line data daily and utilize the Census Bureau API. Thanks for all the great work and data products!

300 More data is better :). Thanks so much for your current work -- you guys are rockstars. I understand times are tough, but asking people six more questions when they're already answering questions is not so much of a big deal. My mom did the ACS survey and she thought it was awesome and was happy to be a part of it, I'm sure she didn't mind the six questions.

301 I am writing to oppose proposed cuts to marriage questions in the ACS. As a health services researcher this is a major problem and hope that a scientific viewpoint will prevail.

302 I am writing to you about the Census Bureau's notice announcing the proposal to eliminate six crucial questions from the ACS, including one question on undergraduate education, and five additional questions relating to marriage and divorce.
Please keep the questions on the ACS about educational attainment and marriage. In particular, the data on educational attainment is crucial both for the Federal Reserve's research work, as well as for bank regulators in evaluating the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) performance of financial institutions.

303 Those of us working to improve this great country rely on the demographic information provided by the ACS. Please do not drop questions & make that work harder.

304 As a grant writer for a non-profit health and human services organization, I use ACS data constantly to describe our target area population and its needs. Marital status and education are crucial to understanding the resources available to households we serve. It reveals family structure, tax burden, job opportunity, and stability for children. I urge the ACS to keep these six questions on the survey so that we can continue to track these important features of our communities.

305 I am writing in regards to the proposed removal of the marital status question from the ACS. As an Employee of a rural human services nonprofit, specifically a Community Action Agency, the information collected through the ACS regarding marital status is of prime concern to agencies like mine that have worked over the last 50 years to end poverty in our local communities. The research and work that has been possible thanks to these questions is of enormous importance to those like us who rely on the availability of this information to understand the changing realities of American family dynamics and poverty.

There are thousands of organizations and local government units likely to be unaware of these proposed changes, who rely on this information and the research it allows, and while I do hope that many researchers and academics will provide comment on these proposed changes and what it would mean for their research, I fear that many who rely on the work of those researchers will unfortunately not have the opportunity to respond.

306 I was dismayed to hear that the Census intends to drop these six questions from the ACS. As a graduate student studying the economics of education, I have no doubt that information on fine academic specializations will be of use in my future research, as it has been for hundreds of researchers coming before me.
I hope that the Census can find the resources to continue to ask these crucial questions in the ACS.

307 I gather that the Census Bureau has issued a surprise notice regarding their intention to drop five questions relating to marriage and divorce and one question on undergraduate education.I study family demography and feel that this would be a huge loss to research. I am therefore kindly requesting that you reconsider this move pending wider consultation among the research community. Thank you.

308 From my perusal of information regarding the potential removal of 5 questions related to family and marriage and the question regarding undergraduate degrees seems to negatively impact the collection of such data.

It appears this data has been used for constructive purposes over the years and given our society's present hunger for data, now does not seem like a good time to eliminate these questions.

To be the only developed country not keeping track of this information seems like a position we would not want to be in. Furthermore, I spend considerable efforts helping youth make viable decisions about careers and hence it would be valuable to continue to collect the degree information.
Thank you in advance for your consideration of leaving these questions intact.

309 Please do not alter the questions in the ACS.

The constant tinkering with questions and formats makes doing longitudinal research challenging. I understand the Federal government has priorities, but the Federal Government is not the only users of this information. The Federal Government has used my research on a number of occasions and each time the Census data is altered, its use value is diminished. For example, the marriage question was very useful in my study of the spatial pattern of high interest loan making in the 1990s.

Thank you for your consideration!

310 I am impressed with the very careful review of the ACS questions. There is another use cases that should be added to the list. The data is not just for current uses but also future uses. I have been woking with 1850 and 1880 federal census data as well as 1855 Massachusetts census data. The questions at issue are critical for future study of education/work force preparation and families. These areas--especially the connection between education and work force preparation--are important for us to understand.

Please keep all the questions. Person question 12, 22 and 23 are particularly valuable.

This past year I have been working with 1850 and 1880 federal census data as well as 1855 Massachusetts census data. The people designing the census questions were surely focused on immediate uses but the fact is we also use that data today.

Thank you for incorporating this additional use case into your assessment of the questions.

311 I have read about the discouraging proposal to eliminate ACS question 12, which asks about a respondents' undergraduate major, if they report having received a bachelor's degree. As the question was introduced fairly recently, it is still difficult to assess its ultimate usefulness, but I believe that questions like this one are essential to understanding how rapid technological change and globalization have affected the US labor market and whether and how Americans have adapted to that change.
There has been a lot of public discourse recently about the value of a college education. To a certain extent that discussion is misdirected. College educations differ on many dimensions, but probably the most important one is the area in which an individual chooses to acquire specialized human capital, that is, their major. That specialized human capital may complement the technological changes affecting the labor market, thus becoming more valuable to both the individual and to the economy, or it might become less relevant and less valuable. Economists and other social scientists have documented that occupations have been affected differently by technological change. More than a third of young adults now receive a college degree. Their choices of major is one of the main factors that channel them into particular occupations. How can we hope to understand and, perhaps, assist the country's adaptation to these massive changes without understanding the choices we make before entering the labor market?
That is my main reason for believing that dropping the question would be penny wise--pound foolish. I would like to emphasize three additional points. First, it is not enough to simply collate data from colleges and universities about how many of various majors they have graduated. It is essential to have micro-data that connects people's educational backgrounds with their labor market experiences. In other words, questions like this must be in the same surveys that gather data about employment, occupation, and earnings.

Second, this is not simply a STEM vs. other fields question---another way in which the public discourse has been partly misdirected. During the last 20 years, some STEM fields have become less valuable to the labor market, while some non-STEM fields have thrived.

Third, to my knowledge, the only comprehensive data source for understanding these relationships at present is the NSF's National Survey of College Graduates, which is normally conducted only once every ten years. (The surveys conducted during intervening years focus exclusively on science and engineering fields.) These are outstanding surveys, but once per decade is not nearly frequent enough, nor are the more recent samples large enough, to understand thoroughly the connections between people's specialized human capital and their labor force experience. Moreover, to add insult to injury, now that the Census long form has been eliminated, discontinuing question 12 will make it extremely expensive for the NSF to develop a sampling frame of college graduates in order to conduct the NSCG, possibly triggering loss of that critical data source as well.

In short, then, I believe that eliminating ACS question 12 would hobble the nation's capability to understand and adapt to the reality of a rapidly evolving global economy.

312 I am writing to object to the Department of Commerce and the Census Bureau dropping six marriage and undergraduate education questions from the American Community Survey. As a doctoral student in sociology at the University of Kansas, my colleagues and I rely on the breadth and quality of statistical information offered by the Census Bureau in our research and teaching. Dropping these questions would significantly inhibit the ability of my colleagues doing research in the sociology of marriage and family to track marriage and education trends that are the foundation of effective and informed public policy.

313 Attached please find a letter from [redacted], President of NCHEMS, regarding the potential loss of "Field of Degree" question on the American Community Survey....
[Text of attachment] As an organization that has conducted many studies of educational return on investment using the American Community Survey (ACS) we are very concerned and disappointed about the potential loss of the "field of degree" question for bachelor's degree recipients. It has been one of the most valuable additions to the survey in a long time, and the information it has provided to the postsecondary education research and policy communities was long awaited. Using this data, for the first time in history, it is possible to:

* Determine the annual wages/earnings of bachelor's degree recipients by field of study – i.e. which college majors yield the highest wages in the employment market, and vise-versa. In addition, these data can be disaggregated by demographic characteristics such as age, race/ethnicity, gender, etc.

* Determine the economic conditions for college majors across states. It is the first time we have been able to compare the earnings of baccalaureate graduates – by field of study – across states. State employment conditions and outcomes for certain graduates vary dramatically. The most relevant policy regarding the linkages between field of study and employment outcomes are at the state-level. Now we have comparative data and information to help us better understand these differences – and provide a policy context for focusing on certain degree fields in postsecondary education.

* Establish a greater understanding of the link between college majors and occupations, as well industries. For many baccalaureate majors, there are no direct links to specific occupations – i.e. many in the liberal arts, sciences, and business fields, for example. These data give us a good sense of which baccalaureate majors lead to certain types (or clusters) of occupations and industries.

* Gauge earnings and employment over time. Much of the work done in states, linking postsecondary and wage record databases, only captures employment and earnings of college graduates (by field of study) 1-5 years after completion. The inclusion of data from the ACS has enabled us to determine (albeit on a cross-sectional basis) the earnings and employment characteristics of graduates by field of study throughout their working careers. Most of us don't realize our maximum wage gains until 10 to 20 years after completing college.

* Understand the earnings of baccalaureate graduates by field of study relative to the investment needed to earn the credentials – i.e. return on investment. There is a great deal of attention being paid at both the federal and state levels to college credentials that "pay off". These data allow us, and the public if used properly, to establish a more meaningful connection between college costs and what is expected in return – the types of occupations graduates are likely to obtain, and the earnings they can expect as a result.

Since the release of these data in 2010, we have been using them routinely in our postsecondary policy work in states. They provide an avenue of understanding about the benefits of baccalaureate degrees that we have not had before. Also, there have been at least two very influential reports that have utilized the data from

314 Dear Ms. Jessup: Given the importance of mathematics, science and engineering to our country, it is vitally important that we benefit from the census data on these capabilities within the society and the age distribution to the extent possible. We are at a unique time in the world where talent in the STEM (science , technology, engineering and math) fields is critical to our national and economic security.

The range of questions that STEM fields address are so significant it is hard to imagine why this would not be critical information for the country to have on a regular basis. It ranges from agriculture -- to feed the society; to medical research for health; to national security given the challenges of nuclear weapons, biological and chemical weapons etc. And, our economic future is surely tied to information sciences and the Internet and we are now not producing the talent needed to replace those retiring.

As I suspect you know well, the technical talent in our country has been greatly augmented since about 1970 by foreign born and educated students who came to the US for advanced degrees and stayed in the country and built many companies and staffed others with exceptional talent. Many from China, India and other Asian nations are now returning to their home countries and that information is best captured in a statistical manner through the census data. We need factual information to make sure the country prospers and is successful.

Thank you very much for considering my appeal and for the importance of capturing data that is so essential to the nation's future.

315 I'm surprised to learn that items in the ACS that are at the heart of two major social institutions, education and family, are the focus of possible deletion from the survey. There are an array of social problems that are related to various aspects of education and family formation. For example, in my research on homicide over the past 30 years, divorce rates are one of the primary and consistent predictors of homicide rates across the U.S. Without such measures, we are that much more limited in our ability to understand important issues such as violence in society.

I hope careful consideration be given to these plans to omit items from the ACS and that the decision is to retain these questions.

316 No more marriage, divorce & education questions? Really? I just received this notice from NHGIS. This is very, very troubling news for a historian whose "Social History of the Brooklyn Irish" was heavily dependent on such information, and for a secondary school teacher whose research students have made hay with census-based studies.

317 I am writing to issue my concern over the proposed reduction in questions in the ACS. I feel that it is very innapropriate to remove the questions on marital status (#21a-c, 22, and 23) and undergraduate education (#12). Both of these questions can provide invaluable information for researchers who study population vulnerability. The marriage questions, in particular, is also a principal variable needed to study rates of domestic violence and community action needs. These results, therefore, do not just impact research but can also impact analysis of neighborhoods in need of aid/assistance during troubling or hazardous times.

I would ask you to please reconsider the proposed removal of these questions, so research and aid can continue unhindered.

318 I am a member of the National Council for Family Relations and they recently informed members the census bureau is intending to drop a number of family-related questions from the American Community Survey. It is important not to remove these questions because 1) they provide a reliable source of data (with the possibility of separation by state or city) on the frequency of marriage, divorce, etc. 2) they measure groups that are not adequately represented in smaller scale surveys 3) they allow for an national examination of the effects of various social programs and policies.

I read a very interesting poster from someone who works in the census office at NCFR this year. She used the ACS data for her analyses (along with so many other researchers) and I was able to gain invaluable information about the types of family transitions children experience via her work. It would be a huge shame to cut these questions.

319 I am writing to ask that the following questions not be removed from the American Community Survey (ACS):

In the past 12 months did this person get married?
In the past 12 months did this person get widowed?
In the past 12 months did this person get divorced?
How many times has this person been married?
In what year did this person last get married?

I am a family scientist, and questions such as these in a survey as reliable as the ACS are vital and indispensable for what I study. I need the data that can be collected through these questions for the rest of my career! The research that relies on these questions is valuable for understanding the the effects of various policies and social programs on married and unmarried individuals. Please do not eliminate our most reliable source of data on the frequency of marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage!

Thank you for understanding the importance of this!

320 I am writing to express my very serious concerns regarding proposed changes to the American Community Survey. As a tenure-track faculty member at a major research university I rely on data from the U.S. Census Bureau, primarily the ACS, for my research on divorce, remarriage, and stepfamilies. While my research primarily focuses on better understanding family processes in these complex families that influence various indicators of child, marital, and family well-being, it is essential to my work that we continue to measure, track, and understand the changing family context in the United States. The questions I am specifically concerned about are:

• In the past 12 months did this person get married?
• In the past 12 months did this person get widowed?
• In the past 12 months did this person get divorced?
• How many times has this person been married?
• In what year did this person last get married?

We must continue to include these questions because the ACS is the most reliable source of national, state, and city data on the frequency of marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage. It is the only data source that can measure marital behavior in relatively small groups in the population, such as Asian Americans, and it is the only national source of information on the frequency of same-sex marriage and the characteristics of the same-sex married population. As a researcher, I cannot be clearer about the importance of this data collection for very practical issues that are relevant to the average American, because the ACS provides the best quality national data for estimating the effects of social programs and policies on married and unmarried populations.

I hope you will agree that this is an important matter that is worth your serious consideration. Thank you for your time.

321 I am a marriage and family therapist writing to you about my concerns with the decision to remove marital survey questions from the Census. As a mental health provider trained specifically on the treatment of relationships and families the stats collected by these questions are vital to my ability to provide the best services to my clients. These statistics are integral in the development of new treatment models, family/marriage research, and training of new mental health professionals. Below are four key ways the ACS aids my field:

1. The ACS is the most reliable source of national, state, and city data on the frequency of marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage.
2. The ACS is the only data source that can measure marital behavior in relatively small groups in the population, such as Asian Americans.
3. The ACS is the only national source of information on the frequency of same-sex marriage and the characteristics of the same-sex married population.
4. The ACS provides the best quality national data for estimating the effects of social programs and policies on married and unmarried populations.

Please reconsider the decision to remove these survey questions.

322 I am contacting you to ask that you exercise your influence over decisions about the census to refrain from eliminating several questions about marriage and family. There are many reasons for my request, but to name a few:

-very misleading information about the divorce rate abounds that likely contributes to unnecessary pessimism about marriage, which can become a self-fulfilling prophesy for increased divorce; census data can help with accurate data
-regardless of how anyone views marriage, it is the predominant long-term relationship form and still highly sought after by the vast majority of people; understanding trends in marriage is vital to all sorts of policy decisions and programs
-eliminating these questions can send a message that marriage is seen as irrelevant to social policy; as we've seen, marriage is currently on the forefront of much social discourse and policy
-since data is being gathered anyway, it is difficult to imagine that keeping these important questions is adding significantly to government burdens, especially considering how important this information is.

I hope you will strongly consider this request and I appreciate your attention to it.

323 As a marriage and family researcher, I would ask that you please reconsider cutting the following:

Proposed cuts
Here are the questions that will be discontinued:
~ In the past 12 months did this person get married?
~ In the past 12 months did this person get widowed?
~ In the past 12 months did this person get divorced?
~ How many times has this person been married?
~ In what year did this person last get married?

Key issues

1. The ACS is the most reliable source of national, state, and city data on the frequency of marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage.
2. The ACS is the only data source that can measure marital behavior in relatively small groups in the population, such as Asian Americans.
3. The ACS is the only national source of information on the frequency of same-sex marriage and the characteristics of the same-sex married population.
4. The ACS provides the best quality national data for estimating the effects of social programs and policies on married and unmarried populations.

324 As a family scientist engaged in research and teaching, I am writing to express the importance of continuing the inclusion of the family questions on the American Community Survey:

In the past 12 months did this person get married?
In the past 12 months did this person get widowed?
In the past 12 months did this person get divorced?
How many times has this person been married?
In what year did this person last get married?

The continuation of these questions is critical to identifying areas of risk and resilience for families since they provide the "go-to" source of data on key issues such as marriage, divorce, widowhood, remarriage. Further, these data are central to understanding the effects of social programs and policies on married and unmarried populations in general and in particular groups that are a growing part of the US population (e.g., Asian Americans). Finally, with the current transformation of marriage in the US to include same sex couples, this data is vital to tracking population trends and characteristics of these relationships.

Thank you for considering the vital nature of continuing these questions in the ACS.

325 I learned through the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) that the Census Bureau is considering removing a series of family-related questions from the ACS. This would be a travesty to those of us who are family scholars so I ask that you reconsider making these changes.

The ACS is the most reliable source of national, state, and city data on the frequency of marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage. It is the only data source that can measure marital behavior in relatively small groups in the population, such as Asian Americans. In addition, the ACS is the only national source of information on the frequency of same-sex marriage and the characteristics of the same-sex married population. Moreover, the ACS provides the best quality national data for estimating the effects of social programs and policies on married and unmarried populations.

These data are extremely important to those of us who study families and family-related issues. The five questions which may be cut lead to such valuable research and studies on families that it does not make much sense, and I encourage the Census Bureau to reconsider this decision.

326 I was greatly disturbed to hear about the proposed plan to remove key items about marriage and divorce from the American Community Survey (namely: In the past 12 months did this person get married? In the past 12 months did this person get widowed? In the past 12 months did this person get divorced? How many times has this person been married? In what year did this person last get married?) Marriage (and divorce) is an incredibly important experience that the majority of the adult population experiences in their lifetime. How do I know this? Because of past data collected through the Census and more recently ACS. Without these questions we will be the only country in the world that is unable to accurately report on rates of marriage and divorce in our population. This information allows us to track social change over time, such as the decreasing rate of marriages and divorces that we have seen over the past decade. It also allows us to directly address scientifically unsound arguments, like that which is often lobbied against the push for gay marriage; that allowing gay marriage will "ruin" the institution of heterosexual marriage.

As a student who is just beginning what I hope to be a long career studying this topic, I very much hope that you will see that these questions are not "low benefit," but are in fact incredibly important to our society.

327 My name is [redacted]. I am a member of the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR). I am highly concerned about these proposed cuts from the American Community Survey and would like to petition you to consider the many people this will impact in a negative way if these cuts occur. Some of my colleagues in the NCFR are using the statistics from this survey for their research on things such as the frequency of marriage, divorce, widowhood and remarriage within a specific year. Also, this survey offers the best quality national data for estimating the effects of social programs and policies on married and unmarried populations.

I am begging you to please carefully consider all of the options (pros, cons, and the affects of either) before making a decision to cut or not cut these questions in the American Community Survey.

Thank you for your time and attention! I hope you have a wonderful day!

328 With regard to the proposed elimination of the of several important questions related to family formation and composition, the ACS should retain survey question items which allow a reliable source of national, state, and city data on the frequency of marriage, divorce, widowhood, remarriage, never-married and same-sex marriage among the various populations in the U.S.

329 I received some disappointing news this morning from the National Council for Family Relations (NCFR). I learned that several important family questions may be dropped from the ACS. These questions include those pertaining to marriage, divorce, and widowhood.

As a family science researcher and practitioner, the removal of these questions is concerning as the ACS is the most reliable source of national, state, and city data on the frequency of marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage. Additionally, the ACS provides family information on small groups such as Asian Americans, the same-sex married population, and on estimating effects of various policies on married and unmarried populations.

We as a field and as a country need access to such information. I ask that these changes not being taken lightly and that serious consideration is given to keeping these questions on the ACS.

330 I was just alerted by the National Council on Family Relations that there is a move at the census bureau to drop some questions related to marriage from the American Community Survey. Specifically, I was alerted that the following questions were being considered for removal:

In the past 12 months did this person get married?
In the past 12 months did this person get widowed?
In the past 12 months did this person get divorced?
How many times has this person been married?
In what year did this person last get married?

Was curious to know why this change was being considered. Contingent upon the strength of the justification, I would ask that you consider retaining the above questions because they provide a nice set of descriptive data that can be referenced for a variety of purposes.
I hope you had a happy Thanksgiving and that you have an enjoyable upcoming holiday season!

Thanks for your consideration.

331 I am writing in reference to the proposed changes to the ACS, referring specifically to the family related questions that are to be cut, namely:

~ In the past 12 months did this person get married?
~ In the past 12 months did this person get widowed?
~ In the past 12 months did this person get divorced?
~ How many times has this person been married?
~ In what year did this person last get married?

As a family studies scholar who examines the dynamics of marital and remarital relationships, these proposed cuts are alarming to me. Within the family studies research area very few datasets currently exist which include questions regarding remarriage. These above questions are vital to the area I study and if discontinued will further limit the datasets I can go to for future research and analysis.

Currently, the ACS is one of the most reliable sources for data on marriage, divorce, and remarriage. It is also the only data source that examines small groups of populations, otherwise unexamined. Without the current questions included in the ACS, I will no longer be able to use ACS for my research purposes.

I strongly encourage the Census Bureau to reconsider cutting these questions from the ACS survey. Without this knowledge, family scholars will be further inhibited in their examination of the family and couple relationships. As a result scholars will have further difficulty in identifying these populations for targeted interventions and research.

332 As a family therapist and family life educator, who relies heavily on the research done about family structure and trends, I am opposed to the Census Bureau eliminating ACS categories from the census for the following reasons:

1. The ACS is the most reliable source of national, state, and city data on the frequency of marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage.
2. The ACS is the only data source that can measure marital behavior in relatively small groups in the population, such as Asian Americans.
3. The ACS is the only national source of information on the frequency of same-sex marriage and the characteristics of the same-sex married population.
4. The ACS provides the best quality national data for estimating the effects of social programs and policies on married and unmarried populations.

Please reconsider eliminating the ACS from future census forms.

333 As a member of the National Council on Family Relations, I'd like to see the American Community Survey (ACS) continues to include questions on marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage. ACS is the most reliable source of national data on these measures. I believe the drop of these questions from ACS will be a tremendous loss, which would significantly limit research activities of family sociologists like me. I'd like you to reconsider the decision that has been made.

334 My name is [redacted], and I am currently a graduate student in psychology working on research on relationships and marriage. I was recently informed about proposed changes to the American Community Survey that would remove items regarding marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage. I just wanted to write and let you know how important these questions are for much of the research I work on, as well as much research in the larger field. The ACS is the only source for much of the information we use, and it would be a great loss if these items were no longer included in the survey. I'm sure you have many factors to take into account when making these decisions, but as an emerging scholar interested in using these questions to help promote healthy marriages and healthy relationships, I would strongly encourage you to keep these questions in the survey, if at all possible.

335 My name is [redacted]. I am postdoctoral research fellow at the Refugee Trauma and Resilience Center at the Boston Children's Hospital/Harvard Medical School. My broader training is in Human Development and Family Science, and I study the effects of immigration and acculturation on immigrant and refugee youth and their families. I am writing in relation to the proposed changes to the American Community Survey. It is my understanding that the Census Bureau is planning to drop a series of family-related questions from the American Community Survey. As someone who studies families, I wanted to express my concern related to this move. Those questions in ACS are extremely important to everyone who studies families. For example, the ACS is the only data source that can measure marital behavior in relatively small groups in the population, such as Asian Americans. I would kindly ask you to be an advocate for keep these extremely important questions in the ACS as they provide invaluable information related to the makeup of our country.

336 It has come to my attention that the Census Bureau is planning to drop a series of family-related questions from the American Community Survey (ACS). For those who study families, this change will be a major loss. We rely heavily on the data from the ACS, as it is the most reliable source of national, state, and city data on the frequency of marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage. It is the only data source that can measure marital behavior in relatively small groups in the population, such as Asian Americans. It is also the only national source of information on the frequency of same-sex marriage and the characteristics of the same-sex married population. Lastly, the ACS provides the best quality national data for estimating the effects of social programs and policies on married and unmarried populations. As a professor in the field of Family Studies at the University of Montevallo, this has a dramatic, direct effect on my ability to provide current, reliable statistics to my students.

I respectfully urge you to keep the family-related questions on the ACS, as the implications for educators, and ultimately the value this is to students, will be great. Thank you for your time.

337 Please keep the current questions in the census. They serve a purpose far beyond the merits of saving people time.

338 I am writing to ask that you seriously reconsider the proposal of the Census Bureau to drop a series of family-related questions from the American Community Survey (ACS). For those of us who study families, this change would be very detrimental.

The dropping of these questions would be detrimental for the following reasons. The ACS is the most reliable source of national, state, and city data on the frequency of marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage. It is the only data source that can measure marital behavior in relatively small groups in the population, such as Asian Americans. It is the only national source of information on the frequency of same-sex marriage and the characteristics of the same-sex married population. It provides the best quality national data for estimating the effects of social programs and policies on married and unmarried populations.

It would great loss. Please reconsider.

339 I would like to add my voice in support of preserving the marital history question in the American Community Survey. I plan to use these questions in my analysis of the changing geographic patterns of young college graduates at the local level, and losing these questions will mean that I would not be able to perform this analysis on future years.

Another example of the basic importance of understanding marital patterns for different socioeconomic and demographic groups comes from yesterday's New York Times: http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/07/opinion/sunday/the-real-reason-richer-people-marry.html?emc=eta1

340 I recently learned that the Census Bureau is planning to drop a series of family-related questions from the American Community Survey (ACS). As a family scholar, this change will be a major loss to our understanding of marriage in our nation for four key reasons.

First, I consider the ACS the most reliable source of national, state, and city data on the frequency of marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage. This will be a huge loss to our understanding of demographic trends in the U.S.

Second, the ACS is the only data source that can measure marital behavior in small groups in the population, such as Asian Americans.

Third, the ACS is the only national source of information on the frequency of same-sex marriage and the characteristics of the same-sex married population. This information is key for policy making decisions and for providing the best services to this understudied population.

Fourth, the ACS provides the best quality national data for estimating the effects of social programs and policies on married and unmarried populations.

Please reconsider the importance of these items and keep them in the ACS.

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341 The ACS is a valuable resource that we need to continually fund. These data are needed for essential longitudinal analyses which are required in order to make causal inferences about how our policies work and do not work in the U.S.

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342 As both researcher and practicioner, I am alarmed at the idea of any cuts to the ACS. It is my primary source of data for almost all analysis I perform. As a researcher, there is no comparable source of demographic data, and that provided by private entities is nowhere comparable in scale or quality. That the ACS provides data in a time series format also makes a number of interrupted time series analysis possible.

As a practicing planner, the role that the ACS performs by providing both an authoritative source for local planning estimates cannot be underestimated. There is minimal argument about data from the ACS--everyone recognizes it provides the best available data, and provides a firm foundation for cooperative decision making.

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343 Please do NOT alter or eliminate the marriage history questions on the American Community Survey! I am an economist at UC Berkeley and Vanderbilt University and I rely on the ACS constantly for high quality data on important social outcomes. One of the most valuable aspects of the US Censuses and the ACS is their continuity over time. Large samples of well-measured outcomes over a long time frame are invaluable in understanding how society changes and how major policies affect Americans. Changes or gaps in question text or availability greatly limit our ability to understand social trends, and to describe and anticipate the influence of policies.

With respect to marriage specifically, one major goal of 1996's welfare reforms was to encourage marriage. Did it succeed? Without datasets like the ACS to provide information on marriage histories before and after major policy changes this question is unanswerable. Citizens and voters must be informed. Policy makers must be up to speed. Politicians must be accountable. None of these things is possible without good data.

Please do not abridge the ACS!

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344 I wanted to express my concern at the proposed removal of questions relating to marriage from the ACS. As a graduate student interested in the effects of family planning and abortion access on family formation and fertility, information about when and how many times Americans have been married is of great importance to me. The ACS represents the largest and most representative survey of Americans, allowing researchers to look at effects of policy changes among small groups of people that are not possible with other smaller data sets. Losing information on the number of times Americans have been married would hinder a great deal of research on family trends, family formation, and other outcomes that are of interest to policy makers.

Particularly since the questions are rated low cost, I sincerely hope that the Census Bureau will reconsider removing the marriage questions from the ACS.

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345 I am a professor in the field of psychology and family studies, and recently was made aware of the proposed changes in the American Community Survey.
In my professional opinion, these cuts would be a significant loss for the demographers of the USA, as well as for professors, students, and family service providers. More specifically, I would like to share these key issues with you:

1. The ACS is the most reliable source of national, state, and city data on the frequency of marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage.
2. The ACS is the only data source that can measure marital behavior in relatively small groups in the population, such as Asian Americans.
3. The ACS is the only national source of information on the frequency of same-sex marriage and the characteristics of the same-sex married population.
4. The ACS provides the best quality national data for estimating the effects of social programs and policies on married and unmarried populations.

I appreciate your time and consideration.

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346 I write to strongly discourage cut to the American Community Survey, particularly questions that help researchers track the marriage, divorce rates, and remarriage rates.

As a researcher who studies stepfamilies, these data are very important to our work and cutting these items from the survey damages our ability to understand these understudied families. At present there are few sources of reliable data and the ACS is an extremely important source.

I do encourage a reevaluation of these plans.

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347 As a retired DOC/ESA economist and high school social studies teacher, I recoil at the thought that Census (the Congress) is considering paring down the scope of coverage of the ACS. Research economists, political scientists, and sociologists depend on this kind of data to evaluate the health of the US economy, the effectiveness of government policies, and the evolution of American society. Without thorough, detailed, and consistent (over time) measures such as those contained in the American Community Survey (and all of the other data collection programs administered by the Census Bureau, for that matter) public policy researchers would lack the data necessary to anticipate and test the impacts of government policies.

As a social studies teacher I worry that short-sighted measures such as these could end up restricting the availability of reliable data - on demand and free of charge - to the general public, seriously hampering our efforts to provide members of the next generation with the tools they need to become critical thinkers and responsible citizens.

I ask you to reconsider any measures to cut back on the critical service the Census provides for our country.

348 I am writing in regards to the proposed elimination of the Undergraduate field of study (question #12) from the ACS. My current work as a Ph.D. candidate at Duke University, and much of my future work as a researcher depends entirely on these sorts of questions. I and other researchers have been able to use these data to investigate a number of crucial questions about how students choose their college major, how STEM majors insure college graduates against recessions, and how major-specific labor markets influence student's major choice.

These questions aren't just interesting per se. The answers to these questions are of paramount importance to the design and implementation of policy designed to increase the number of STEM graduates; improve the labor market outcomes of college graduates (and hence reduce federal student loan default rates); and increase the overall participation, retention, and completion rates of US students in higher education.

Clearly, given just these interests that the government has in higher education, understanding what field students choose to study is as, and possibly more important than the level of education they choose. And in the future, as more and more people complete college educations, data on level of education will become far less relevant. So while I understand the tradeoff of including this question vs. increasing response rates, I think this question in particular is far too important now and in the future to drop.

349 I recently learned of a proposal to remove seven questions from the American Community Survey (ACS): marital history (questions #21a-c, 22, and 23); and field of undergraduate degree question (question #12). If I understood the radio report correctly, people object to being asked about the number of times they have been married.

While I cannot speak to the need for these questions to the proper function and performance of the agency, I do believe that the information has practical utility. Knowing the undergraduate degrees of a community can be correlated with the income levels of a community. It can be compared to surrounding communities. It can be seen to change over time. These are useful and practical pieces of information about community that can be used by community members, guidance counselors, university recruiters, as well as family history researchers. Marital history information tells of trend within the community, how they are the same or different from neighboring communities, and allows for broad demographic comparisons over time. Future family history researchers will greatly appreciate the detail provided on these forms.
I have never felt responding to census collection was a burden. I use census data about economic information and family stability in our community when writing grant proposals for our day care. As an amateur genealogist, I await the release of census data eagerly, and love the details that can be found in old records. At some future date, these records will also be made available, and the greater the number of details, the more complete a picture that future researcher will be able to form of their ancestor. Please keep these questions in place. They only take moments to answer.

350 We have been informed that there may be cuts to some of the questions in the ACF (e.g., How many times has this person been married?).

Please do not remove these important questions.

We rely so much on the ACF to know about current demographics of individuals, couples, families, and child development. Removal of the question about marriage, for example, would greatly reduce our knowledge about the “gray” divorce and predictors and consequences of later-life divorce for individuals, ex-spouses, relationships with children and family, and reliance on systems like Medicare and/or Medicaid. This knowledge is really needed given the aging population of our society, and the great many unknowns they may face. We really need data like the ACF to advance our knowledge of individuals, couples, families, and child development.

Thank you very much for consideration of this request.

351 The ACS represents an invaluable annual source of health insurance information at the national, state and local level. With its large sample size, it is also the source of information on insurance coverage, or lack of coverage, among subpopulations of interest, including disparities populations. The introduction of the Health Insurance Marketplace dramatically changed the way health insurance is purchased; however, the ACS health insurance series is not designed to pick up enrollment in the Marketplace. Tracking enrollment in the Marketplace is important given the resources invested to provide broad access to quality health insurance products. As the Census Bureau contemplates removing items outlined in the Federal Register, please consider adding ‘Marketplace’ to the list of sources of coverage and adding additional questions on premiums and premium subsidies aimed at tracking the health insurance market.

As a researcher that primarily focuses on issues related to health insurance, these questions would be quite valuable to my research agenda. In addition, I do a great deal of policy-related work for both the state of Georgia and the state of Kentucky. Both states value the expertise I bring to the table in terms of health insurance related research. These questions would further that expertise and allow me to do a better job in terms of my policy work for these states.

352 Re the Notice "Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; The American Community Survey Content Review Results" by the Census Bureau of 10/31/14 in the Federal Register (https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2014/10/31/2014-25912/proposed-information-collection-comment-request-the-american-community-survey-content-review-results), comment due date 31 December 2014:

Questions such as
Person Question No. 21a—Get Married—In the past 12 months did this person get—Married?
Person Question No. 21b—Get Widowed—In the past 12 months did this person get—Widowed?
Person Question No. 21c—Get Divorced—In the past 12 months did this person get—Divorced?
Person Question No. 22—Times Married—How many times has this person been married?
Person Question No. 23—Year Last Married —In what year did this person last get married?
are significant in the context of health outcomes studies, disparities research and other domains of inquiry as marital status and life disruptive or transitional events such as spousal death, marriage, divorce, and elapsed time from disruption have significant impact on health status in a variety of contexts (not least of all mental health), including gender differential effects and impact on child well-being, to name a few. These questions track social developments of import in themselves, and also provide important control variables by geography in various contexts when other data do not capture such distributions or when correlations among variables need to be addressed (such as the need for instrumental variables).
The proposal to eliminate those questions is socially and methodologically short sighted.
Regarding the remaining two questions listed in the Federal Register,
No. 6—Business/Medical Office on Property—Is there a business (such as a store or barber shop) or a medical office on this property? Show citation box
Person Question No. 12—Undergraduate Field of Degree—This question focuses on this person's Bachelor's Degree. Please print below the specific major(s) of any Bachelor's Degrees this person has received.
although my health services research background finds No. 6 of interest, No. 12 is likely much less easily reconstructed and potentially of interest from a geographically denominated social capital point of view.
Not much paper is going to be saved through these eliminations compared to the loss of policy relevant-research and information. It is hard to construct sound policy in the dark. Elimination of 21a-c, 22, and 23 will considerably dim our insight. Retaining these is the sound course.

353 I am writing to express my strong support of retaining the marital history and undergraduate degree questions that are currently part of the American Community Survey (ACS) . The reasons for doing so are very succinctly and convincingly outlined by Steven Ruggles and The Minnesota Population Center Website, which can be found at http://family-studies.org/why-the-census-should-keep-asking-about-marital-history/.

These questions are vital for understanding family change and educational trends in the U.S. The data generated by these questions provide detailed information on the lives of American children, adults, and families not available elsewhere.

Not retaining these questions would be great loss to hundreds if not thousands of reseachers and agencies who rely on these data, as well as millions of students who need this information to understand the dramatic demographic and social challenges facing American Society today and in the future.

Please, please reconsider your plans to delete these questions from the ACS.

354 As a recent graduate from the University of California, Berkeley, I believe that cutting funds to the American Community Survey would greatly affect data analysis that can help shape social policy. Please help maintain an appropriate budget for the American Community Survey.

355 I would like to strongly urge that the American Community Survey retain Question 12 but that the survey disaggregate the very different areas currently aggregated together under philosophy, religious studies and theology. Philosophy, as a traditional academic discipline, is distinct from religious studies and theology. By lumping these fields together, the survey not merely fails to provide useful information about the study of philosophy, it also encourages misleading generalizations.

356 PLEASE continue collecting all ACS data fields. The loss of updated data fields will have a significant detrimental effect on social research! Each field represents the potential of multiple studies that can be performed at a national, regional, and local level, and readily compared regionally.

We are in a big data age. Current data methods require longitudinal data. ACS data fields collected for a long time, and then dropped, become unusable for most studies. Retaining fields for very long time periods and continuing collection today builds a legacy, a social history of the U.S. This is the point of the U.S. Census and ACS.

Since the release of the 2000 Census, the use of spatial analysis methods has exploded. Over 5 million homes were lost to foreclosure during the last recession, and the 2010 Census release has spurred countless studies that include important analysis of how the Great Recession impacted communities. Information about the types of people affected is critical to identify factors that may increase neighborhood resilience. Rebuild neighborhoods and cities to withstand future crises is a key challenge for our cities. Analysis relies heavily on longitudinal ACS demographic data. I am not aware of any fields collected by the U.S. Government that are not usable. Instead, marketing data and primary data is needed to augment U.S. Government fields.

No privately gathered data has the kind of cross-regional validity and reliability as the federally-sponsored data. For instance, housing Infogroup data, a commonly-used, rich marketing source, does not cross-validate well with U.S. Census, ACS, and American Housing Survey. Excluding InfoGroup studies from my current meta-analysis of housing affordability near transit stations changed one metric in my study from a 14% discount to a 2% premium. Without U.S. government data sources for validation, I would not know that the 14% discount is not the correct metric.

States, regions, and municipalities are counting on the ACS to use the power of the U.S. government to collect and validate national household data, while protecting privacy. No other body, public or private, has the ability to provide data for cross-regional comparisons, over long periods of time. Please do not compromise the legacy of the ACS.

357 I write to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, in particular about one of the American Community Survey questions, person question 12.

I believe it is in the national interest to continue to ask respondents about their Undergraduate Field of Degree.

Also, I believe that the current coding system, which puts Philosophy together with Religion, should be changed. The two degrees should not be aggregated. These are very different disciplines.

358 I wish to add my voice to the chorus of philosophers who are dismayed at seeing Philosophy being aggregated with Religious Studies (and even Theology) in question 12 (or anywhere else for that matter). They are completely different disciplines. Most philosophers don't do anything that has to do with religion. Some do philosophy of religion. But many do philosophy of science, metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of mind, philosophy of neuroscience, philosophy of biology, etc. etc. etc. Philosophy majors also do very differently on other standardized tests such as for law and other professional tracks. They are more like math majors. They are very different, and get very different training, from religion majors.

359 The ACS questions on marriage and undergraduate field of study are extremely necessary for understanding our society, effects of policy changes, the number of people eligible for programs, and gaps or strengths in our work force. If these are taken out of the ACS then we will either need to go back to measuring marital history using vital records (which could be even more expensive) or try to run this great country on hardly any information. Why would we do that? The United States -- leader of the free world -- deserves to have the information necessary to move forward with confidence.
Please keep the marriage and field of study questions on the ACS.
Thank you for your attention.

360 Thank you for your hard work on trying to design a better and more efficient ACS. I do not know the details of the proposed cuts, but I do know that as an academic urban researcher, having good longitudinal spatial data on poverty in particular is of the utmost importance to many in my field, myself included. Data on marriage, divorce, and widowhood are also important, especially as researchers begin to track spatial demographic changes in light of the increasing legalization of marriage equality. Neighborhood and regional change happens at times at a quicker pace than is recorded by the decennial census, and the more detailed reportings of the ACS are essential for us social scientists to do our work.

Thank you again for your time and consideration.

361 I was just alerted to proposed cuts to ACS data:
The American Community Survey is threatened with cuts to questions about marriage, divorce, widowhood and poverty. We need good data to do analyses, and to create appropriate social policy. If you care about this, direct your written comments to: Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at jjessup@doc.gov). Comments will be accepted until December 30.

This deeply affects our work as planning researchers and practitioners. Please comment!

362 I am a researcher at the University of California, Berkeley. I just wanted to voice my concern over cuts to questions in the American Community Survey about marriage, divorce, widowhood, and (especially) poverty. All these data are very important in city planning and policy research, and the loss of that information going forward would be substantial.

363 Question 12 on the ACS, the question which asks the survey respondent's major, should not be eliminated. Instead, the ACS should retain question 12 but allow "philosophy" as its own, distinct major, disaggregating philosophy and religious studies. These majors should be processed, coded and reported as distinct areas of study.

364 Greetingss: Please provide me any information n what I jut heard in respect to trimming the data collected via the ACS. We need more data not less. Thanks

365 Subject: Please don't cut the questions on marriage and divorce
Cutting these questions will leave a tremendous hole in my research on families and secular trends in family structure. Also, since I am involved with intervention studies to strengthen couple relationships, the absence of demographic data on marriage and divorce makes my task immeasurably more difficult

366 Since so many social policies are based on marital status (ex:health care,death benefits). It is important that we understand the marriage and divorce demographics in this country. I hope you will not limit fundning to the American Community Survey . It might be that depending on policy aims we want or need to decouple marriage and any benefits, it might not, but we can't know the impact with out the data.

367 Please separate philosophy from religious studies on the ACS.

368 In order to make good policy decisions, we MUST have data to analyze and to plot trends.

I urge you not to cut questions about marriage, divorce, and widowhood from the American Community Survey.

369 Everyone knows that marriage is one of the best, if not the best, indicator of success in this life, being well adjusted, raising good kids and staying out of poverty. I think it would be foolish to be in the dark about "marriage" issues. Keep the questions.

370 The martial history data was originally collected by the CDC, but discontinued in 1996.
This is the only source for this valuable set of statistics.

We perform analysis on quality of life issues and release reports and studies which are read by millions in the popular media.
Our web site has 1.5 million viewers monthly and continues to grow.

Beyond the obvious insights the statistics provide, we also use the data as components in analysis to forecast crime and produce other indices.

To help the public, business and government make smart decisions about the future, we need more information, not less, and at the lowest level possible.

Thank you, and please contact me if you have any questions.

371 Please find attached a letter with a comment on the proposal to eliminate question 12 from the ACS.
[Text from attachment] I am writing
(1) to urge that the Census Bureau not eliminate question 12 from the American Community Survey, and
(2) to urge that in retaining question 12 the Census Bureau disaggregate the philosophy major from religious studies and theology majors.
On the first point, question 12 is used by many national organizations (e.g., the NSF and the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics), as well as state and local organizations, to track the distribution of majors, and, hence, areas of technical and other expertise, nationally and by geographical distribution. These data are relevant also to tracking at the national level distribution of undergraduate majors by gender and race, and therefore helps to provide a picture of subject areas at universities nationally in which women and minorities are underrepresented, and a picture over time of important trend-lines. The information is widely used in the social sciences and in education. There is, furthermore, no other source for it. There is, therefore, a significant benefit to retaining it, and a significant cost if it is eliminated.
On the second point, philosophy is a quite distinct major from religious studies or theology. Religious studies is a interdisciplinary area of research that focuses on the nature and role of religion in human society and life. It draws on anthropology, political science, sociology, comparative literature, history and philosophy (specifically philosophy of religion, a subfield of philosophy). Philosophy should no more be aggregated with religious studies than history, anthropology, sociology, and so on, should be aggregated with religious studies. Aggregating them misrepresents both majors, and makes it impossible to track either one of them in relation to other statistical information about respondents.

372 I suggest that in Question 12 about college majors, Philosophy Majors and Religious Studies/Theology majors ought to be able to answer separately.

This is not just a question of promoting my field's (Philosophy's) distinctiveness. Philosophy has very little to do with Religion or Theology; students in philosophy often study the philosophy of science, history, art, or politics. Only a few study the subfield "philosophy of religion." The kind of thinking philosophy majors do is distinctive, kind of a meeting place between English (careful reading and interpretation) and Mathematics (rigorous logical argument).

I am sure that Religious Studies people would also appreciated the data being split out. Merging the two fields doesn't tell us much about either.

373 I would appreciate seeing the family question being continued. Why? I am involved with improving ALL relationships and having access to those Stats would be appreciated. Sharon Patey LCSW in private practice.

374 Please keep the undergraduate major codes in Question 12 on the American Community Survey.

Please separate Philosophy from Religious Studies, they are two distinct majors.

These changes will make the American Community Survey more accurate.

375 I am emailing you to express my disappointment at the Department of Commerce's decision to drop certain marriage and education questions from the American Community Survey. For those of us who use this data on a daily basis, this would be a huge loss. I have long imagined myself, in the year 2030, using the longitudinal data we are just now starting to gather, and I am of the opinion that dropping these 6 questions from the ACS now will be seen as a regrettable mistake in the future. With that said, I humbly request - hopefully adding my voice to many others' - that you act to reinstate these questions to the ACS immediately.

The data that you and your colleagues help to provide are tremendously valuable to the work that I do as an Urban Planner, and it would truly be a shame to lose this vital piece of our nation's statistical infrastructure, especially in a time where "big data" is starting to gather steam as a force in this world. While the marriage and education data may remain valuable without the ACS data, it would surely become proprietary, and there is no way that the research team I work for would be able to find the budget to get access to it.
I appreciate you taking the time to listen to my concerns.

376 Please keep the undergraduate major codes in Question 12 on the American Community Survey.
Please separate Philosophy from Religious Studies, they are two distinct majors.
These changes will make the American Community Survey more accurate.

377 I am writing in reference to the proposed changes to the ACS, referring specifically to the family related questions that are to be cut, namely:

~ In the past 12 months did this person get married?
~ In the past 12 months did this person get widowed?
~ In the past 12 months did this person get divorced?
~ How many times has this person been married?
~ In what year did this person last get married?

As a family studies scholar who examines the dynamics of marital and remarital relationships, these proposed cuts are alarming to me. Within the family studies research area very few datasets currently exist which include questions regarding remarriage. These above questions are vital to the area I study and if discontinued will further limit the datasets I can go to for future research and analysis.

Currently, the ACS is one of the most reliable sources for data on marriage, divorce, and remarriage. It is also the only data source that examines small groups of populations, otherwise unexamined. Without the current questions included in the ACS, I will no longer be able to use ACS for my research purposes.

I strongly encourage the Census Bureau to reconsider cutting these questions from the ACS survey. Without this knowledge, family scholars will be further inhibited in their examination of the family and couple relationships. As a result scholars will have further difficulty in identifying these populations for targeted interventions and research.

378 I write in response to the request for feedback on ACS questions. I'm a US citizen currently working as a philosophy professor in the UK, but with strong ties to US academia.

I would like to urge you to keep question 12, which asks about the respondent's undergraduate major. This provides invaluable information for undergraduates choosing majors – popular perception of the outcomes of particular majors are often out of step with the reality. However, please change the options available for response for this question – at the moment, philosophy, religious studies and theology are grouped together as a single major. In fact, philosophy is an entirely separate discipline from the other two, and has entirely different statistical outcomes associated with it. Grouping these three together causes considerable distortions to the data; please list philosophy individually as an optional answer for question 12.

379 I write to urge the retention of the college major question in the American Community Survey, and, additionally would ask that future surveys break out the areas currently aggregated together under philosophy, religious studies and theology. The usefulness of the college major data seems self evident to those of us working in higher education. Disaggregating the philosophy, religious studies, and theology data would be immensely helpful to all of us working in these quite distinct fields.

380 I am writing to comment on the way that philosophy is grouped together with other majors such as religious studies and theology. These are very different fields of study, students that enter these fields may come from very different backgrounds and the fields themselves may result in very different educational and income outcomes. Please process and report Question 12 with disaggregation of philosophy and religious studies; the majors should be processed, coded and reported as distinct majors.

381 I am writing to comment on the proposed cuts to the ACS data collection. I am a family researcher and view these cuts as posing significant harm to family science.

1. The ACS is the most reliable source of national, state, and city data on the frequency of marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage.
2. The ACS is the only data source that can measure marital behavior in relatively small groups in the population, such as Asian Americans.
3. The ACS is the only national source of information on the frequency of same-sex marriage and the characteristics of the same-sex married population.
4. The ACS provides the best quality national data for estimating the effects of social programs and policies on married and unmarried populations.

These cuts would significantly hamper the ability of investigators to understand demographic and family change within the US population.

382 Please keep Question 12 on the ACS survey, but please, please separate Philosophy from Religious Studies and treat them as distinct majors. These majors are only covered by the same departments at institutions where a concerted attempt has been made to marginalize both disciplines, and it is unscientific not to incorporate some acknowledgement of this fact in your methods of data collection.

383 Please process and report Question 12 with disaggregation of philosophy and religious studies; the majors should be processed, coded and reported as distinct majors. Otherwise the information is relatively useless.

384 As I understand it the ACS is proposing to eliminate Question 12, the question that asks for the respondent's undergraduate major.
However the ACS ought to process and report Question 12 with disaggregation of philosophy and religious studies; the majors should be processed, coded and reported as distinct majors. Doing so would improve the statistical accuracy of the survey. As it stands the conflation of philosophy with religious studies is an error.

385 I am a philosophy and religion double major. Believe me the fields and methods are wildly different. If religious studies should be coded with anything it should be anthropology or sociology. Not philosophy. Philosopher majors are a very different population from religion majors and that needs to be reflected in your survey.

I was directed to your email from the popular philosophy blog leiterreports.

386 I'm writing to recommend that Philosophy be treated as a category distinct from Religion (Theology, Religious Studies, etc.) in the American Community Survey. I have a Masters degree in Theology and a Doctorate in Philosophy, and can attest that they are very different in subject matter, methods, and average learning outcomes in ways that are relevant to the types of career one may have, salary, etc.

387 Please find attached my letter of support to keep the field of degree question in the ACS. It is essential in being able to provide the mandated data on S&E Personnel that the National Science Foundation is charged to provide. Thank you for your consideration.
[Text from attachment...] I am writing to request that the Census Bureau and Commerce Department keep the question of field of degree in the American Community Survey. This data is essential to maintain the National Science Foundation's ability to provide mandated information on the health of science and engineering in the United States. As a former Director of NSF's biennial Science and Engineering Indicators report, I can assure you that these data are an essential part of that Congressionally-mandated report. S&E personnel data are one of the most important indicators of the ability of the United States to maintain its leadership in research and development and to be economically competitive in a global environment. Moreover, the field-of-degree data are important in and of themselves to better understand if we are producing adequate levels of scientists and engineers in various essential fields such as computer science, engineering, and the life sciences. These data also are the basis for additional surveys for which the National Science Foundation is responsible. Dropping this question would seriously damage the ability of NSF to provide the quality and availability of S&E personnel data which are used at the national, international, state and regional levels to assess the adequacy of our research and education policies and programs. Removing the field of degree question would also adversely affect another Congressionally mandated report: Women, Minorities and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering. These data are used to assess the equity and adequacy of access to education and employment in science and engineering fields by women and persons with disabilities and are therefore essential to policy decisions and legal determinations.

I have also previously worked at the White House Office of Science and Technology and in the U.S. Senate where these data were used for a variety of policy decisions, for example about the level of funding for science and education expenditures, whether or not we needed special visa programs, and our ability to address national challenges including defense, energy, the environment, and security. The cost of the field of degree data is minimal. However, the cost of dropping the question would be extremely costly, both in financial terms, as well as its impact on the economic well-being of the Nation, and would seriously harm the federal government's ability to fulfill mandatory responsibilities. I urge you to maintain the field of degree question in the American Community Survey.

388 I am writing to ask the ACS to process and report Question 12 with a disaggregation of philosophy and religious studies. These majors should be processed, coded and reported as distinct majors. Aside from the fact that these majors are both under the umbrella of the humanities, these are distinct fields with distinct canons, methodologies, topics, etc. It is imprudent to combine them.

389 Please keep Question 12 on the ACS survey, but please, please separate Philosophy from Religious studies and treat them as distinct majors. These majors are only covered by the same departments at institutions where a concerted attempt has been made to marginalize both disciplines, and it is unscientific not to incorporate some acknowledgement of this fact in your methods of data collection.

390 I hope you had an enjoyable Thanksgiving. I am writing to express my disappointment concerning the proposal to remove questions relating to marriage and undergraduate studies from the ACS. As a social scientist, I understand that data collection can be burdensome and must be justified by tangible benefits. However, I feel that these questions have not been given their proper due with respect to their potential benefits. We need to think of the big-picture. It would be a shame if in half a century, researchers ask, "how have patterns of divorce changed over the past several decades?" and find that the data that would have answered that question were eliminated from the ACS in a short-sighted decision.

I sincerely hope you reconsider the decision to remove these questions.

391 I got your contact info from the National Historical GIS. They alerted me to the dropping of six questions from the 2015 ACS. I understand the desire to simplify the questionnaire, but I'm concerned with the notion of collecting less information with ACS. It's already a struggle to get reliable demographic numbers at the city level (our city has a pop of 78K); it would be a shame to lose even more data.

Losing these demographics would hinder our ability to understand family dynamics in our community. This would have ramifications for our outreach, particularly to youth populations. It would also be a shame to be the only developed country not tracking this information, particularly because we have such a rapidly changing marital landscape that demands quality data to understand.

I respectfully ask the DOC to reconsider their decision to remove these questions.

392 Jennifer, I am writing to express my concern over the plan to drop a series of family-related questions from the American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS is the most reliable source of national, state, and city data on the frequency of marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage. And, the ACS is the only data source that can measure marital behavior in relatively small groups in the population, such as Asian Americans. Many distinguished family scholars believe it is the only valid source data on marriage, widowhood, and divorce. I hope the US Census Bureau will reconsider. Thank you.

393 On examination of the questions that are proposed for removal, I find that ALL of them cover important information that our researchers - especially those looking at time series analysis- need.

As a representative of my institution, I request that the questions remain in the American Community Survey.

394 One thing that should definitely be changed about the ACS: under question 12, 'Philosophy' should be separate from 'Religious Studies.' Those two academic fields are very different, and it would be helpful to a lot of people to have data on just philosophy majors (or just Religious Studies majors).

Thank you very much for considering this change.

395 Please reconsider eliminating the questions pertaining to marital history and undergraduate major from the ACS. Both questions are critical to answering important open questions in the field of economics.

Economics has only recently begun exploring intra-household allocations, and how different family structures interact with economic events and public policies to affect people's welfare. For example, recent work has looked at the affect of divorce law changes on household decision making power. I realize the state level sample for these questions is small, but at the very least they are critically important variables to control for in our research.

Understanding how undergraduate major affects earnings, and how gender/racial disparities in different fields shape a host of outcomes are both critically important, open questions. Considering the possibility of these effects to change over time, it is especially important to retain this question so that researchers can document any trends.

I hope that you can find a way to keep these questions.

396 I am in favor of retaining question 12, on Undergraduate Field of Degree. However, philosophy should be allowed as its own major, distinct from religious studies and theology. Those areas are quite distinct.

397 I'm writing to offer the following comments in Question 12 of the American Community Survey -- assuming that Question 12 is retained as part of the survey: Please separate the discipline of Philosophy from those of Theology and Religious Studies. Philosophy is a quite distinct discipline from Theology and Religious Studies.

398 I hope you will reconsider the possibility of reducing the number of questions dealing with household demography and education. These issues are vital for understanding a changing America, as understanding patterns of marriage and divorce as well as education, especially as they relate to other socio-demographic variables are critical for social science research.

399 Please see attached.
[Text from attachment...] I am writing in regard to the request for comments on the proposal to drop Person Question No. 12 concerning field of undergraduate study from the American Community Survey (ACS). Not having this information would be a great loss.

As I am sure you know, this question was added to the ACS in 2009 based on recommendations from the National Academy of Sciences. It has proven to be enormously helpful to the National Science Foundation (NSF) as a sample frame for the surveys it conducts under the umbrella of the Scientists and Engineers Statistical Data System, reducing the costs and improving the quality of that survey program.

The value of the field-of-degree question, however, goes far beyond this use by the NSF. In today's economy, there is growing recognition that the supply of human capital—and especially the supply of workers with scientific and engineering qualifications—is a critical determinant of growth at the national, regional and local levels. The ACS field-of-degree data have proven to be well suited for research on this topic. Effective higher education policy requires knowing how people with degrees in different fields have fared in the labor market. The ACS field-of-degree data are uniquely well suited to provide this information. Field-of-degree data also can help to inform our understanding of the significant differences in labor market outcomes across demographic groups.

Other surveys that collect information on field of degree are simply too small to support many of the important analyses that are possible with the ACS data. Informed decisions about the investments in human capital made through the higher education system are of critical importance to our nation's future. Dropping the ACS field-of-degree questions now would be a needless self-inflicted wound.

400 ACS should RETAIN Question 12, asking for the respondent's undergraduate major.

HOWEVER, ACS should process and report philosophy as a distinct major from religious studies.

Some public use files appear to lump philosophy and religious studies majors together. They are quite different fields of study. Combining them is an anachronism, and makes it extremely difficult to reliably study the outcomes for these different majors.

401 I am writing in strong support of retaining the marital questions on the American Community Survey. As a librarian at a large research university, I work with many many students and faculty who do research using demographic data on marital events in many different departments in the humanities and social sciences. There is no alternative source for detailed annual statistics on marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage and the loss of these data would very much affect research and study.

402 Please keep the undergraduate major codes in Question 12 on the American Community Survey.
Please separate Philosophy from Religious Studies, they are two distinct majors.
These changes will make the American Community Survey more accurate.

403 Question 12 of the American Community Survey (ACS) should treat philosophy as a distinct major, rather than grouping it with religious studies, theology and other majors. Philosophy as a field of undergraduate study does not have more in common with religious studies and theology than it shares with history, some of the natural and social sciences, and even with mathematics. You will do better by disaggregating philosophy majors from others in your collection and reporting of data.

404 I am writing regarding the possibility of removing some questions from the ACS survey. As a librarian I assist patrons in accessing census data and I do use ACS data and there is interest by my patrons for field of degree (Person Question 12) and for marriage data (Person Question 21a-c at least) for gender studies and social work and I would like to see these questions continued.

Thank you for your consideration.

405 As a family academic I am writing to express my deep concern about proposed changes to the American Community survey which would limit the collection of data on marriage and divorce. ACS is the most reliable source of important data for our understanding on changes in the marital trajectories of the American population. These data are critical for research on the impact of social and economic events (such as the recent recession) on family life, particularly for smaller populations such as specific age or ethnic groups. Further, without this data it would be difficult, if not impossible, to assess the effectiveness of social and governmental programs and policies regarding marriage and family well-being. I stronger encourage you to maintain the 5 questions regarding marriage, widowhood, and divorce that are being considered for elimination from ACS.

406 Regarding ACS item #12, please preserve and make philosophy a distinct subject area/category from religious studies, theology, and the like. They are as distinct as physics and chemistry.

407 I am writing in response to the call for comments on the proposal to remove seven questions from the American Community Survey. I have no opinion about most of the questions, but I would prefer that question (12) about field of degree remain in the survey. However, I would also like to see the reporting changed. I would like to see a completely disaggregated report of the answers to that question -- especially as it relates to age and income. If the survey result is going to be reported as in this table (http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_13_1YR_B15010&prodType=table) then it is, indeed, worthless. However, if every reported field of study were actually recorded, so that you could distinguish between, say philosophy and religious studies or between English literature and Slavic languages or even between computer science and mathematics (!), it would be much more valuable. As an aside, in many surveys of this type, philosophy is not distinguished from religious studies or theology. The three are treated as equivalent. This is a gross mischaracterization of those three distinct fields that needs to stop.

408 I am writing to show my support for the keeping of all questions related to marital history and undergraduate degree field in the American Community Survey. These questions are important to my research, as well as many of my colleagues at the City of Portland. I truly hope that the decision to drop these questions from the ACS will be reconsidered.

409 I am an urban and regional geographer who regularly uses American Community Survey data in geostatistical analysis of community change. I am writing to encourage reconsideration of the decision to eliminate questions in the ACS on marriage and the major from one's undergraduate education. These are incredibly important variables for understanding community change. Marital status and educational preparation are critical predictors of all sorts of other outcomes and losing this data would be a devastating blow to our understanding of society. In an era when knowledge workers are the key to urban economic growth and innovation and we are seeing a socioeconomic divide over marriage, we need to know how communities are doing along these lines. Given that marriage is changing so rapidly, we need to watch how it is changing.

410 I am writing to you about ACS question 12. I would like to recommend that the ACS retain question 12 which asks about students' majors. Also, I would recommend that majors in "philosophy" and "religious studies" be distinguished as majors and not grouped together, since these belong to very different areas. Did you know that Benjamin Franklin was once President of the American Philosophical Society? That Thomas Jefferson studied Philosophy at the University of Virginia? Philosophy is distinct from the study of religion and it is misleading to mix them together.

411 I'm writing to you in my capacity as Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. I believe Q12, which asks about a student's undergraduate major is still important. But the collection of such data should distinguish between philosophy majors and religious studies (or theology) majors, which has not been the case in the past. These two majors are worlds apart in their area of inquiry, methods, history, and training. As such, they should be counted separately.

412 I write with great alarm and concern that soon selected questions will be dropped from the next ACS survey. If we want/need to understand and govern our great country, questions about divorce/marriage; and education especially, are *critical* to our knowledge base. How can a government perform well if it does not truly know its constituency? Governance by ignorance is the mentality of third world countries, not the United States.

413 I write to comment on the American Community Survey, Person Question No. 12—Undergraduate Field of Degree—This question focuses on this person's Bachelor's Degree. Please print below the specific major(s) of any Bachelor's Degrees this person has received.
My concern is to keep "Question 12″ as part of the survey. Please, keep question 12, and allow "Philosophy" as its own, distinct major from "Religion." These are two separate fields, not one. Information regarding each separate field is of value.

414 I would like to request that ACS keep question 12 ("Person Question No. 12—Undergraduate Field of Degree—*This question focuses on this person's Bachelor's Degree. Please print below the specific major(s) of any Bachelor's Degrees this person has received."*) on the However, I would like to request that philosophy be distinguished as a major from religious studies and theology. As a philosophy professor (at a religious institution), I think it is important to recognize that the two disciplines are concerned with very different things, employ very different methods, ought to be studied separately.

415 Please consider maintaining the family questions for the ACS. This is used by many researchers and has implications for public policy and accurate information informing key decisions that affect families in this country, esp in light of changing legislation on the legal right to marry.

The ACS is the most reliable source of national, state, and city data on the frequency of marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage.
2. The ACS is the only data source that can measure marital behavior in relatively small groups in the population, such as Asian Americans.
3. The ACS is the only national source of information on the frequency of same-sex marriage and the characteristics of the same-sex married population.
4. The ACS provides the best quality national data for estimating the effects of social programs and policies on married and unmarried populations.

416 Please do not remove the marriage questions from the ACS. Especially right now, when same-sex marriage is a completely new event, we need this information to understand both any effects of legalization and what effect marriage has on society in general.
Thank you for your consideration.

417 Per the solicitation for comments posted in the Federal Register (https://federalregister.gov/a/2014-25912) I would like to offer the following comments on the seven questions under review.

Housing Question No. 6 - In its current form, I understand why this question is perhaps viewed as having Low Benefit. However, if it were split into two questions - one requesting information about general business and a separate question about medical offices - it might be more valuable. For example, having information about the availability of medical services could be very valuable for identifying areas that currently are underserved in this respect. Also, the general business portion might be more valuable if the respondent were asked to provide a description of the type of business located there - type of goods and/or services provided.

Person Question No. 12 - This question has some importance in determining any deficiencies in certain strategic educational areas. For example, there currently is some emphasis in improving levels of students successfully completing degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Information from respondents on this question may be useful in identifying geographic focus areas for improving STEM participation. Perhaps, in the future, other degree paths will be emphasized. I would support keeping this question if only for the purpose of tracking the effectiveness of improving matriculation in STEM degree paths.

Person Question No. 21a, 21b, 21c, 22 and 23 - I believe that these questions are too personal in nature and do not provide any real value to proper and effective functioning of the government at any level (local, state or federal). The value of these questions seems to be purely sociological and therefore the purview of the academic arena. Therefore, I would support the removal of these questions outright.

I offer these comments as a data professional working in a municipal government with a focus on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and database applications. I have been involved in directly applying data from US Census Bureau throughout my career and I appreciate the effort that goes into the collection and dissemination of this valuable and necessary information.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on this process.

418 Please keep the undergraduate major codes in Question 12 on the American Community Survey.
Please separate Philosophy from Religious Studies, they are two distinct majors.
These changes will make the American Community Survey more accurate.

419

In a recent Federal Register, it was proposed to remove six crucial questions from the ACS about marriage, divorce, and education. As an emerging professional planner, I believe the removing these questions would threaten the integrity of the ACS, particularly for family demography.

The utility of such questions is high. At a time when thoughts and perceptions of marriage are changing, the importance of monitoring these trends is patent. Motivations for marriage have historically been for procreation. Marriage has changed for many people to include romantic motivations, and even financial benefits granted to married households. With same-sex marriage becoming legal throughout the US--35 states and rising--the interest in monitoring these changes is renewed once more.

Please protect the statistical infrastructure of this nation by keeping these questions in the ACS.

420 I am writing to issue my desire to keep question 12 and the differentiate philosophy from religious studies and theology. Philosophy is very unlike these other two areas and it is really only a common misconception that they are linked in any significant way. More importantly, lumping these together limits the ability to analyze data about philosophy alone. By lumping these together, we have no way of looking at effects of (and related to) philosophy alone. Thus matters because philosophy majors seems to outperform almost all other majors on tasks like the GRE and the LSAT. It would be helpful to know if philosophy majors are superlative in any other way.

I hope you will strongly consider (1) keeping question 12 and (2) distinguishing philosophy majors from other majors.

421 It is puzzling why Religious Studies, Theology and Philosophy are grouped together on this question. They should be separated for the purposes of gathering more accurate information.

422 Please do not eliminate the marital status questions from the ACS. The ACS is an incredibly important source of data for family research. This is especially true for those of us who study same-sex couples as the ACS is the only national source of information on this population. Thank you.

423 I am writing to ask you not to drop crucial questions on divorce and undergraduate major from the ACS. Although I am only a second year PhD candidate, I already have a strong interest in income inequality, which, as the President recognized in his major address on the issue (http://m.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/12/04/remarks-president-economic-mobility) is, in part, one of community and family structure. How can we contain inequality if we can't understand it? Please save the ACS questions.

424 I'm writing to support efforts to preserve six questions relating to marriage, divorce, and undergraduate education in the American Community Survey. The compilation of consistent time series of social phenomena is crucial to studying social science in the United States.
As a social scientist and researcher, I use ACS data and rely on others' interpretations of this data to an even larger extent.

425 It was brought to my attention that the ACS will be dropping questions from the survey that I believe are important for the analysis that we and many other organizations do and depend upon. The scaled down Census Bureau decentennial collection was already a huge blow, now scaling down the ACS is most disappointing. Information is important and we all depend very much on the data collected. It would be a giant step backwards.

Especially troubling is the loss of undergrad education and marriage/divorce questions.

Please lobby for keeping all these questions intact.

Thank-you for your time.

426 I would like to encourage the Census to retain both the undergraduate major and marriage questions on the ACS. Both questions are important for understanding US society, and their removal would hamper important efforts.

Removal of the marriage questions would make it much more difficult to track key changes in this important and rapidly evolving social institution, and would leave the US as the only developed country without such a capability.

The undergraduate major questions are critical to support the recent push towards more evidence based guidance for college students thinking about majors. I use this data in my efforts to advise students.

427 I am a professor of philosophy at the University of California, San Diego, and a graduate of Harvard (BA), Oxford (MA), and UCLA (PhD). I have been teaching philosophy at the college level for 18 years, and in all that time I have noticed that philosophy majors tend to do very well on tests that measure aptitude for professional study (particularly the LSAT and GRE). At the same time, it is widely believed that philosophy, like majors in other humanities disciplines, is a relatively useless major. Philosophers have been trying for years to use statistics to establish that philosophy majors do very well for themselves on the whole, professionally speaking. They have been hampered in doing so by the mindlessly anachronistic aggregation of philosophy with religious studies on government forms that ask students to list their college major. It is therefore extremely important for the future of philosophy as a discipline, first, that data continue to be collected on college majors, and second, that philosophy be disaggregated from religious studies (through separate coding) when compiling the resulting answers.

I am therefore requesting that question 12 on the ACS be retained, and that the coding for available answers to question 12 distinguish between "philosophy" and "religious studies".

428 I learned through the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) that the Census Bureau is considering removing a series of family-related questions from the ACS. This would be a travesty to those of us who are family scholars so I ask that you reconsider making these changes.

The ACS is the most reliable source of national, state, and city data on the frequency of marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage. It is the only data source that can measure marital behavior in relatively small groups in the population, such as Asian Americans. In addition, the ACS is the only national source of information on the frequency of same-sex marriage and the characteristics of the same-sex married population. Moreover, the ACS provides the best quality national data for estimating the effects of social programs and policies on married and unmarried populations.

These data are extremely important to those of us who study families and family-related issues. The five questions which may be cut lead to such valuable research and studies on families that it does not make much sense, and I encourage the Census Bureau to reconsider this decision.

429 I am writing to let you know that the Census should not eliminate the proposed questions from the ACS.

The marriage history questions are crucial because the United States has no alternative source for detailed annual statistics on marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage. The federal program to gather detailed statistics from marriage and divorce records was discontinued in 1996; the ACS marital history questions were designed as a replacement. If the marriage questions are eliminated now, the U.S. will become the only country in the developed world that does not generate annual age-specific rates of marriage and divorce.

430 As I understand it, The Census Bureau has issued a surprise notice announcing their intention to drop six crucial questions from the ACS, including five questions relating to marriage and divorce and one question on undergraduate education. For those of us who study family demography or education, this would be a huge loss. The news of the plan appears in the Federal Register with a request for comments.
I believe that this change would significantly harm the nation's statistical infrastructure.

431 I would like to request that the American Community Survey process and report Question 12 with disaggregation of philosophy and religious studies; the majors should be processed, coded and reported as distinct majors. Philosophy and Religious Studies are significantly different disciplines and the data for students in these two areas should be evaluated separately.

432 I recently received an email from the Minnesota Population Center that the Census Bureau is considering dropping six questions from the ACS on marriage, divorce, and education. I am writing to urge you to reconsider this change.

As a public policy student and practitioner, I rely on Census data to understand social challenges and estimate the effects of policy interventions. I have seen first-hand the power data analysis can have in effecting policy change. I have also seen the importance of accurate, consistent, and complete data. As a member of the Census Bureau, I know you know this too.

I also appreciate you must balance the benefits of information against the costs of collection -- both financial and opportunity costs. I believe, though, given the significant changes we see in marriage and familial institutions today as well as the continued growth of the skill / college premium, it is crucial we have the data to continue studying these questions over time.

433 I have no objection to keeping ACS Question 12, but I do have an objection to lumping philosophy majors, religious studies majors and theology majors into a single category. I'll keep the argument brief, and ask you to look at a single picture:

http://www.washburn.edu/academics/college-schools/arts-sciences/departments/philosophy-religious-studies/PH_RG_Past%20GRE%20Scores.pdf

As it turns out, philosophy majors utterly destroy theology and religious studies majors in almost all standardized tests. If you take a look at LSAT data, you'll see the same thing. It's just not fair to lump philosophy majors in with underperforming religious studies and theology majors.

If you keep ACS Question 12 (and I hope you do), I'd hope that you will separate these majors.

434 I am sending this message in response to the request for comments recently published in the federal register (https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2014/10/31/2014-25912/proposed-information-collection-comment-request-the-american-community-survey-content-review-results?eml=gd&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery). I would like to register my view that it would be a huge mistake to remove the questions on marriage and college degree fields from the American Community Survey. I am a labor and health economist, and the fact is that marriage and education (including degree fields) are important topics within a number of research areas within these fields. Moreover, these topics have importance outside of academia, as well. Just as an example, there has been a lot of recent interest from policy makers and the media on the role of women in the STEM fields (e.g. http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ostp/women). Given this interest, why would we eliminate an important source of information on the types of degrees earned by women in our society? In truth, it would be an important loss for researchers and society at large.

So in my view, the agency has greatly undervalued these questions, and I ask that these important questions not be removed from the survey.

435 Please keep question 12 (asking for people to report their college major), but please disaggregate Philosophy and Religious Studies and give each their own codes. They are quite different fields of study and their majors typically go on to do very different sorts of things. It would be beneficial for many to be able to track these differences.

436 I urge you not to change or delete the questions on the ACS regarding family and education.
I am an academic historian who has spent 35 years and published 9 books and numerous articles, many of which have drawn on the federal census from 1790 to today. It's essential for modern and future scholars to have this kind of information available if we are to make sense of the past, present, and potentially the future. I hope you make the right decision.

437 Please keep the undergraduate major codes in Question 12 on the American Community Survey.

Please separate Philosophy from Religious Studies, they are two distinct majors.

These changes will make the American Community Survey more accurate.

438 Please retain census six crucial questions from the ACS, including
five questions relating to marriage and divorce and one question on
undergraduate education. They are important ofr social research.

439 I was surprised to see the intent to drop the marriage and education questions from the American Community Survey. These are fundamental demographic metrics to assess the progress of the American people. In terms of public social policy, there are few questions that are more central to current political and social policy questions – reduction in marriage rates in youth (and number of births to non-married persons) and What is the value of an advanced education? It does not seem reasonable to drop these questions. You must have some reasons. Are there other questions being added that have greater priority? If so, what are they? I urge the retention of those questions.

440 I am writing in response to the notice in the October 31, 2014, Federal Register requesting comments regarding the American Community Survey (ACS) Content Review Results. As a sociologist who studies social change in metropolitan areas, the proposed removal of questions related to marriage and undergraduate field of study would be detrimental to my personal research as well as to the social scientific community in the U.S. in general. I have used ACS data in my own scholarly work, including my book, Small Cities USA: Growth, Diversity, and Inequality (Rutgers University Press, 2013), and believe that it would be difficult for me to continue investigating how places change without access to these type of data to understand how social and cultural capital interact with institutional forces in metropolitan areas in ways that affect population and economic growth. I urge you not to remove these questions and to help researchers and the general public learn more about how American society works through our only nationally representative regular survey of the American population.

441 I am writing in response to the Census Bureau's plans to eliminate the marriage and divorce questions from the American Community Survey. I am writing to appeal to those with decision making authority to keep those questions in the survey. I am a researcher at a small research center housed in an urban university. The information provided via the ACS is a great asset to all researchers but especially those from smaller research units that need to take advantage of as many public data sources as possible.

It is my understanding that the marriage questions were originally included as a crucial piece of information to help determine eligibility for program services and benefits and of behavioral changes resulting from federal policies and programs. Besides the ACS, no other data sources exist that can provide the level of detail necessary to plan for and evaluate the effects of federal policies and programs related to marriage. The plans to eliminate the questions seem particularly troublesome given the changing landscape of marriage policy in this country with many states now legalizing same-sex marriage. Without these questions, it will be very difficult to see what impact this change in policy has on marriage rates and trends over time. Marriage data would now seem to be of utmost importance to the many states that have eliminated the ban on same-sex marriage. And the ACS is the only survey large enough to provide reliable statistics for small population subgroups of any kind.

I hope that the Department of Commerce will reconsider eliminating these important questions during a time of social and state-level policy change.

442 I am writing to comment on Person Question No. 12 of the ACS community survey.

As an academic philosopher, I want to encourage you to:

(a) Keep this question.
(b) Make sure that the responses include a separate category for philosophy, and do not group philosophy with religious studies and theology.

My reasons are as follows. Most available statistical data used to assess career outcomes treats philosophy and religion as a single subject. This is not only unmotivated, but seriously detrimental to the profession, since the career trajectory of philosophy majors often differs substantially from that of religion majors. The use of statistics which do not differentiate between philosophy and religion has unfairly discouraged students from enrolling as philosophy majors by mis-reporting career outcomes for philosophy majors. Such statistics have also led members of the public and even at times academic administrators to associate the subjects of philosophy and religion. Nothing could be further from the truth: in fact, the vast majority of working philosophers are atheists.

Many philosophers see the ACS community survey as an important opportunity to reverse this trend, and hope that you will consider taking leadership by making the requested changes.

443 Hello. In the survey, I recommend that you retain the question asking about a person's major. It's important information, and I see little gain in eliminating it. However, in order for the data to be as useful as it can be, it should be aggregate widely disparate fields. So please separate out philosophy, religious studies, and theology. Academically, the three disciplines are quite distinct, and the sorts of career paths that people pursue after getting degrees in these three disciplines are also distinct, so aggregating data for them is misleading.

444 I would like to see the 5 questions that are proposed to be on the chopping block to be retained in the ACS. I believe these are important data.

445 I'll just keep it brief. I realize the census is long and cumbersome, so questions must be carefully selected for those things of greatest interest to us.
While these questions about marriage and family are HUGELY informative to research and policy makers (I'm actually surprised, even though I'm not personally in favor of it, that questions are being cut about Gay marriage, given this is the ONLY national source of information on the frequency and characteristics of that population. Just because I might not agree about something does not mean I don't need or want to be informed or understand it better), these questions are also teachers. Teachers of what is important to us as a nation. Marriage, divorce, widowhood, remarriage…. These are ALL key to the fabric of people's lives in our nation. In my profession I use all of this data, to research, to teach, but also, personally, I feel this is hugely important to help keep these important issues in the national mind.

Please leave the following questions in the U.S. Census:

~ In the past 12 months did this person get married?
~ In the past 12 months did this person get widowed?
~ In the past 12 months did this person get divorced?
~ How many times has this person been married?
~ In what year did this person last get married?

446 I am writing to express my dismay at the intent to drop questions on marital history and field of undergraduate study from the American Community Survey (ACS). I can understand the constraints imposed by budgets and wanting to keep the survey less burdensome for respondents – which can arguably improve response rates and data quality – but the costs of losing this valuable information are likely to outweigh any gains. These two particular sets of questions are highly important to the study of the impacts of changing family structures as well as field of study on economic and policy outcomes.

There are currently no other regularly updated and sufficiently detailed sources of information in the U.S. on marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage. Given the ways in which federal allocation of Social Security and other entitlement programs are, in part, based on marital status, lack of good data means less efficient allocation and forecasting of public expenditures. This constrains our understanding of how marriage impacts economic well-being (which is particularly important as family structures shift).

There are myriad reasons why the questions on field of undergraduate study are important to keep. As costs of education are spiking, real questions are surfacing about the financial prudence of making an investment in one's education – long assumed to be the most sound. Of course, financial returns vary widely by field of study, so without this information it is not possible to draw any strong conclusions on the value of this investment or whether its returns are in fact diminishing. Keeping this question will allow us to provide data-driven answers.

Perhaps more important, the questions on field of study help us understand how well we are doing at improving equity in pay by race and sex, and also at equipping the next generation with the sorts of skills that are in increasing demand by the labor market – such as those gained from a background in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields. Our nation is faced with the challenge of a stark underrepresentation of young people of color in STEM fields, a challenge that is particularly alarming (even for those less concerned with social and racial equity) given imminent demographic trends that suggest people of color will be the majority of the workforce by 2050. Fortunately, there are people and organizations from various sectors working to improve access to STEM fields of study and equity in pay, but without good data the ability to track progress will be difficult at best.

I appreciate your consideration of my thoughts on this matter and hope that prompt action is taken to avoid the loss of these valuable questions from the ACS.

447 I strongly oppose the decision relating to dropping "five questions relating to marriage and divorce and one question on undergraduate education" from ACS.

448 I understand that you are considering the possibility of diminishing even further the information that the ACS collects on marriage and education. A move in that direction would severely limit our ability to understand the evolution of human capital and family structure in the United States. I don't see how anyone could think that this would somehow contribute positively to policy design.

It's a terrible idea. Don't do it.

449 I'm writing to leave a comment on the document at https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2014/10/31/2014-25912/proposed-information-collection-comment-request-the-american-community-survey-content-review-results. Please find my comment below.

I ask that Person Question No. 12 be kept and that "Philosophy" be added as a major distinct from Religious Studies, Theology, etc.

450 I am writing to make a recommendation regarding question 12 of the American Community Survey. Currently philosophy and religious studies are not treated as distinct majors; that is, anyone who reports majoring in “philosophy” is put into the same category as anyone who reports majoring in “religious studies.” I think that lumping these two majors is a serious mistake and that the two majors should be distinguished in any surveys going forward. Religion studies and philosophy are intrinsically very different fields, requiring different sorts of skills and attracting different kinds of students. I say this as a philosophy professor who also has interests in religious studies. Over the years I’ve taken courses in both subjects and supervised students from both fields, and these experiences have confirmed to me just how different the two fields are. Religious studies is firmly rooted in the humanities tradition, whereas philosophy has an analytic rigor that makes it more comparable to engineering; lumping together philosophy and religious studies is like lumping together majors as disparate as literature on the one hand and math on the other.

In summary, please differentiate philosophy from religious studies in future surveys; distinguishing them will make the survey results more accurately reflective of the different backgrounds and trajectories of students in these distinct fields.

451 ACS Marriage and Education questions

Jennifer,

I urge you and your staff to not drop any questions from the ACS. For those of us working in local government, it is crucial that we have resources to better understand the family and household demography of our community. We use the ACS to do this work. This change would significantly harm the nation’s statistical infrastructure and would hinder the ability of smaller organizations with limited resources to understand trends occurring in their community.

452 I am writing to you as a researcher working on labor economics and urban economics, with regard to the proposed plan to drop key questions from the American Community Survey. I have used demographic data from the US Census in several of my research papers, and I plan to continue doing so. I know that this is also true of many of my colleagues working both in the US and elsewhere. When we study long term dynamics of economic and social phenomena, having comparable data over time is invaluable. I urge you to keep the questions regarding family structure and education from the American Community Survey.

Thank you for considering this request.

453 Please don't vote to eliminate census questions. This data is very important.

454 Although I have not yet used the ACS data (given my preference for representative national samples of households, i.e., CPS) I am extremely disturbed by what seems to be a cost-cutting desire to eliminate questions that are critical in efforts to understand historical and life course effects associated with marriage and education, which are critical ingredients of the mystery of gender differences and the patterns of persistence and change. Please reconsider the changes that you have in mind.

455 I notice you plan to discontinue questions related to marriage, widowed, divorce, married, and year last married.

Census data is the most reliable source of national, state, and city data related to marital behavior and used frequently by researchers. In some situations it is the only source for the data. I hope you will reconsider cutting these questions. Although the number of divorces have been decreasing data also indicates more couples are co-habiting rather than getting married. It would be wonderful if you could be a source to gather this data so a more complete picture of the family would be available to researchers.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the potential changes in census survey questions.

456 As a recent graduate from the College of Geographical Sciences at Arizona State University I can support that this data provided by the Census is vital to scientific and statistical research. Removing this information would have a significant impact on geographic studies and I hope your organization will reconsider maintaining the information for research purposes. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

457 I've been alerted to the fact that I have an opportunity to comment on the American Community Survey (ACS), particularly Question 12 which asks for a survey respondent’s major. Apparently, ACS is considering eliminating this question. I do not support the elimination of this question. In addition, if Question 12 is retained, I believe that Philosophy should be listed as a distinct major, Philosophy and Religious Studies then being coded and processed separately.

458 With respect to the proposed elimination of question 12 on the ACS (https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2014/10/31/2014-25912/proposed-information-collection-comment-request-the-american-community-survey-content-review-results#addresses):

I believe this elimination is a profound error. To eliminate the question is, in fact, to go in the exact opposite direction necessary to collect meaningfully related information. Rather than eliminating question 12, the supplied possible answers need to be broken out into a more detailed list so that distinct majors can be individually tracked.

Thus, as of this writing, majors such as Religious Studies, Theology, and Philosophy are lumped into a single category. Yet these are very distinct areas of study. There is evidence, for example, that Philosophy majors are very well prepared to enter into a variety of jobs and work environments because of that majors very particular emphasis on both analytical writing and engagement with topics coupled with a synoptic and synthetic grasp of comprehensive situations. Yet because question 12 fails to separate Philosophy from the other areas of study, it is impossible to gauge what the real advantages/disadvantages are for Philosophy majors, because the numbers that are unique to that discipline are buried in the haze of other areas of study.

I hope you will consider not just stepping away from this proposed elimination, but converting the existing question 12 into a genuinely useful source of statistical data.

459 I am writing to express my very serious concerns regarding proposed changes to the American Community Survey. As a tenure-track faculty member at a major research university I rely on data from the U.S. Census Bureau, primarily the ACS, for my research on divorce, remarriage, and stepfamilies. While my research primarily focuses on better understanding family processes in these complex families that influence various indicators of child, marital, and family well-being, it is essential to my work that we continue to measure, track, and understand the changing family context in the United States. The questions I am specifically concerned about are:

• In the past 12 months did this person get married?
• In the past 12 months did this person get widowed?
• In the past 12 months did this person get divorced?
• How many times has this person been married?
• In what year did this person last get married?
We must continue to include these questions because the ACS is the most reliable source of national, state, and city data on the frequency of marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage. It is the only data source that can measure marital behavior in relatively small groups in the population, such as Asian Americans, and it is the only national source of information on the frequency of same-sex marriage and the characteristics of the same-sex married population. As a researcher, I cannot be clearer about the importance of this data collection for very practical issues that are relevant to the average American, because the ACS provides the best quality national data for estimating the effects of social programs and policies on married and unmarried populations.

I hope you will agree that this is an important matter that is worth your serious consideration. Thank you for your time.

460 I am writing because I would like to urge your office to please process and report philosophy majors as distinct from religious studies majors (or theology majors, or ...) on the ACS question 12.

I'm a philosophy professor at a small liberal arts college, but I have also taught at big state universities in the past. In my experience, these are really two very different majors, whose graduates tend to have different sorts of career trajectories.

Please let me know if you have any follow-up questions or comments.

461 Please keep the undergraduate major codes in Question 12 on the American Community Survey.
Please separate Philosophy from Religious Studies, they are two distinct majors.
These changes will make the American Community Survey more accurate.

462 I work as Director of Research Services for the Kansas City metropolitan area MPO, the Mid-America Regional Council. I strongly encourage you to retain the seven questions currently recommended for removal in the October 31st Federal Register notice.

As MPO, we are intensely interested in how our region can develop more sustainably, matching workforce to the needs of industry and raising incomes. These questions are critical to to understanding key features of these issues. The housing question (#6) is one of the few ways we have to track how many people are actually living in mixed use structures. As mixed use development is the principle alternative to continued urban sprawl (the latter being a key contributor to auto dependency and greenhouse gas emissions), we need a way to measure our progress in this area. While we have real estate records to measure physical development, we have no way of directly measuring changes in the number of people living in these alternatives. Also, as we have no access to real estate records outside of our region, we can't compare our progress against other Midwestern metros.

The field of study question (#12) has been a linchpin in our ability to measure how well our education system is preparing our workforce for the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math jobs that are in high demand. See, for example, the executive summary of this study: http://www.marc.org/Data-Economy/pdf/Prosperity_ExecutiveSummary.pdf. Before conducting this analysis, we didn't know that we were specializing in business and education degrees, compared to other large metros who are specializing more in STEM degrees, and this is likely contributing to our weaker than average recovery from the Great Recession.

Finally, underlying educational attainment is family support, one measure of which is family stability. The questions on marriage and divorce (#21-23) are critical to understanding this.

I urge the Census Bureau to retain these questions.

463 I am writing today to comment on proposed changes to the American Community Survey, as discussed at https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2014/10/31/2014-25912/proposed-information-collection-comment-request-the-american-community-survey-content-review-results
Specifically, I am responding to this: "[T]he Census Bureau is particularly interested in comments on these seven ACS questions listed above, which are slated for removal from the questionnaire based on the results of the 2014 Content Review."

As a higher education professional, I am aware of a number of ways that information about college majors is very important for understanding the role and impact of different fields of study on people's lives, careers, and communities. For that reason, I think it would be a disservice to the public to remove Question 12 from the ACS.

That said, as a faculty member in philosophy, I think the answers available to this question should be modified to list philosophy as a separate field of study, rather than listing it as a subfield in the category "philosophy and religion." Philosophy and religious studies are ENTIRELY different disciplines and ought not to be categorized together at all. The two fields have substantially less overlap than fields which are never lumped together, such as chemistry and physics -- and theological studies is very different from both of philosophy and religious studies. Even at my own university, where Philosophy and Religion is a single academic department (primarily for budgetary reasons), the faculty, fields of study, and course requirements for majors are all quite separate.

464 Please keep the undergraduate major codes in Question 12 on the American Community Survey.
Please separate Philosophy from Religious Studies, they are two distinct majors.
These changes will make the American Community Survey more accurate.

465 It is my understanding that Census is preparing to remove two questions from the ACS related to Marital Status and Undergraduate Field of Study. I object to this removal for the following reasons:

*The ACS is widely used by researchers to conduct multivariate and other analyses. The removal of these variables would negatively impact the ability for social science and education researchers to conduct important research. Given a troubling trend towards reduction of institutional and agency support for social science research, it is unrealistic to expect faculty and other researchers to have resources to collect this data independently or purchase from third party vendors.

*Increasingly, students in Economics are being required to use ACS data for econometrics projects. I find that many students utilize the marital status and undergraduate education variables for their projects (both are important concerns for this demographic). This decision would negatively impact the scope of their research options.

466 As a labor economist and IPUMS user I urge you to keep asking the questions previously established for the ACS. The questions pertaining to marriage and divorce and undergraduate education are both of general interest and of specific interest to me.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

467 I am an Associate Professor of Philosophy in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY. I am writing to you regarding the lumping together of Philosophy and Religious Studies for the purposes of running surveys.

In particular, I would ask that you please keep the undergraduate major codes in Question 12 on the American Community Survey. Please separate Philosophy from Religious Studies, they are two distinct majors. The Religion scholars in my department work on completely different issues from what the Philosophers work on and the methods are completely different. Lumping Philosophy and Religious Studies together is as natural as lumping History and Religious Studies under the same heading. They may have some overlap in places, but they are completely distinct majors and areas of study.

Making the requested changes will make the American Community Survey more accurate.

468 I am writing to encourage your office to NOT cut the questions on the ACS that pertain to whether respondents were married, divorced, or widowed in the last year, how many times each respondent has been married, and the year respondents were last married. Many social scientists rely on the data gathered by the ACS and your office to conduct important work concerning the lives and life chances of Americans. There is no other resource that provides this information (and in a high-quality way) to social scientists. For example, Dr. Phil Cohen (University of Maryland) regularly utilizes this data to point out important shifts, changes, and trajectories of Americans of different social classes and race/ethnicities (see posts tagged under “census” for several great examples). This type of public sociology is useful to the discipline as a whole, in our classrooms, and to interested citizens. It can and will guide policy.

Again, I urge you and your office to NOT cut the proposed questions on marriage in America from the ACS.

469 As an ACS user and postsecondary education research, I am writing in response to the notice in the October 31, 2014 Federal Register requesting comments regarding the American Community Survey (ACS) Content Review Results. My comments primarily respond to the importance and utility of the responses to these ACS questions.

I recognize the importance of minimizing respondent burden and ensuring high quality of the information collected and the need for a periodic review of the relevance of the survey content. That said, we are puzzled by the Census Bureau's recommendation to drop the five marital history questions and the question on undergraduate field of study—questions that are straightforward, low cost to administer, and important to researchers.

Comments on Proposed Elimination of Undergraduate Field of Study Question #12
Our members are also concerned about the proposed elimination of question #12 regarding undergraduate field of study. As you know, this question was added to the ACS in 2009 following recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences so that the ACS could serve as the sample frame for the surveys conducted by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and improve the National Survey of College Graduates (NSCG) program for the Scientists and Engineers Statistical Data System. This question has also provided much needed information on the size and the characteristics of the U.S. Science, Technology, Education and Mathematics (STEM) workforce; a question that has attracted increased attention in recent years. The elimination of this question would eliminate the ability to track this relatively small but important segment of the US workforce, and to analyze the changing race/ethnic and gender composition and geographic distribution of this workforce.

As a user of the NSCG, and the ACS, these questions would hinder my (and others) research on the labor market outcomes of individuals with different college majors. Educational attainment in the United States has increased to the point where it is not enough to know if an individual completed a degree, but what they studied.

Comments on Proposed Elimination of Marital Status Questions # 21a-c, 22, and 23
The federal government stopped collecting detailed marriage and divorce statistics in 1996 from states' vital records. In 2008, the five marital status questions were added to the ACS at the request of the Department of Health and Human Services after an extensive period of testing and analysis. If these questions are now dropped, the United States will become the only country in the developed world that does not generate annual age-specific rates of marriage and divorce. In addition, because the ACS is the only source of nationally representative data with a large enough sample size to provide reliable statistics for small population subgroups, the ACS marriage history questions are the only available data to examine trends in marriage and divorce transitions by socioeconomic status and by population subgroups. These trends have implications for administering and analyzing the impact of various government programs, including Social Security. The fact that the marriage history questions cannot be used for small area analysis is a shortsighted justification for their exclusion. Further, the loss of these data will weaken the ability of family researchers to accurately portray, interpret, and follow long-term marriage trends in the United States and to analyze how changes in marriage trends impact the health and well-being of individuals across the lifespan. Research on children relies on these questions to understand the stability of

470 I write to ask you to separate Philosophy from Religious Studies in its surveys of undergraduate success.
Please keep the undergraduate major codes in Question 12 on the American Community Survey.
Please separate Philosophy from Religious Studies, they are two distinct majors. They often have no overlap in terms of content. I think you may find very distinct data in your surveys.
These changes will make the American Community Survey more accurate.

471 Subject: DO NOT ELIMINATE THE MARITAL QUESTIONS!
They provide valuable information when doing genealogy research.

472 I was quite startled to read the proposal from the Census Bureau to drop from the American Community Survey the questions on marital history and field of undergraduate study.

In a simpler world in which everyone marries only once and this marriage lasts until death, there would be no need for a series of questions on marital history. This idealized world never existed and as the complexity of modern life increases, fewer fall into this simple pattern. As a result social scientists, such as myself, who study family relationships, fertility and marriage and divorce, especially for small demographic groups, need the detail provided by the ACS. Given my policy and research interest in immigrants and racial/ethnic minority groups my research on marital and family patterns relies on the high quality data on marital history provided by the ACS.

Equally dismaying is the thought of dropping the field of study question among those who received a BA or BS degree. There is increasing concern among policy makers and researchers regarding differences in earnings (and the capability of repaying student loans) across fields of study. Are the earnings differences across fields widening or narrowing? Does the rate of return from a college education vary by field of study-- and how does it vary? As a society, we also have a concern with diversity in educational attainment and in the workforce by gender, race/ethnicity, etc. Why are there large differences in field of study by these characteristics, and are the difference widening or narrowing? Only the ACS can provide the answers to these crucial questions.

I would be pleased to discuss my concerns in greater detail with the Census Bureau.

473 I believe that it is misleading for ACS to continue to group the Philosophy major together with Religious Studies and Theology. The norms and self-conceptions of the disciplines are very different, and they perform very differently on important objective metrics such as standardized tests, expected lifetime income, and job skills -- with Philosophy scoring significantly higher along these metrics than the other disciplines. The correlations between fields of study and objective metrics are important, but, to be useful, they need to group disciplines intelligently. Therefore, I recommend that you keep question 12 but disaggregate Philosophy from the other disciplines, recognizing it as its own major.

474 I am of the opinion that collecting information on undergraduate major is an acceptable practice, but the way in which data is currently collected is wildly unfair and misleading as it represents the discipline of philosophy. Philosophy, as I understand it, is grouped together in your survey with religious studies and theology. Philosophy is separate from these fields, and bunching them together seriously distorts the information about our profession. Philosophy majors do very well on standardized tests, and have quite respectable career earnings. Joining us together with religious studies, who often has students go into ministry and work practically as volunteers, grossly misrepresents our expected career earnings. In future iterations of your report, please rectify this very serious oversimplification.

475 I am writing to urge the Census Bureau to reconsider the proposal to drop questions from ACS regarding marriage and undergraduate education. Specifically, I am working closely with faculty in our Education College to identify geographic relationships between student test score performance and community socio-demographics. This development will negatively affect both current and future plans to extend this research into related and complimentary arenas.

These questions are a critical part of my academic research; dropping them from ACS would make it much more difficult to conduct geographical analysis relating to education and familial status. I urge the census bureau to reconsider this proposal.

476 Please find attached a letter and supporting material from the Committee on National Statistics of the National Academy of Sciences in support of retaining Person Question 12, Field of Undergraduate Degree, on the American Community Survey. This letter is in response to the Census Bureau's Notice of 10/31/14. Please let me know if you have questions or need further information.
[Text of attachment...] We are writing as chair and members of the Committee on National Statistics (CNSTAT), a standing unit at the National Academy of Sciences. Our purpose is to draw your attention to a body of work by study panels under the aegis of CNSTAT that is relevant to the utility of Person Question 12, Undergraduate Field of Degree, on the American Community Survey (ACS). This work includes the following reports:
• Surveying the Nation 's Scientists and Engineers—A Data System for the 1990s (1989);
• Improving the Design ofthe Scientists and Engineers Data System (SESTAT) (2003); and
• Using the American Community Surveyfor the National Science Foundation 's Science and Engineering Workforce Statistics Program (2008).
This body of work supports a conclusion that the field-of-degree question is required on the ACS for the cost-effective production of congressionally mandated reports and estimates for small population groups of high policy relevance—namely, people with education and/or employment in science and engineering fields by gender, race, ethnicity, disability, place of birth, and other characteristics. These reports and estimates are produced by the National Science Foundation's National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NSF/NCSES) under the National Foundation Science Act of 1950, the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act of 1980, and the America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science (America COMPETES) Reauthorization Act of 2010.
We support the Census Bureau's efforts to review the content of the ACS, but would not expect all of the Bureau's recommendations to be universally endorsed or implemented. In the case of Person Question 12, we hope that the Department of Commerce will take cognizance of the CNSTAT work that supports the classification of Person Question 12 as a required item that should be retained on the ACS and not as a programmatic item that might be deleted.
I attach information on the NSF/NCSES mandates and the relevant CNSTAT reports (the 2003 and 2008 reports are available at %ww.nap.edu; the 1989 report is available from the CNSTAT office). Please let us know, through the CNSTAT staff director, Constance Citro (ccitro@nas.edu), if you have questions or acquire additional information.
NSF/NCSES Legislative Mandates Relevant to Field-of-Degree Ouestion
The National Science Foundation Act of 1950 directs NSF to maintain "a register of scientific and technical personnel and in other ways to provide a central clearinghouse for information covering all scientific and technical personnel in the United States, including its Territories and possessions" (Sec. 3(a)(8))
This language was amended in 1986 (P.L. 99-383) to direct NSF "to provide a central clearinghouse for the collection, interpretation, and analysis of data on scientific and engineering resources and to provide a source of information for policy formulation by other agencies of the Federal Government" 142 USC 1 The 1950 act also required the National Science Board to produce an annual report on Foundation policy issues, and an amendment in 1982 required the Board to produce a biennial report on "the state of science and engineering in the United States." Under the aegis of the Board, beginning in 1972, NSF has delivered to Congress a biennial volume of Science and Engineering Indicators (available at http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/seind14/), which contains information on a wide range of topics relevant to science and engineering personnel and other S&E resources.
The Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act of 1980, as amended, requires NSF to transmit a report biennially to Congress and other agencies that

477 I wanted to write to tell you that I think it's very important for the American Community Survey (ACS) to continue using question 12 to record college/university majors and for the new surveys to recognize Philosophy as a major that is distinct from Theology and Religious Studies. The grounds for lumping these very different majors together strikes many of us in academia as incredibly strange since the skills learned are so very different and our graduates pursue such different career paths. Prospective students should have a good understanding of what's in store for them. The best way to do this is to clarify the difference between Philosophy and unrelated disciplines and continue to include question 12.

478 I am writing to encourage the Census to retain Question 12 in the American Community Survey, which pertains to college major. A data-rich understanding of higher education is vital to our country's economic future, inasmuch as higher ed itself is vital to our country's economic future.

As a philosophy professor, moreover, I would strongly encourage you to keep data for philosophy majors distinct from the data pertaining to religion majors. They are very different fields. Religious Studies is far, far more similar to Anthropology and Cultural Studies than it is to Philosophy. Moreover, I strongly suspect that philosophy majors fare quite differently than religion majors due in terms of career earnings (many more philosophy majors go to law school for instance). So in the interest of accuracy I believe separate data should be kept for these two majors.

479 Please do not drop the Marital History questions in the ACS. Below are 4 key reasons why these questions are so important.

1. The ACS is the most reliable source of national, state, and city data on the frequency of marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage.
2. The ACS is the only data source that can measure marital behavior in relatively small groups in the population, such as Asian Americans.
3. The ACS is the only national source of information on the frequency of same-sex marriage and the characteristics of the same-sex married population.
4. The ACS provides the best quality national data for estimating the effects of social programs and policies on married and unmarried populations.
This information is vital to understanding the shifting demographics of our society. It is impossible to craft informed social policy if we don't know what is happening in our communities. Please keep these questions!

480 Per the Federal Register's American Community Survey Content Review Results published on 10/31/14, I would like to argue against the proposed elimination of 7 questions from the American Community Survey.

As a GIS specialist at an urban and regional planning consulting firm, I frequently utilize ACS data to help client communities identify analyze social and demographic trends in their communities. We almost exclusively use tract level data, the ACS's most detailed unit of geography, to garner insight into internal variations of populations within individual communities, so that those communities can better understand their own composition and craft policy accordingly.

As such, I am strongly in favor of having as much detailed demographic data publicly available as is feasible, and would like to see the ACS continue to include in its annual survey the questions on marriage and Bachelor's degree education that are proposed for removal.

In particular, I believe the question regarding a respondent's Bachelor's degree is extremely valuable. Especially as, recently we have been helping communities identify potential Economic Clusters to target for large scale economic development initiatives, based on their inherent advantages in particular fields or sub-fields. Being able to identify an area's educational specialties for workforce development is a huge part of this that would be unquestionably more difficult and less accurate with the elimination of this question from the ACS.

481 My name is [redacted] and I am a PhD student at Texas A&M University. I am emailing you reconsider the elimination of the ACS Marriage question. The ACS has been instrumental in my development as an upcoming scholar. Specifically, my thesis used and my dissertation uses the ACS to look at interracial marriage among African-Americans. Without this question, my research and others lose a lot of insight on the changing American family. This question means a lot to a lot of people beyond academia, but public policy and even community leaders.

482 Many researchers across the disciplines at Brandeis University rely on census data and the consistency of items in the American Community Survey. I wanted to add my voice to the clamor regarding any potential change to census survey questions. I am contacting you today to urge you to maintain all items currently in the ACS. I have also contacted our Senators about the concern change to the current survey generates.

I am comfortable weighing in on this issue as the range of researchers at Brandeis who study educational issues and the family is quite wide and deep. Dropping items related to education would be seriously ill advised. Dropping long-standing ACS questions would impact the work faculty, students and staff accomplish to frame critical questions about our Nation. The potential loss of longitudinal analytic work would raise serious concerns about Governmental Intent if items related to undergraduate education were to disappear from the Census Bureau dataset moving forward.

483 Over the past several years I have accessed and used data from the American Community Survey, and in particular used data related to question regarding marriage and divorce in analysis I have completed at the state, county and city levels. Given the national reach of the ACS, the credibility that is associated with ACS, and the extensive use of the survey data by researchers, educators and practitioners across the U.S., I think it is important to keep family related questions, and in particular questions related to marriage and divorce in the ACS.

Please let me know if it would be helpful for me to further elaborate on my statements above to share insights on specific use of this data and its values to a variety of individuals in the U.S.

484 The American Community Survey provides the best quality national data for estimating the effects of social programs and policies on married and unmarried populations. Cutting the following questions from the ACS will severely impede productive teaching, research, and scholarship on families and communities:

- In the past 12 months did this person get married?
- In the past 12 months did this person get widowed?
- In the past 12 months did this person get divorced?
- How many times has this person been married?
- In what year did this person last get married?

The ACS is the most reliable source of national, state, and city data on the frequency of marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage. It is the only data source that can measure marital behavior in relatively small groups in the population, such as Asian Americans, and the only national source of information on the frequency of same-sex marriage and the characteristics of the same-sex married population.

Please retain these questions!

485 As a family communication scholar with a specialty in family diversity, the proposal to cut out demographic questions will significantly affect my research ad that of other Family researchers. Please do not support such changes.

486 I am writing to urge you to do what you can to keep the questions on the American Community Survey regarding marital status. Specifically, the following set of questions:
- In the past 12 months did this person get married?
- In the past 12 months did this person get widowed?
- In the past 12 months did this person get divorced?
- How many times has this person been married?
- In what year did this person last get married?

The ACS is the most reliable source I and other social scientists have on data at the national, state, and city level regarding marriage, divorce, widowhood and re-marriage. It is also one of few sources available to understand how patterns differ for various populations, particularly smaller groups such as specific racial/ethnic groups. In addition, the ACS is the ONLY national source for frequency of same-sec marriage and characteristics of this population.

Losing this data will have a negative impact on the ability of myself and others to adequately study trends in marital status, which has negative implications for policy decisions and estimating the effects of social programs.

Please re-consider and do what you can to keep asking questions regarding marital status on the ACS.

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487 The ACS is an incredibly useful source of information on America's families. I am writing to respond to the request for comments about the elimination of questions relating to marital history. I feel strongly that the elimination of these questions would severely damage our ability to understand ongoing changes in American society and to implement effective policy responses.

Please take a look here for details on what these questions allow :
http://www.bgsu.edu/ncfmr/SAVEMARRIAGE.html

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488 It has come to my attention that the DOC has proposed the elimination of several ACS questions related to marriage and education outcomes. Research on family behavior and education outcomes is very important for informing policy but also helping researchers to create a better picture of human behavior. No data sources can compare to the ACS size / coverage, and its inclusion of education and marriage questions are an important asset to the research of countless individuals - including me personally. Please reconsider this proposal, which will only serve to narrow our knowledge of the family.

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489 I am writing to you in support of the ACS marriage questions. I am a student, originally from Indiana, at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. My work focuses on internationally comparative work on family and labor market issues, among others comparing the US to European countries. The information from the ACS is absolutely crucial for this type of research.

Governments in Europe and Germany specifically, where I study, have massively increased funding for family relevant surveys over the past years, such as the Families in Germany (FiD) as part of the German Socio-Economic Panel (SOEP), the Panel Study of Intimate Relationships and Family Dynamics (PAIRFAM), the GGS Gender and Generations Programm and the Survey of Health, Aging and Retirement in Europe (SHARE). These governments recognize the need to know what is taking place in our society to be able to design appropriate policy tools, especially given demographic change and massively changing family dynamics.

It is painful to see how the US, once a forerunner in national statistics, is considering to cut some of the most basic and important questions on family issues.

I really hope you will re-consider and save the ACS marriage questions.

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490 I am a young demographer and am writing out of concern for the future research of demographers and family scholars. Please do not remove the marital history questions form the ACS. Should the U.S. be the ONLY developed country in the world not collecting age-specific rates of marriage and divorce? How will we understand the changing trends of union formation and dissolution that are occurring in our society? How will we, as researchers, be able to inform policy makers about the people they are representing?

Thank you for listening to my concerns.

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491 I recently learned of the Census Bureau's announcement of the plan to drop six questions from the American Community Survey, including important questions relating to marriage, divorce, and education. I am an academic sociologist and teach a course on the sociology of the family here at the University of Mary Washington (as well as conduct research on families and popular culture) and I rely on the data from these questions to regularly update my lectures on family structure and demography. At the moment, it is the most reliable national source for this data, and it would be a hardship for myself and the thousands of other sociologists engaged in these endeavors to lose these questions.

I hope that we can urge the Census Bureau to reconsider this decision.

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492 I attach a brief response on the proposed elimination of Question 12 from the American Community Survey (reported in the Federal Register on October 31), on behalf of the staff of the Humanities Indicators.
Many thanks for your consideration,
[Text from attachment...] We write to you as researchers at the Humanities Indicators, a project of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, to urge the Census Bureau to retain the Undergraduate Field of Degree question in the American Community Survey. Inclusion of the question in the survey provides unique insight into a crucial aspect of society—the relationship between postsecondary studies in particular subject areas and subsequent employment and earnings. At a time when policymakers at the national and state level as well as researchers are keenly focused on this question, removing the question would deprive us of much-needed data.
Over the past two months we used Question 12 to parse occupations and earnings of students across fields and disciplines. To accurately reflect the characteristics of the question and its use in the survey, we parsed the results into four separate items, focused on the occupations of terminal degree holders (http://bit.ly/1rSY7R5), occupations of advanced degree holders (http://bit.ly/1twfYAX), earnings of terminal degree holders (http://bit.ly/1rqvUzR), and occupations of advanced degree holders (http://bit.ly/1tLo4Z9). In addition to offering answers to questions about where graduates find work and their median earnings, we also used responses to the question to parse out the interrelation of field of degree and gender in employment.
As the coverage in The Chronicle of Higher Education (http://bit.ly/1wjuED0) and Inside Higher Ed (http://bit.ly/1riviwc) indicates, there is considerable interest in these findings. And the question has been used recently in reports by researchers at the Association of American Colleges and Universities (http://bit.ly/14F0emP) and Georgetown's Center on Education and the Workforce (http://bit.ly/1ujREAC). The ACS provides a rare opportunity to obtain the necessary national data with a high degree of statistical validity.

493 As Associate Director of Recruitment for the Graduate School at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and feedback on the American Community Survey (ACS) Content Review Results.

Wayne State University offers more than 200 graduate degree programs and is considered among only 3.5% of U.S. universities with a Carnegie Foundation classification of RU/VH [Research University, Very High research activity]. We offer comprehensive support services for more than 1, 800 international students. Wayne State's diverse student body of nearly 28, 000 represents 60 countries from around the world.

In my capacity as Associate Director of Recruitment, I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question12 (Undergraduate Field of Study), where respondents are asked to provide specific major(s) of any bachelor's degrees received by the person with the highest degree in each household.

Many national sample surveys rely on the results of the ACS to construct a stratification sample design that most accurately reflects the true population of interest, and "specific major(s) for a bachelor's degree" is a key variable that allows researchers and policy makers to examine outcomes of post secondary education with respect to fields of study. This is crucial for the graduate education community because post secondary outcomes, including post-baccalaureate pursuit and workforce participation vary by discipline.

Having the field of bachelor's degree information in the ACS provides important insight about the nation's post secondary and labor market outcomes. It also fosters the accuracy and reliability of other national sample surveys, which employ the ACS to stratify sample designs. An example is the National Survey of College Graduates, which is one of the most comprehensive national sample studies that examines post-baccalaureate outcomes including graduate degree attainment by degree and field of study. If Question 12 were to be eliminated, it would significantly hinder our ability as the graduate education community to utilize these data for efforts such as benchmarking and advocacy.

494 As a graduate student at the Oklahoma State University and regular user of public micro data use of IPUMS-USA, I am writing this to request for keeping questions on marriage and education because need information regarding marriage and education for my current and future research project and dissertation.

I would be really grateful if you serious consider my request, which has also been requested by scholars, researchers, and other research practitioners.

495 Attached please find my comments about a proposed change to the American Community Survey, as requested on the federal register.
[Text from attachment…] As Dean of the Graduate School at the University of Cincinnati in Cincinnati Ohio, I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and feedback on the American Community Survey (ACS) Content Review Results.

Our University has ~12,000 graduate students enrolled, with over 70 doctoral programs and 350 Masters degrees. Many of our programs are nationally ranked highly in their fields. The vast majority are designed to serve the needs of employers (both academic and increasingly non-academic) nationally.

In my capacity as a lead administrator at our University, I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question12 (Undergraduate Field of Study), where respondents are asked to provide specific major(s) of any bachelor's degrees received by the person with the highest degree in each household.

Many national sample surveys rely on the results of the ACS to construct a stratification sample design that most accurately reflects the true population of interest, and "specific major(s) for a bachelor's degree" is a key variable that allows researchers and policy makers to examine outcomes of postsecondary education with respect to fields of study. This is crucial for the graduate education community because postsecondary outcomes, including post-baccalaureate pursuit and workforce participation vary by discipline.

This is essential for our market analysis and to keep our University programs current for the needs in the USA. We need this question to learn about workforce needs and applications! Use of these outcomes are one of the main ways in which we define demand for new jobs, and learn how our graduates apply their degrees in specific areas and how we can learn about markets for our graduates.

The proposed elimination would make it impossible for any national sample surveys, including NSCG to reliably capture potential field effects on postsecondary outcomes, which would impact our ability to utilize these data for public purposes. To this end, as Dean and a citizen interested in getting us the best workforce, I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question 12 in the ACS.

496 My name is [redacted] and I'm an assistant professor of public policy at GWU. One of my research areas is focused on the nonprofit workforce. As you may know, much of the countries public goods and services are now provided by private, non-profit organizations but there is limited research on the health and vitality of this sectors workforce. I use education questions on a regular basis and primarily rely on census data since it is a true random sample.

I really hope these questions are not removed

497 The questions regarding marriage and divorce are extremely important to an understanding of households – their social composition, their economic viability and a number of other issues that are constantly the subject of political debate at the national level.

498 As a recent graduate with a degree focused on GIS and mapping, I feel as though the questions that may be removed from the American Community Survey are very useful in understanding trends in our society. Although they may not seem necessary, I believe that these questions are extremely helpful in determining various connections that are essential in looking at socioeconomic details of our country. While looking for data, many times it is difficult to get enough information regarding some topics, and it seems that by removing questions that can help us see a better picture of the population, we would have a much harder time in the future. Please consider the difference it will make by removing the questions from the survey.

499 I a current graduate student at Bowling Green State University. As a social scientist who does research on the American Family, I ask that the following question not be removed from the Annual American Community Survey (ACS):

1. In the past 12 months did this person get—Married?
2. In the past 12 months did this person get—Widowed
3. In the past 12 months did this person get—Divorced?
4. Times Married—How many times has this person been married?
5. In what year did this person last get married?

Removing these question would be highly detrimental to future research of marriage, divorce and widowhood in the United States.

500 I just want to voice my support for keeping questions about marriage, widowhood, and divorce in the ACS.

We are hot on the heels of a Checkup intervention that may actually have the potential to affect these numbers in a meaningful way and we won't be able to assess the public health impact without these statistics.

501 I am writing you regarding the items proposed for deletion from the American Community Survey. I would like to object to the removal of marriage from the ACS. Marriage is a pivotal factor when it comes to population estimates and trends. There are several ACS questions relating to marriage and education which I believe would be very useful tools when calculating these estimates. I am a Demographer and find this data very useful and significant in terms of my career. Please take my thoughts into consideration.

502 As an economic researcher in the field of family economics I urge you not to remove the marriage and education questions from the ACS survey. These questions provide important insight into aggregate trends in marital status over time. Not only is this of interest to those researching the family, but everyone as well. An individual's decisions about family formation and dissolution are some of the most important decisions they will make in their lifetime and thus are important for us to be able to study. I believe the removal of these questions would be a significant loss to the overall information provided in the survey.

503 I am writing to respond to the request for comments about eliminating marital history questions from the American Community Survey. I would strongly recommend against eliminating these questions, as they provide significant and, in some cases, irreplaceable information that helps policymakers make good policy social, welfare and economic policy decisions.

As a state-based think tank, Sutherland Institute is focused on helping inform debate, dialogue and policymaking processes regarding state and local policy decisions. In order to be properly informed on the need for changes in these policies and/or the likely impact of policy changes on society, current and historical information regarding family formation and dissolution is critical, even if it is only available or reliable on the state level.

For example, in order to make sustainable economic and welfare policy decisions over the long-term, it is critical to understand family formation trends at the state level. Without this information, state policymakers could be sowing the seeds of their own economic decline or harming future families in need of welfare, because they have insufficient or unreliable information regarding future population growth trends or trends in family formation, and so are unable to properly or accurately understand how their policies will interact with these population patterns.

I understand and appreciate the Department of Commerce's desire to review its activities for their cost and benefit to the activities of federal government agencies. But in this case I think the cost to society and American communities more generally will significantly outweigh any benefit the Department gains from trimming these questions from the American Community Survey. Thank you.

504 In my opinion as a economic demographer and researcher, the seven questions should not be removed from the ACS. They provide crucial information to study the impact of family structure on children's outcomes, dynamics in marital status, and returns to schooling.

I hope that the ACS will retain these questions.

505 I am writing to express my concern, as an academic economist, about the proposal to remove questions about marital status from the ACS. Marital status is a key marker of family socioeconomic status, and an important predictor of a wide range of outcomes including child health and education, future wealth, home ownership, and so on. It is also something that the American public cares deeply about as evidenced by the continuing media interest in the subject of marriage and divorce rates for different groups, for example.
I hope that the Dept. of Commerce will reconsider this ill advised move.

506 In my capacity as Dean I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question12 (Undergraduate Field of Study), where respondents are asked to provide specific major(s) of any bachelor's degrees received by the person with the highest degree in each household.

Many national sample surveys rely on the results of the ACS to construct a stratification sample design that most accurately reflects the true population of interest, and "specific major(s) for a bachelor's degree" is a key variable that allows researchers and policy makers to examine outcomes of postsecondary education with respect to fields of study. This is crucial for the graduate education community because postsecondary outcomes, including post-baccalaureate pursuit and workforce participation vary by discipline.

As many other institutions throughout the country, Brown University strives to assess the impact of our education on the career pathways of our graduates. For this, we rely on the results of ACS as they are incorporated into national data bases such as the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics' National Survey of College Graduates (NSCG), as well as the data bases that the Council of Graduate Schools maintains.

The proposed elimination would make it impossible for any national sample surveys, including NSCG to reliably capture potential field effects on postsecondary outcomes, which would impact our ability to utilize these data for public purposes. To this end, as Dean of the Graduate School I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question 12 in the ACS.

507 *These opinions are my own and do not necessarily reflect those of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland or the Federal Reserve System*

I am writing to respond to the request for comments about the elimination of questions relating to marital history and Undergraduate Field of Degree. As a frequent user of both American Community Survey and Current Population Survey data for a variety of projects I feel that it would be a great loss to eliminate questions relating to an individual's marital history and an individual's Undergraduate field of study. As family creation and household formation shifts over time, statistics on marriage can help to understand these preference shifts which might impact a variety of industries and regions in different ways. Having more transparency on these shifts will better help policy makers understand the demographic trends that might be effecting other important statistics such as median household income.

In addition, the field of undergraduate study is an especially useful data point when trying to understand social preference shifts of labor. This is becoming an increasingly relevant topic in the study of job polarization due to technological change. Essentially by looking at what individuals choose to study and how they translate this into labor market outcomes (the careers they choose) can help us understand if the current educational structure is preparing students for the "jobs of the future", given the impact of technological change of the range of available positions. It also it useful to address any structural imbalances in education and evaluate demographic differences in education preferences.

Therefore I urge you to reconsider the elimination of these questions.

508

I am writing to respond to the request for comments about the proposed elimination from the American Community Survey of questions regarding marital history and undergraduate field of degree. I believe that eliminating the questions from the ACS would do serious harm to our ability to understand key social and educational trends that affect the American public, and I urge the Department to reconsider.

The Federal Register notice states that the ACS content review categorized these six questions as low cost/low benefit. These questions are indeed low cost; they impose little burden on survey respondents, cognitively or otherwise. However, I disagree that these questions are low benefit. They provide key data for understanding important trends in American society that are captured nowhere else, especially regarding marriage stability and family formation. U.S. society is undergoing unprecedented and rapid changes in this area, and these questions on the ACS provide the only detailed annual indicators we have for tracking and understanding the implications of these important changes. For example, recent research by Kennedy and Ruggles relying on ACS data found that divorce rates are climbing, rather than declining as many have argued.

The Content Review's definition of benefit seems to have been rather narrowly drawn to specific federal agency uses without considering the wider ecosystem of users of federal statistics, including academia, non-profits, and the business world. As an academic librarian at a major research institution, I can attest to the enormous value of the ACS data to users across the social sciences. The student and faculty researchers I help make frequent and intensive use of ACS data to study key social and economic issues and their implications for society and the public good. Because academia produces much of the research that informs policy planning and evaluation, I urge you to reconsider the elimination of the marital history and undergraduate degree field questions.

509 [Text from attachment…] I am writing to strongly oppose the elimination of questions relating to (1) marital history and (2) undergraduate education field of degree from the American Community Survey.
While I appreciate the interest in potential cost-savings, I believe these questions are far more valuable than the minimal cost savings that would be gained from their removal.
(1) Marital History
• The ACS provides the only data available for generating annual age-specific rates of marriage and divorce in the United States.
• This is critical data to assess and measure, particularly as the demographics regarding marriage are changing.
• Without these questions, the United States would lag far behind other countries in monitoring these key social demographics important for research and planning.
(2) Undergraduate Degree Field
• The ACS measurement of undergraduate degrees is also a key to understanding and planning for our economic future and health.
• The ACS provides the best means to understanding the how our critical fields such as science, technology, and healthcare will be staffed in coming years.
• The importance of this data is reflected in the magnitude of research completed using this data.
The American Community Survey remains a critical piece of our information infrastructure.
Our municipalities and educational institutions rely on this data heavily to effectively monitor and plan for the long-term well-being of our citizens.
It is essential that we can rely on the questions remaining constant over time to monitor important trends such as these.
As one who uses this data for research and planning, I understand and support the recommendations of our country's lead demographers who wisely understand the importance of this data.
I urge you, and my elected officials, to maintain the integrity of American Community Survey and reject these proposed deletions.

510 As a US Census data user, I would like to comment on the following 2014 ACS questionnaire. Thank you.
1. Keep # 6.
2. Keep # 12.
3. Remove # 21a, 21b, 21c and 22.
4. Keep # 23.

511 I am writing in response to the request for comments about the elimination of marital history questions from the ACS. This information is vital to those of us who study family change and would profoundly restrict our ability to develop appropriate policy recommendations. There is no other source for this data and their removal would result in damages to the American statistical system. Please reconsider the decision to eliminate them.

512 I am a Senior Economist at the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA). I have been using the ACS data for research purposes and find it a very important source of housing data. I do not agree that we should eliminate the 6 ACS questions related to marriage and education.

513 I would like to provide comments on the proposed deletion of questions from The American Community Survey regarding marriage and education. I am against the deletion of these questions, they are important for both current and future policy decisions that affect millions of Americans. I would like to strongly agree with the concise, well-reasoned letter sent to you from Steve Ruggles, Director of the Minnesota Population Center, University of Minnesota, which I have re-attached to this email.

514 I am writing in support of KEEPING questions regarding marital history in the American Community Survey.
My concerns are closely aligned with those of Dr. Ruggles (at IPUMS).

515 I am responding to the U.S. Census Bureau's request for public comment on the U.S. Census Bureau's proposed information collection concerning the American Community Survey. The request for public comment was published in the Federal Register on page 79 FR 64743-64745.

The U.S. Census Bureau is proposing to eliminate the following question, among other questions:

Person Question No. 12—Undergraduate Field of Degree—This question focuses on this person's Bachelor's Degree. Please print below the specific major(s) of any Bachelor's Degrees this person has received.

This question enables the disaggregation of income and earnings not just by educational attainment, but also by academic major. For example, the Center for Education and the Workforce at Georgetown University (cew.georgetown.edu) has published several reports that analyze the return on investment for individual academic majors, comparing income/earnings with debt and unemployment rates. There is no other source for this data.

Research concerning the relationship between debt-to-income ratios or debt-service-to-income ratios and loan defaults has demonstrated a monotonically increasing relationship between these ratios and loan default rates. See, for example, http://www.finaid.org/educators/20100817affordabilitymeasures.pdf. This has lead to rules of thumb concerning reasonable and affordable debt, such as "Total student loan debt at graduation should be less than the borrower's annual starting salary and, ideally a lot less." and "Students need to keep their total student loan debt in sync with income." These rules of thumb are effective in influencing students to borrow less. But to use these rules of thumb, they need to have a good source of data concerning income by academic major. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes data concerning income by occupation, but this data is not directly linked to academic major, affecting the accuracy. A few states have launched state-based systems with such data, but the scope is limited to students who graduated from colleges in the state and were employed in the state after graduation. The data is not national in scope.

It is increasingly important to understand the impact of student loan debt on individual Americans and on the nation as a whole. Total student loan debt outstanding exceeded credit card debt in 2010, auto loan debt in 2011 and reached the $1 trillion milestone in 2012. Students who graduate with excessive debt as compared with their income have a tendency to delay major life cycle events, such as buying a car, getting married, having children, buying a home, saving for retirement and saving for their children's college educations. See https://www.edvisors.com/ask/student-aid-policy/debt-at-graduation/ for additional discussion.

So, not only should the U.S. Census Bureau retain this question, but it should add other questions that can provide more insight into the relationship between income and debt after graduation from college. For example, the U.S. Census Bureau to could a question designed to measure the number of years since the survey respondent graduated with a college degree. Currently, U.S. Census Bureau studies concerning work-life earnings, such as the following reports, measure synthetic work-life estimates by combining data for four age-bands (25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64). This is not as precise as data based on the number of years since the worker graduated from college.

516 I am writing to urge that the questions on marital history be retained in the American Community Survey. I am a social scientist who conducts research on the well-being of children and families. Understanding overall trends in marital status and divorce and the rates of these phenomena among subgroups of interest is integral not only to my work, but to state and federal policy-making efforts. Marital history questions are common in surveys and are not likely to pose an undue burden to survey respondents.

517 I write to respond to the Federal Register notice regarding the content of the American Community Survey (ACS). In particular I encourage the retention of questions re marital status and undergraduate field of study.

The marital status questions will be valuable in several respects. Most importantly they will keep alive a data series that – with the size and coverage of the ACS – will allow the nation to have valuable information about marital dynamics for more detailed population groups and geographic areas. Retention of these questions will also facilitate a time series of information that allows a broad user community to track changes in this key feature of American family life. It is my understanding that marital status questions were originally added to the ACS at the request of the Department of
Health and Human Services. Marital dynamics information is so basic that these data will remain useful in a range of programmatic settings. They will be invaluable for policy, as analysts examine the impact and potential of various programs with respect to the marital status of the population.

The Bachelor's Degree field of study question would, similarly, maintain an important time series and the measurement of skills for groups within the workforce. I understand that the National Science Foundation agrees that this ACS question is particularly pertinent in this regard. Retention of this information will allow us to better understand the issues surrounding all fields of study, and STEM fields in particular, in the United States. It will also allow us to more comprehensively analyze and plan for programmatic changes in education, understanding the relative success and job market paths of several groups in society including women, minorities, and immigrants.

It is recognized that one must be mindful of respondent burden in data gathering. Retention of these question would allow for the collection of valuable information and the continuity of time series with minimal respondent burden

518 I strongly support keeping the questions about marital history and field of education in the American Community Survey. As a social scientist studying inequality, I believe these pieces of information are important for understanding the implications of inequality, how inequality reproduces itself over generations, and how policy might combat it.

Thank you for your consideration.

519 Please allow me to submit a brief comment on the proposed elimination of questions related to marital history and college field of study from the American Community Survey (ACS). I believe that these questions are important components of the ACS and provide extremely valuable information for research on two of the most important issues in American society: education and marriage. Indeed, detailed data on changes in patterns of marriage and higher education are crucial to understanding broader phenomena, such as the historical rise of women in education and the workplace, and the rise of inequality in incomes and education in US society. It makes no sense to limit our own understanding of these issues at a time when they are of the greatest importance to our society and the world as a whole.

I know many researchers who use ACS data on marriage and education in their work, and I have personally written three papers which rely, directly or indirectly, upon ACS data, which I cite below (in the postscript) for your reference. My plans for future research on the relationships between marriage, education, and inequality depend on the continued availability of high-quality data on marriage and higher education in the ACS data.

The detailed data provided by the Department of Commerce in the Census, ACS, and related surveys can fairly be described as a national treasure. This data assists social scientists and governments to understand important economic relationships, diagnose social problems, and ultimately improve policy. In sum, the substantial benefits of retaining the detailed questions on marriage and field of study are worth their small cost in the administration of the ACS.

520 I am writing in response to the request for comments regarding the proposed elimination of marital history questions from the American Community Survey (ACS). I strongly oppose elimination of these marital history questions, which are an essential component of the nation's statistical infrastructure. Their elimination would severely limit our ability to monitor shifts in marriage and divorce patterns across the country, over time, and within specific socio-demographic groups.

I urge you to reconsider the proposal to eliminate these essential marital history questions from the ACS. Failure to do so would seriously damage the U.S. statistical system.

521 I am writing to respond to the request for comments about the elimination of questions relating to marital history. I feel strongly that these questions are essential components of the nation's statistical infrastructure. Their elimination would severely damage our ability to understand ongoing changes in American society and to implement effective policy responses.

522 The purpose of this message is to indicate my disagreement with the proposed changes to the US Census.

In particular, as a professor and researcher interested in Human Capital and Human Resource Development at the national and organizational levels, understanding the state of the nation regarding marital status and undergraduate major/field are important for our long term understanding regarding our national human capital, learning and development.

In fact, I led a study that found national indicators of productivity were influenced by BOTH academic major/field and family status/support--and there are other studies that support these early findings, in need of much more examination.

By eliminating these Census items, you put at risk the opportunity for a clearer picture regarding important national information and trends in marriage and education.

As a nation, we have now moved to a new set of circumstances whereby the majority of children born to mothers age 18-30 are situated with a single, unwed/unpartnered parent. This is a first time trend, perhaps in world history. We need to continue to collect data that will help us to better understand national trends and confront our own (perhaps unfounded) assumptions about the state of marriage, family and education in the US.

Without these data, we will be less equipped to form adequate policy and to implement relevant legislation.

523 I utilize American Community Survey data in my research on liberal arts, higher education, human resources, and the performing arts. It has come to my attention that the Census Bureau has proposed elimination of six ACS questions relating to marriage and education. I am writing against such a proposal.
The ACS and its lower levels of geography provide vital data for my research and the research of thousands of other scholars. Marital history and bachelor's degree received are particularly important.
Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

524 I'm writing to let you know that I think the ACS should continue to ask about marital history. These questions are important for understanding demographic and economic trends in the US.

525 I write this email in the capacity of a public researcher who regularly uses the ACS data for my various research projects.
I have noticed that a preliminary decision is made to exclude seven questions (derived from an original 24 questions slated for review) from the ACS survey, all of which are classified as "Low Benefit/Low Cost.
While regular review of any survey instrument is a good practice, for a survey that takes an average of 40 minutes to complete, exclusion of seven questions of "Low Cost" does not seem to be a prudent action,in the light of the information that this data can provide to interested researchers.
I urge you to re-consider this exclusion.

526 I am writing to respond to the request for comments regarding the proposed removal of questions on marital history from the American Community Survey. I am the Chief Statistician for Measure of America, a project of the Social Science Research Council, a group that makes extensive use of data from the ACS in all of its research. In our new Portrait of California 2014-2015 report, launching this week, we featured tabulations from the 2012 ACS PUMS of the percentage of family households with children headed by a married-couple in groups of California communities. If we understand the proposed changes correctly, without the marital history question we would never be able to tabulate these figures again to see if this important indicator of family composition and stability is changing in future years. Our understanding is that there is no alternative source for this data, especially with the scope for small-area disaggregation that the ACS multi-year data provide, and it strikes us as surprising and unfortunate that such fundamental questions about family structure could be at risk of removal from the ACS survey. We respectfully request that the proposal to remove the marital history questions from the ACS be reconsidered. Thank you.

527 I'm writing to express my strong feelings about retaining the field-of-degree question in the US Census.

In my role as an academic administrator, I develop initiatives to meet the workforce needs of US businesses. Understanding the training and education of our existing workforce is pivotal to guiding these initiatives. While smaller-scale surveys occasionally ask this question, its absence from the Census would significantly hamper our ability to identify the characteristics of existing and potential employees, the future needs of businesses, and the gaps which would need to be filled.

I urge the Census to retain this question.

Please feel free to contact me if I can provide any additional information or be of further assistance.

528 These questions are vital to the health of our nation as we seek to understand the plight of children and their families.

529 I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the proposal to remove questions on marriage and education from the American Community Survey (ACS). I regularly use the ACS data in my research on veterans, older adults, the poor, and other populations. I always use the education and marriage items when I do my work, which I regularly publish in the peer-reviewed social science research literature. The ACS is a vital resource for the research community and it is essential that basic demographic data, including information on educational attainment and marital status, be included in the available data. Removing those questions from the ACS would have a substantial impact on researchers like me. I strongly recommend against any such action.

530 As someone who relies heavily on accurate data, I find it highly disturbing to say the least that information in the survey on marriage, divorce and widowhood would be left off. As a sociologist who knows that marriage, union formation, family are critical institutions and we need to be able to track changes this is doubly disturbing. It will prevent important research from getting done...and more so, critical research that informs public policy. As a classroom teacher whose job it is to relay good information this is even more disturbing.
Please do not stop gathering data on this. We would be the only Western country in the world to do so.
I care deeply about child wellbeing. Marriage, union formation and dissolution trends are critical to examine. Please respond to me. I do not understand how in good conscience this change could be implemented

531 I've been a user of ACS for several years and appreciate the enormous value of ACS to the academic community. I recently heard of the proposed cut of 6 questions regarding marriage and education in the ACS and would like to send you an email expressing my concern over the cut. If you could find a way not to make the cut, please do so. We need the ACS!

532 I strongly oppose the deletion of the questions on marital history and education in the ACS, as doing so will severely undermine analyses of changing dimensions of family in a context of growing inequality and widening participation. These more recent trends are resulting in early analyses that fundamentally challenge what we think we know about family and its long-term health. To delete the questions at this time would have a devastating impact on our understanding of these more recent changes. Good science is about accumulating knowledge, and the U.S. remains world-leading in this regard. The proposed changes go against this reputation and in the long run will hurt U.S. studies of society and families.

533 I am contacting you regarding information I read about the Census Bureau's consideration of removing questions from the Census regarding marriage, widowhood and divorce.

As someone who works both locally and nationally in the field of family strengthening this is quite troubling to me. The ACS is the only way to estimate divorce for the entire nation as well as local marriage and divorce rates. This data is vital to the work we do on a local and national level. Every move we make is contingent on being able to measure what is happening with marriage and divorce across the country and in our own community. This is vital information that helps us examine trends in family life such as are Americans marrying more than divorcing, the number of children living in poverty in married parent homes compared to single parent homes, what states have the highest and lowest marriage and divorce rates.

This information is not only important to organizations such as ours, these are statistics all Americans need to be aware of. If you take these questions off the survey, the United States will be the only country in the developed world that does not generate annual age-specific rates of marriage and divorce.

I strongly urge you to leave these questions on the survey.

534 I am a PhD. student in Sociology and I would like to object to the removal of marriage questions in future ACS. The collection of information on marriage and marital history is crucial for understanding marriage patterns in the United States.

Please support the continuation of questions on marriage and marital history in future ACS. Thank you

535 I would like to convey my objections to the removal of questions about marriage, widowhood, and divorce in the Annual Community Survey (ACS). These questions are of great importance to family demographers, like myself. Without the inclusion of these questions within the ACS, we are unable to estimate divorce for the entire nation, as well as local (county and city) marriage and divorce rates. One might think that such questions are available within the National Vital Statistics System. However, Vital Statistics does not collect key socioeconomic information and, perhaps most concerning, is missing divorce data for one-fifth (20%) of the US population and provides no information at the county or city level.

Please consider keeping these questions in the ACS as they are not only important to researchers but also the general public as they have been featured in national news outlets, such as The New York Times, USA Today, and Chicago Tribune, and showcased in National Center for Family & Marriage Research Family Profiles

536 Hello, my name is [redacted] and I am a graduate student at Bowling Green State University in the Sociology department. I broadly study the family and crime, and have recently heard that certain essential questions with the Annual Community Survey are at risk of being eliminated, particularly questions involving marriage, widowhood, and divorce. This is highly concerning to me as these are vital statistics that we cannot get elsewhere in the same manner. If these questions are dropped, the United States will become the only country in the developed world that does not generate annual age-specific rates of marriage and divorce. These statistics are vital to all that research sociology and are highly relevant to continue our knowledge of the American people! The ACS is the ONLY way to estimate divorce for the ENTIRE nation and local (county and city) marriage and divorce rates. All of us here at Bowling Green State University are highly concerned about this issue, so please reconsider eliminating these questions and voice our concerns to your community and organization! Thank you for your time.

537 I am a human geography graduate student and marriage questions on the ACS have been immensely helpful to my research. I urge you to do all you can to keep these questions on the ACS.

538 I am writing to respond to the request for comments about eliminating several questions relating to marital history on the American Community Survey. As a demographer and social scientist, I cannot overstate the importance of marital history on innumerable social phenomena in the United States. Marital history has been found to influence a variety of outcomes ranging from child development, fertility patterns and the income sources of older adults. I hope the bureau reconsiders its position to eliminate these questions. Social scientists would be seriously hindered in their ability to examine social patterns in America.

539 The ACS marital history questions are crucial because the United States has no alternative source for detailed annual statistics on marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage. If the marriage questions are eliminated, the U.S. will become the only country in the developed world that does not generate annual age-specific rates of marriage and divorce.

540 When Cicero said "The first bond of society is marriage" (De Officiis, I, 78 b.c.) it was true back then and modern researchers have proven that it is still just as true. How will we know how strong the bond is if we are no longer tracking it?
Please keep the marriage and divorce questions in the American Community Survey.

541 As a family-studies professional, I feel the marriage items in the ACS provide valuable information and should be retained if at all possible.

542 I am an assistant professor of economics at Brown University. I wanted to write to communicate my support for the comments of Professor Steven Ruggles regarding the impending removal of important questions from the ACS. Marriage, divorce, and field of specialization in college are very important concepts for understanding human behavior and social progress. The fact that so many other advanced countries gather these data should indicate that they serve some basic, practical, important purpose. Marriage and divorce are cornerstone concepts for understanding how gender roles and families function. And the choice of college major affects earnings as much as the choice to attend college at all. If we think it would be absurd to stop asking questions about highest grade attained, it should also seem absurd to stop asking if people have invested in skills to become chemical engineers or translators or poets or bankers.

Therefore I agree with Professor Ruggles that the ACS should continue to ask all of these questions.

543 This email is in support of NOT eliminating six of the question on ACES on marriage and education.
They are very important to those of us that use ACS data to conduct research on human capital.
Please let me know if you have any questions.

544 I'm writing to encourage your agency to retain those six questions about marriage and education. I worry their elimination will hinder important research in the future. In my area of work—elections— research indicates that education marriage predict how likely a person is to register to vote and vote. So those questions could help us understand what else correlates with marriage and education and develop better strategies for engaging particular subpopulations.

I'm only speaking for myself and not for my agency, obviously

545 I am writing to encourage you not to eliminate the six ACS questions relating to marriage and education. These are valuable questions used to conduct a variety of types of research and analysis – especially related to trends of evolving family demography (and in specific at my job the resulting effects on the nation's housing and apartment stock.) There are very few other reliable data sources we can gather this information from.

546 I am writing to request that you do not remove the questions related to marital history and bachelors education as proposed. I will not reiterate the points made by Steven Ruggles of the University of Minnesota but will stress that this data is critical for researches nationwide working to better understand the issues facing our communities.

547 The ACS represents an invaluable annual source of health insurance information at the national, state and local level. With its large sample size, it is also the source of information on insurance coverage, or lack of coverage, among subpopulations of interest, including disparities populations. The introduction of the Health Insurance Marketplace dramatically changed the way health insurance is purchased; however, the ACS health insurance series is not designed to pick up enrollment in the Marketplace. Tracking enrollment in the Marketplace is important given the resources invested to provide broad access to quality health insurance products. As the Census Bureau contemplates removing items outlined in the Federal Register, please consider adding 'Marketplace' to the list of sources of coverage and adding additional questions on premiums and premium subsidies aimed at tracking the health insurance market.

548 I am an American citizen currently waiting to defend my thesis in sociology at Oxford Univeristy. I made extensive use of the IPUMS dataset in my thesis, and the possibility of undermining its question base is of great concern. The consistency of social science questions overtime is crucial to longitudinal research, which is increasingly the standard means of empirically testing hypotheses. It would be a great shame if the marriage questions were removed.

549 Please keep the marriage, widowhood, and divorce questions in the American Community Survey. Considering the vital role that family support and family stress play in the well-being and health of billions of Americans, it is crucial that we understand trends in marriage status currently and over time.

550 I wholeheartedly agree with the assessment of the Population Association of America and Association of Population Centers.

"The federal government stopped collecting detailed marriage and divorce statistics in 1996 from states' vital records. In 2008, the five marital status questions were added to the ACS at the request of the Department of Health and Human Services after an extensive period of testing and analysis. If these questions are now dropped, the United States will become the only country in the developed world that does not generate annual age-specific rates of marriage and divorce. In addition, because the ACS is the only source of nationally representative data with a large enough sample size to provide reliable statistics for small population subgroups, the ACS marriage history questions are the only available data to examine trends in marriage and divorce transitions by socioeconomic status and by population subgroups. These trends have implications for administering and analyzing the impact of various government programs, including Social Security. The fact that the marriage history questions cannot be used for small area analysis is a shortsighted justification for their exclusion. Further, the loss of these data will weaken the ability of family researchers to accurately portray, interpret, and follow long-term marriage trends in the United States and to analyze how changes in marriage trends impact the health and well-being of individuals across the lifespan."

551 Just as U.S. marriage rates have reached their lowest level in a century and rates of divorce are high, the Census Bureau has proposed to eliminate questions about marriage, widowhood, and divorce in its Annual Community Survey (ACS). This must be avoided! If these questions are dropped, the United States will become the only country in the developed world that does not generate annual age-specific rates of marriage and divorce.

The ACS is the ONLY way to estimate divorce for the entire nation and local (county and city) marriage and divorce rates. The National Vital Statistics System does not collect key socioeconomic information, is missing divorce data for one-fifth (20%) of the population of the U.S., and provides no information at the county or city level.

The questions below can be answered only with the ACS. These have been featured in national news outlets, such as The New York Times, USA Today, and Chicago Tribune, and showcased in NCFMR Family Profiles.

Are Americans marrying more than divorcing?
• In any given year, there are more marriages than divorces in the U.S. In 2013, there were almost two marriages for every one divorce in the U.S.
How has the Great Recession influenced marriage and divorce?
• The marriage rate has declined and not returned to the pre-recession levels. Divorce has returned to pre-recession rates.
Do low income Americans experience differential marriage and divorce rates?
• Yes. The college educated have higher marriage rates and lower divorce rates than their more modestly educated counterparts. The ACS is the best and only source for statistics on the incidence of marriage and divorce across different economic as well as racial and ethnic subgroups.
Do men and women have similar remarriage levels?
• From the ACS, we know that nearly one in three Americans who married last year was remarrying. Men have almost a 100% higher remarriage rate than women. No other data provides estimates of remarriage by age, gender, or race/ethnicity.
Who are experiencing the greatest increases in divorce?
• Baby Boomers have experienced the highest increase in divorce rates with one in four divorces occurring to persons over age 50. The ACS is the best way to estimate these age patterns.
Debunking the seven-year itch
• Actually, it's a 12-year itch. Estimates from the ACS indicate roughly half of first marriages end 12 years after walking down the aisle.
Which states have the highest and lowest age at first marriage?
• Washington DC has the highest, and Idaho and Utah have among the lowest.
Do same-sex marriages end faster than different-sex marriages?
• The ACS will be the only way to estimate levels and trends in same-sex marriage and divorce.
These are all critical questions for our time. Therefore, I ask that you keep questions on marriage in the ACS.

552 I join with those who urge that ACS continue to ask for majors but that philosophy be considered separately from religion and theology. Frankly, it is a serious misconception, though a common one made by intellectual generalists, that these subjects belong together.

553 [redacted] President of the University of Virginia, I am submitting comments (attached) pertaining changes to the American Community Survey (ACS).
[Text from attachment...] I write on behalf of the University of Virginia in response to the Federal Register Notice that announced the findings of the content review of the American Community Survey (ACS). More specifically, I write to highlight the importance of retaining Person Question No. 12 – Undergraduate Field of Degree as a critical component of the ACS.
As a university president and a scholar in labor force demography, I can attest that the data gained from the Undergraduate Field of Degree question provides valuable information that shapes both higher education policy and research. From an institutional perspective, federal and state funding is increasingly tied to the field of undergraduate study. For example, federal SMART grants, a supplement to Pell awards, are targeted to students majoring in science, technology, and critical language fields. Further, the Undergraduate Field of Degree question, when combined with employment and earnings outcomes, provide critical data to assess the effectiveness of state and federal initiatives targeted to specific courses of study.
The Undergraduate Field of Degree also allows researchers and policy analysts to measure the differentiation in areas of study as it relates to the labor market. By assessing the field of specialization, researchers are better able to understand labor market trends, including areas of success and challenge for undergraduate fields of study. Similarly, the information gathered from this question benefits academic departments as they assess new program offerings and provides insight on what educational programs are trending.
Data gathered from this research question has been routinely used by scholars who study workforce trends and changing labor market condition. High-quality research and the volume of publications will only increase over time as a result of the findings of the Undergraduate Field of Degree question. The research value of this question increases as a longer time series is established.
These are just a few examples of the many ways in which the Undergraduate Field of Degree question informs and impacts institutions of higher education. Put simply, the elimination of this question would be a substantial loss to policy, analysis, and research. As
you consider future versions of the American Community Survey, I strongly urge you to keep the Undergraduate Field of Degree question as part of this survey

554 At the request of Stephen Ruggles and the MPC, I am contributing my views on the question of whether the ACS should retain questions related to marriage and marital history. These views are entirely my own and not a reflection of the views of the Federal Reserve system.
Having accurate and statistically powerful information about American marriage patterns is invaluable to economic research and will continue to be so in the future. Marital status (and marital history) has strong effects on labor supply and wages, and large swaths of labor economics would be diminished in the absence of questions to that effect. Marital status is of particular relevance to research regarding the gender wage gap, an important, current, and politically salient question.
For these reasons, I ask that the questions be retained.

555 Attached please find my comments on the ACS Content Review Results.
[Text from attachment...] As Associate Dean for Graduate Programs at Santa Clara University in Santa Clara, California, I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and feedback on the American Community Survey (ACS) Content Review Results.
The School of Engineering at Santa Clara University has Master's programs in Applied Mathematics, Bioengineering, Civil Engineering, Computer Science and Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Engineering Management, Mechanical Engineering and Sustainable Energy. We also offer Ph.D. degrees in Computer Science and Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering. The majority of our 900 or so graduate students are working professionals, who receive tuition support from their companies. The rest are international students, mainly from India and China. Given the composition of our student body, our graduate classes are offered either early in the morning or after 5:00 p.m.
In my capacity as Associate Dean for Graduate Programs I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question12 (Undergraduate Field of Study), where respondents are asked to provide specific major(s) of any bachelor's degrees received by the person with the highest degree in each household.
Many national sample surveys rely on the results of the ACS to construct a stratification sample design that most accurately reflects the true population of interest, and "specific major(s) for a bachelor's degree" is a key variable that allows researchers and policy makers to examine outcomes of postsecondary education with respect to fields of study. This is crucial for the graduate education community because postsecondary outcomes, including post-baccalaureate pursuit and workforce participation vary by discipline.
The proposed elimination would make it impossible for any national sample surveys, including NSCG to reliably capture potential field effects on postsecondary outcomes, which would impact our ability to utilize these data for public purposes. To this end, as Associate Dean for Graduate Programs I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question 12 in the ACS.

556 I am emailing to comment on proposed changes to the American Community Survey Content detailed here. I propose that the ACS continue to ask Question No. 12—Undergraduate Field of Degree. Research on student outcomes is widely disseminated, reported on publicly, and affects both student (and parent) perception of desirable or acceptable major and how university administrations decide funding and program priorities. Therefore, continuing ask this question is of considerable benefit for students, teachers, university administrators, and the public more generally.

As a university professor of philosophy, I would also like to propose that Philosophy and Religious studies be processed, coded, and reported as distinct majors on the ACS question 12. Philosophy is a completely different discipline (and therfore major) from Religious Studies. Aggregating this data is therefore highly inaccurate and misrepresents student outcomes. This is suggested by more limited data sources, like payscale.come, which reports much higher mid-career salaries and GRE performance for philosophy majors, as opposed to religious studies majors.

For a more thorough account of why this matters, please see this link. (http://www.kathwallace.com/Aggregating_Data_Fullv5_Dec2014.pdf)

557 I write as a demographer, a social researcher, and someone who trains both undergraduate and graduate students in research methods and information literacy. I am responding to the Federal Register proposal to eliminate several questions from the American Community Survey, particularly those on family structure and marital history.
I express, in the strongest terms, my opposition to the removal of any questions from the ACS.
Academic researchers, public agencies, social service organizations, and the business community alike rely on the information provided in the American Community Survey. In these times of rapid social, economic, and demographic change, our country NEEDS access to high-quality data, with measures collected longitudinally and consistently. We need to understand the ways in which family structure and the institution of marriage are changing. I use the ACS in my own research, and know the value that it provides precisely because of the cohesiveness of data collection across time.
I appreciate your time, and urge the Commerce Department to retain the questions at risk of being cut from the ACS.

558 As Assistant Graduate Dean for Research and Planning at the University of California, Berkeley, I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and feedback on the American Community Survey (ACS) Content Review Results.

UC Berkeley is a large source of graduate and professional degrees for California and the nation. Among research universities, UC Berkeley produces the highest number of underrepresented doctoral graduates each year. Like other institutions of higher education, we are interested in the outcomes for graduates with advanced degrees - much of which is collected on national sample surveys.

Many national sample surveys rely on the results of the ACS to construct a stratification sample design that most accurately reflects the true population of interest, and "specific major(s) for a bachelor's degree" is a key variable that allows researchers and policy makers to examine outcomes of postsecondary education with respect to fields of study. This is crucial for the graduate education community because postsecondary outcomes, including post-baccalaureate pursuit and workforce participation vary by discipline.

In my capacity as Assistant Graduate Dean, I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question 12 (Undergraduate Field of Study), where respondents are asked to provide specific major(s) of any bachelor's degrees received by the person with the highest degree in each household.

The proposed elimination would make it impossible for any national sample surveys, including NSCG to reliably capture potential field effects on postsecondary outcomes, which would impact our ability to utilize these data for public purposes. To this end, I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question 12 in the ACS.

559 I am a regular user of the ACS for research on policy-related questions. I frequently study arrested and incarcerated populations, often using the ACS as reference points or population denominators. The removal of demographic questions threatens the usefulness of this work. Please keep the education questions that are so important to my work, and the marriage questions so important to researchers with similar portfolios.

560 I am writing to support leaving in the ACS the five questions about marriage and the question about educational degrees that are proposed for removal.
If I may quote from an open letter written by Dr Steven Ruggles:--
The Census Bureau provided a legal detailed justification for the new questions, explaining the many applications of the new data for federal agencies. Perhaps the most crucial need for the marital history data is for projection models of Social Security and pension
entitlements as the baby boom generation starts to retire. The five ACS marital history questions are not simply a substitute for the moribund system of data collected from vital records. They represent a far more powerful tool that anything that has gone before. Unlike the vital statistics system, the ACS marriage questions can be cross- classified with any of the other questions that appear in the survey.
The benefit calculation used by The Census Bureau identified 13 benefits, all of which focused on the uses of the data by federal agencies. The critical flaw in the analysis is that 8 of the 13 benefits they identified focused on uses of the data to describe small
geographic areas, such as census tracts or counties. The ACS is the premier source of information on the characteristics of the STEM workforce, and elimination of the question on field of degree would leave us with no data sources large enough to study small but crucial academic specializations.
Increases in Social Security spending will have enormous consequences for current and future generations, and those are not narrowly defined by small-geographic area studies but in the aggregate across the nation. It seems to me that hampering in any way the capability to make more accurate estimates of population trends that will enable the country to responsibly insure that it has the wherewithal to continue the Social Security system is crucial.
Further, it is also imperative that we have the best possible understanding of changes in specific educational attainment. The president and the congress have both identified creation of a strong system of educating our children in the sciences, engineering, and
mathematics as a high priority. Why, then, eliminate one of the critical mechanisms whereby we can monitor progress or lack thereof in the coming years.
The cost of these questions is low, and I strongly urge that they not be cut until the Census Bureau's scientific advisory board and other agencies, such as the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health have been consulted and agreed.

561 I am writing as the Managing Director of the Predictive Analytics Reporting (PAR) Framework, a non-profit multi-institutional data mining collaborative that brings together 2 year, 4 year, public, proprietary, traditional, and progressive institutions to collaborate on identifying points of student loss and to find effective practices that improve student retention in U.S. higher education.
We are opposed to the elimination of Question No. 12 because it has great practical utility and provides information that cannot be found elsewhere. Furthermore, we suggest that it be expanded to include Associates Degrees and possibly post-secondary Certificates offered by many colleges and universities.
The benefits of a post-secondary credential are evident. In 2013, unemployment rates for young adults was 7% vs. 17.5% for those with only a high school diploma. Similarly, annual median earnings are $46,900 for those with a bachelor's degree vs. $30,000 for those with a high school diploma. Those with an Associates Degree or Post-Secondary Credential also fare better than those with no college.
A primary focus of the PAR Framework is to help our member organizations and in turn, the over 2 million students they currently serve, to guide students in obtaining a post-secondary credential of market value. We do this by using predictive analytics applied to each institution's student data combined with other information to help identify the primary risk and success factors.
PAR Framework's findings combined with findings of others to date indicates that career relevancy as well as major selection is a predictor for college success, including how well students do in courses, the length of time it takes them to earn a degree, and whether or not they are retained until graduation. For students currently in college, information about usual job placement for those who majored in various fields is important for major selection and for persistence to degree.
By eliminating Question 12, you eliminate a valuable resource for successful decision making for millions of current and future post-secondary students. By expanding Question 12 to include other degree level, you can provide this resource to millions more who will attend community college or obtain a certificate. The potential respondent burden seems low in comparison to these potential benefits.

562 Please do not eliminate the ACS questions relating to marriage and education. The responses are important demographic information.

563 The creation and implementation of policy is only effective when it has a solid foundation on which to stand. Data from the ACS is this foundation and is crucial for the ongoing progress in demographic, social, and economic research.

The elimination of 6 marriage and education questions from the ACS is a step backwards for what has become an invaluable source of information. It will eventually hurt the entire population, as the ACS is used by agencies nationally to help inform decisions that affect people's lives.

I strongly urge you to maintain the integrity of the ACS.

564 As a research scientist and as a citizen I urge that the Department of Commerce not reduce questions on marriage and education from the ACS, one of the vital information bases for our citizenry. These questions provide vital data for the work I have done on marriage and family formation, and have proven useful in work by others that has made a real difference in how we understand and attend to the needs of our population.

565 I am writing in support of all seven of the ACS questions that are up for enhanced review, but particularly Person Question 12: Undergraduate Field of Degree. While other data products contain information on fields of study (notably, the NLSY and disparate administrative data systems), the ACS is the only source that spans the entire country and multiple generations of college graduates.

I recently advised an undergraduate honor's thesis that used responses to question 12 to estimate the labor market returns to working in a field that is related to one's degree. A U.S. Department of Commerce report used question 12 to examine the gender gap in STEM jobs and degrees. A forthcoming paper in Journal of Labor Economics uses question 12 to infer whether state-funded merit aid programs had an impact on STEM degree production. Researchers have really just begun to utilize this unique window to the training of the U.S. workforce.

Business leaders and policymakers are increasingly interested in the stock of skills within a given region, and the public at large is demanding to know the short-term and long-term economic benefits of particular majors. Question 12 is the best available resource to understand the geography and depth of graduates' specialties, and to make connections between degree field, earnings, and other aspects of adult success. My hope is that question 12 will actually be expanded to report the field of study for non-completers and two-year college completers.

566 I am writing to express my discontent with the DOC's plans to discontinue six questions pertaining to marriage and education from the ACS.

567 I am writing regarding to respond to the request for comments about the elimination of questions relating to marital history in the American Community Survey. As a demographer and user of ACS data, these questions and the ACS in general are crucial for conducting social science research on the American population. Moreover, removal of certain questions will hinder any ongoing studies that draw upon changes in overall trend responses over time. Thus, I ask that the appropriate authorities reconsider their decision to redact these questions.

568 Hi. I am an associate professor of economics and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and I am writing to express my concern about the elimination of the marital history and field of education questions from the ACS.
It is crucial to have up-to-date statistics on marital status and changes in marital status for descriptive analysis of the US population as well as for modelling changes in these outcomes or using these variables as predictors in models of, for example, child-bearing or employment.
Additionally, in understanding education decisions, a variable that is frequently unavailable is the actual field of study in college. Knowing this information not only allows for a descriptive understanding of trends in education which is important for education policy but also allows for a richness in economic models of, for example, employment where knowledge of field of study may provide important insight into differing labor market outcomes.
I strongly support the continued inclusion of these questions in the ACS.

569 As Dean of the Graduate School and Vice Provost for Graduate Education at the University of Washington's three campuses in Seattle, Tacoma and Bothell, WA, I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and feedback on the American Community Survey (ACS) Content Review Results.
The University of Washington is home to over 13,000 students pursuing postbaccalaureate degrees. These students have over 370 degree programs to choose from, among 120 different disciplines/interdisciplinary programs. We have award nearly 5,000 graduate degrees each year.
In my capacity as Dean and Vice Provost, I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question12 (Undergraduate Field of Study), where respondents are asked to provide specific major(s) of any bachelor's degrees received by the person with the highest degree in each household.
Many national sample surveys rely on the results of the ACS to construct a stratification sample design that most accurately reflects the true population of interest, and "specific major(s) for a bachelor's degree" is a key variable that allows researchers and policy makers to examine outcomes of postsecondary education with respect to fields of study. This is crucial for the graduate education community
because postsecondary outcomes, including post-baccalaureate pursuit and workforce participation vary by discipline.
Our planning for the future of graduate education depends on the availability of good data, and the answers to question 12 of the American Community Survey represent a unique and valuable source of information that helps us understand changes in graduate education. Such data are nearly impossible to come by, and it would be a substantial loss to the thousands of institutions of higher education, including the
University of Washington, to no longer have these data available. We need these data for benchmarks for career outcomes of both master's and doctoral degree recipients by specific field. Without such data, our planning efforts for the future will not be guided by good data.
The proposed elimination would make it impossible for any national sample surveys, including NSCG to reliably capture potential field effects on postsecondary outcomes, which would impact our ability to utilize these data for public purposes.
To this end, I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question 12 in the ACS.

570 I strongly support continuing to include Person Question No. 12—Undergraduate Field of Degree in the ACS. The question, as is noted in the 10/31/14 notice, is low cost. However, it is not low benefit. It is the only national representative source of vital information about college major, and that information provides a very useful insight into a long-standing and continuing debate in higher education policy.

571 I strongly encourage the Census Bureau to maintain the marital change and marital history questions (questions 21a,b,c; 22; 23) in the American Community Survey. These questions are very valuable to demographers. It is also important to keep the questions because these data are not collected as part of the regular vital statistics records. Marriage patterns in the U.S. are currently undergoing tremendous change. The ACS is a critical resource for understanding how these changes relate to conditions in small geographies.

572 I write to request that ACS questions #21a-c, 22, 23 and #12 NOT be removed from the survey.

The diligence of the content review, the assessment of costs/benefits in administering are impressive.

It is heartening to learn that the foregoing questions are low cost and though federal agencies queried also determined low benefit, there are non-government organizations that will profit from the continued use of these data and citizens, particularly children, who will suffer from the loss of these data to NGOs.

I have no skin in the game. I am an ordinary citizen who regrets that the Census Bureau and ACS continually get short-changed by Congress, while military budgets soar. As the saying goes, it will be a beautiful day when education (and the Census Bureau) have all the funds needed to succeed and the Air Force has to hold a bake sale to buy another bomber.

I'd like to see ACS hold on to these questions. The need for graduates in STEM fields cannot be over-emphasized. Where are NGOs going to get this information if ACS doesn't provide it? How can we gauge whatever educational incentives we provide earn merit? And if STEM field graduates are increasing, who are they?

Thanks for your attention. I will greatly appreciate your consideration in hanging on to the foregoing questions.

573 Please see attached. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.
[Text of attachment...] As Dean of the Graduate School at South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD, I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and feedback on the American Community Survey (ACS) Content Review Results, specifically, the American Community Survey Content Review Results (Federal Register, Vol. 79, No. 211, October 31, 2014, pp. 64743-64744).
This institution enrolls 1500 graduate students in over 45 programs, both masters and doctoral, on-campus and distant, and academic and professional. Our school enrolls roughly 66%/34% domestic (US natives) and international students, respectively.
In my capacity as Dean I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question12 (Undergraduate Field of Study), where respondents are asked to provide specific major(s) of any bachelor's degrees received by the person with the highest degree in each household.
Many national sample surveys rely on the results of the ACS to construct a stratification sample design that most accurately reflects the true population of interest, and "specific major(s) for a bachelor's degree" is a key variable that allows researchers and policy makers to examine outcomes of postsecondary education with respect to fields of study. This is crucial for the graduate education community because postsecondary outcomes, including post-baccalaureate pursuit and workforce participation vary by discipline.
More specifically at SDSU, we are currently developing program assessment processes which necessitate the use of these and similar data. As graduate education recruitment becomes more competitive and structured for specific job types, data on baccalaureate holders are required for improved curricula and many other processes.
The proposed elimination would make it impossible for any national sample surveys, including NSCG to reliably capture potential field effects on postsecondary outcomes, which would impact our ability to utilize these data for public purposes. To this end, as Dean of the Graduate School I urge the Department of Commerce

574 I work in higher education and argue that person question 12 and person questions 21b and 23 be retained.

Person Question Q12
This is useful for examining returns to earning degrees in STEM and/or other broadly defined fields. Also allows examining how college completions / major choices change over time, especially in relation to changes in broad social and/or economic conditions. This is useful to college and university planning.

Person Questions 21a through 21c, 22 and 23.
As more citizens join ranks of retirees, then monitoring marital status is important to projecting social security, Medicare, and other benefits for older Americans. I recommend keeping questions 23 and 21b.

If questions 23 is retained, then only question 21b needs to be retained. I would reword it as:
In the past 12 months, did this person's spouse die?

Question 21a is redundant with 23 and 21c is intrusive and of limited value.

Thanks for the opportunity to provide input.

575 Attached is a comment letter from the National Association of Home Builders in response to the notice on the 2015 American Community Survey Content Review Results, published in the Federal Register on October 31, 2014 (79 Fed. Reg. 64743).
[Text from attachment...]On behalf of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), I would like to comment on the above-referenced notice published in the Federal Register on October 31, 2014 (79 Fed. Reg. 64743) concerning the 2015 American Community Survey (ACS).
The National Association of Home Builders is a Washington-based trade association representing more than 140,000 members involved in all aspects of home building. NAHB is affiliated with more than 800 state and local home builders associations across the country with a particular interest in the data produced by the ACS for particular states and local areas.
ACS data are produced on an annual basis and include key demographic, social, economic, and housing information at small levels of geography that are needed by private industry in order to make informed business decisions. Data such as these are also needed on a timely basis, making the ACS clearly superior to the old system that collected the information only once every ten years on the census long form questionnaire. The ability to provide key data annually and at a detailed level of geography is one of the main reasons the ACS has great practical utility.
NAHB regularly relies on the ACS to provide local housing market and other information to its members. Major examples of NAHB studies that rely on the ACS include the following:
- Snapshot of Home Ownership in Local Housing Markets (March 2014)
- Young Adults Living with Parents (February 2014)
- Snapshot of Home Ownership in Local Housing Markets (March 2014)
- What Home Buyers Really Want: Ethnic Preferences (April 2014)
- Average Property Tax Rates by County & Metro Area (forthcoming)
- Immigrant Workers into the Construction Industry (forthcoming)

Studies such as these are important because they provide builders, consumers and local governments with current market information, leading to more efficient business and policy decisions. They are also examples of the wide range of
research that would not be possible without the ACS. Although "What Home Buyers Really Want: Ethnic Preferences" is based on a survey conducted by NAHB, NAHB relied entirely on summary statistics from the ACS to design, stratify, and weight the survey sample. This illustrates another important use of the ACS: it provides a sampling frame for many other surveys, including surveys conducted by federal agencies. The ACS also provides virtually the only source of data on individual Congressional districts. NAHB often distributes information compiled from the ACS to federal legislators and staff in order to analyze housing and economic conditions and the effect of particular polices in individual Congressional districts, and we're sure other organizations, in both the public and private sector, do the same. It is thus not surprising that the Census Bureau was able to identify over 300 specific uses of the ACS by federal agencies, especially when providing a sampling frame for other surveys is taken into account.
Given the critical nature of the information provided to both the public and private sectors, it is important to collect the information efficiently. Rather than comment on specific changes to the ACS questionnaire, NAHB would like to commend the
Census Bureau for undertaking a very thorough and careful evaluation of each question, which should go a long way toward ensuring that the ACS provides the

576 I am writing a short note to reflect my opposition to the proposed elimination of ACS questions regarding marital status and undergraduate education. As a concerned American citizen, I believe strongly that that quality data needs to take a central role in informing public policy and intellectual debates in our country. All of the questions at hand from the ACS (marriage & undergraduate education) are vitally important in allowing us to have these debates, and the ACS provides one of (if not the) only ways to obtain this information.

I'm not a direct user of this data set, but I believe strongly that this is an irreversible decision that will not benefit our country.

To be clear, I strongly oppose the elimination of marital status questions #21a-c, 22 and 23, as well as undergraduate field study question #12 from the ACS.

577 I am writing with concern to the pending changes in the ACS, which I believe would be a mistake. As a social scientist, I understand how vital this data source is to academia and businesses alike. Furthermore, it hinders advancement of scientific knowledge when data sources are constantly changed. I believe the fields of labor and family economics, as well as other fields I am less aware of, will be hampered if this change is to take place.
Thanks for your time and consideration!

578 The current American Community Survey includes an item requesting information about the respondent's bachelors degree field of study.

On behalf of educational researchers and university administrators, I urge you to reconsider the removal of the question about the bachelors degree field of study. This item is important to our understanding of workforce needs and the availability of skills. A range of studies including those related to the need for new university programs their expansion or, conversely, the reduction and closure of programs depend on this type of information.

Currently NCES data provides information about current degree recipients but the general and regional availability of skills, especially in STEM fields, is not accessible through any other national survey of which I am aware.

579 I am writing in regards to the proposed changes to the marriage history questions on the American Community Survey. I am a researcher for the National Center for Health Statistics studying health disparities along a number of dimensions including race/ethnicity, gender, education, and marital status, and I am a regular user of Census and ACS data. The ACS is an indispensable source of data on vital events, population composition, and small area estimates for researchers, policy-makers, and the general public. The loss of the marital history questions would be devastating to researchers attempting to highlight family inequalities on a number of other important dimensions, and would be harmful to attempt to disseminate important figures regarding the evolution of family structure over time. The value of the ACS is also in its uniqueness. Its strengths include

1. Large sample size (continuous sampling includes more than 1% of the US each year)
2. High response rate (the legal mandate of survey response serves to eliminate or seriously reduce non-response bias)
3. Complete geographic coverage (covers all areas of the US every year)
4. Detailed data on marital histories (few other surveys contain such detail and no other surveys combine that detail with the necessary sample size)

Steve Ruggles has previously written about the significance of the potential effects of removing the marital history questions from the ACS (http://www.pop.umn.edu/sites/www.pop.umn.edu/files/ACS_Letter_Ruggles.pdf) an I won't rehash it here. Suffice it to say that sociology, demography, and health research would be greatly impacted, for the worse, as a result of the loss of these data. We hope that the Census Bureau will elect to keep these questions in the ACS.

580 As a professional working in higher education I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and feedback on the American Community Survey (ACS) Content Review Results.

I have worked as an associate dean or dean in graduate schools in four states at universities with more than 20 doctoral programs and as many as 6000 graduate students.

In my capacity as dean I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question12 (Undergraduate Field of Study), where respondents are asked to provide specific major(s) of any bachelor's degrees received by the person with the highest degree in each household.

Many national sample surveys rely on the results of the ACS to construct a stratification sample design that most accurately reflects the true population of interest, and "specific major(s) for a bachelor's degree" is a key variable that allows researchers and policy makers to examine outcomes of postsecondary education with respect to fields of study. This is crucial for the graduate education community because postsecondary outcomes, including post-baccalaureate pursuit and workforce participation vary by discipline.

It is critical in the field of graduate education to have data provided by question #12 to be successful at supporting our graduate students.

The proposed elimination would make it impossible for any national sample surveys, including NSCG to reliably capture potential field effects on postsecondary outcomes, which would impact our ability to utilize these data for public purposes. To this end, as a graduate dean I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question 12 in the ACS.

581 As Graduate School Dean and Associate Provost at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and feedback on the American Community Survey (ACS) Content Review Results.

Background
We enroll ca. 5,000 graduate students (.50% out-of-state) out of a total enrollment in excess of 36,000 and graduate ca. 2,000 Master's and doctoral recipients each year. We annually rank among the top 2 -3 among national flagship campuses in the diversity of our graduate programs and numbers of minority graduates.

Suggestion
In my capacity as Dean and Associate Provost I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question12 (Undergraduate Field of Study), where respondents are asked to provide specific major(s) of any bachelor's degrees received by the person with the highest degree in each household.

Rationale
In our strategic planning, we use many national sample surveys and rely on the results of the ACS to construct a stratification sample design that most accurately reflects the true population of interest, and "specific major(s) for a bachelor's degree" is a key variable that allows researchers and policy makers to examine outcomes of postsecondary education with respect to fields of study. This is crucial for the graduate education community because postsecondary outcomes, including post-baccalaureate pursuit and workforce participation vary by discipline.

For example, we have grown from 3,700 to almost 5,000 graduate students in the past decade by deploying resources in departments and programs which are poised to grow nationally, based on undergraduate majors and degree recipients. Further, UA is considered a vital cog in the State of Alabama's workforce development plans and we cannot aid this effort with incomplete national data on majors within the baccalaureate degree.

The proposed elimination would make it impossible for any national sample surveys, including NSCG to reliably capture potential field effects on postsecondary outcomes, which would impact our ability to utilize these data for public purposes. To this end, as [position] I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question 12 in the ACS.

582 Please see the attached comments re Q12 of the ACS.
[Text from attachment..] As Associate Dean of the Graduate School at Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and feedback on the American Community Survey (ACS) Content Review Results.

We offer more than 160 graduate degree programs and enroll more than 5,000 graduate and professional students.

In my capacity as Associate Dean, I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question12 (Undergraduate Field of Study), where respondents are asked to provide specific major(s) of any bachelor's degrees received by the person with the highest degree in each household.

Many national sample surveys rely on the results of the ACS to construct a stratification sample design that most accurately reflects the true population of interest, and "specific major(s) for a bachelor's degree" is a key variable that allows researchers and policy makers to examine outcomes of postsecondary education with respect to fields of study. This is crucial for the graduate education community because postsecondary outcomes, including post-baccalaureate pursuit and workforce participation vary by discipline.

Increasingly, we expect to rely on national surveys to track our students' progress, including, for example, career outcomes of master's and doctoral degree recipients by specific fields.

The proposed elimination would make it impossible for any national sample surveys, including NSCG, to reliably capture potential field effects on postsecondary outcomes, which would impact our ability to utilize these data. To this end, as Associate Dean, I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question 12 in the ACS.

583 I am writing today to strongly urge that the marital history and undergraduate degree field-of-study questions be retained in the American Community Survey. As a Senior Fellow at the Urban Institute, I have personally used the ACS extensively, and am aware of other Urban Institute research that relies on these questions.

The questions you are considering dropping are very important for both micro-level analyses and for purposes of understanding U.S. vital statistics. In terms of the vital statistics system, the marital history questions are the only remaining source of annual age-specific rates of marriage and divorce for the United States (since the federal program that collected marriage and divorce data from vital statistics records was discontinued. Projects that use microsimulation to "age" data files into the future require annual age-specific rates of marriage and divorce rates.

In my own research, I study the impact of current benefit programs on family economic well-being as well as the potential impact of policy changes, often using simulation techniques. Detail on marital status is important to correctly simulate many safety net policies; for example, several states use different policies for cash welfare benefit for families that have newly married. Thus, it is not enough to know that a family includes a married couple, it is necessary to know if they married recently.

The question on field of study is equally important. It has already been used for many projects aimed at understanding the impact of field of study on earnings, the characteristics of students who choose different majors, and so on.

I hope that the plan to drop these questions will be reconsidered. People who are filling out the ACS will not have a different view of the survey based on just a few questions more or less. We must concentrate on explaining to respondents how important the survey is, rather than trying to shave off 30 seconds from the time it takes to complete it.

584 Please do not eliminate the ACS questions on marriage and education. These are key characteristics that are needed in almost any research project involving ACS data.

585 I'm writing toThe questions on ACS regarding marital status should be kept, as marital status (when one the last time married) has potential implications for the labor supply decisions of the households and how couples manage to share income within households. This type of questions would be important in understanding how much of the unemployment benefits and other benefits need to be given to households depending on their household type (single mother etc).

586 As a Family Studies specialist, and having worked in this field for over 20 years, I want you to know the great value we all receive in obtaining the marital status of individuals in families. It has a great influence on identifying how our society is changing and the necessary steps to change or support those changes as they impact the health and wellness of our society.

My vote is to keep those related questions in the survey!

Thank you for considering this.

587 I write to comment on a proposed change to the American Community Survey. As a social scientist whose research is concerned with the economic and social effects of scientific research and training, I strongly disagree with the proposal to remove P12: Field of Degree from the ACS. This question is of low burden to respondents and is exceptionally important for research on and evaluation of the characteristics and status of the national scientific workforce and of higher education more generally. The item provides a sampling frame for the National Science Foundation, without which, that organization will be required to conduct special surveys of college graduates to fulfill its mandate under the American COMPTETES Act and its larger responsibility to collect and disseminate data on the STEM Workforce. The science and engineering indicators that NSF creates on the basis of the Field of Degree information are an essential input to research and policy making in a number of areas of importance including higher education, women's and minority participation in STEM, workforce and economic development, and regional and national economic growth. The item is relatively new, appearing in the last five years, and as a result its full utility and importance are thus still being realized. Finally, when considered in the context of the extensive and high quality data collected through the ACS, field of degree could be used to shed very important light on the individual and potentially societal returns to higher education in multiple fields of study. This issue will only grow in importance and visibility in the upcoming years. The ACS Field of Degree question is one of the most comprehensive and valuable sources of data on this pressing issue. For all these reasons, I strongly urge the continued inclusion of this field in the ACS.

588 I am currently working on a project looking at gender discrimination in hiring for STEM graduates. As background for that information, I was delighted to find that the ACS has been asking about undergraduate major. Without this question in the ACS, I would not be able to make statements like, "Among those who major in computer science, 62% of men, but only 36% of women go into careers that are labeled computer science (author's calculations from American Community Survey)."
Please keep this question in the ACS.

589 I respectively express my concern regarding the proposed removal of the question regarding one's undergraduate field of study from the American Community Survey. Without this question we, the highereducation community will not have access to any national data regarding American's undergraduate field of study. This information provides colleges and universities like mine to indicate to the public the importance of fields of studies. Please do not remove this question.

590 Please keep the marriage and education questions. They are important for
our understanding of changes in labor supply, child rearing, and other
important social issues.

591 I realize the Census Bureau is considering dropping the ACS question on college major. I think this would be an important mistake. In particular, a pressing public policy question is the extent to which the government should encourage education and employment in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). The ACS college major question serves as an excellent way to address this question.

The attached paper by Jonathan Winters, just published in Regional Science and Urban Economics, establishes that metro residents with bachelors degrees in a STEM field increased the wages of other metro residents---with bachelors degrees both in and not in STEM fields---by more than did metro residents with bachelors degrees in non-STEM fields.

592 I am writing to oppose the elimination of the ACS questions on degree field and marital history. I have used degree field in research and teaching when modeling labor market outcomes. The marital questions are also quite important for studying trends in household formation over time. Both sets of questions are useful for research, policy and teaching.

And, of couse, the ACS as a whole is immensely valuable!

593 The marriage questions on the ACS are of critical importance for understanding isolation and impoverishment of persons who are not in couples. One critical component of marriage is the ability to join resources with some assurance of a rightful claim. Living with a significant other does not establish this right, particularly for those without ready and inexpensive access to sophisticated legal planning. Another critical component is that the marriage status provides the opportunity for some cushion in family income, should one of the partners be out of work or on short hours for a period. Finally, the sequencing of marriages, where there are multiples, is one of the non-obvious flags for the potential financial burdens of one or more divorces. All of these are essential to understanding in-grained poverty in the United States and the stability of families in which children grow up.

594 As I understand the situation, currently question 12 asks respondents
about their undergraduate major. Philosophy and Religious Studies are
one lumped in category. Rather than eliminating this question, as is
being proposed, I would request keeping the question, but disaggregating
Phil and Religious Studies. This would be very much in the interests of
both disciplines.

595 I am writing to express my concern about the proposed removal of the "Field of Degree" question from the American Community Survey. Removal of this question would jeopardize our ability to collect data about STEM education that is used to provide critical information about the nation's science and engineering workforce. This may in turn undermine national efforts to improve this workforce, which is widely recognized as key to the nation's wellbeing on a number of levels. Collection of this data via other mechanisms would inevitably be more costly and less efficient.

I strongly urge the U.S. Census Bureau to retain the "Field of Degree" question in the ACS.

596 This is a response to the request for comments about dropping some questions concerning marital history and education from the ACS. I am an accounting professor who studies professional labor markets and the variables in question, particularly the field of degree variable, are critically important in my own research. I am writing to urge you not to drop these questions. They provide a uniquely valuable window into the operation of professional labor markets in the United States.

597 I wanted to send a quick email about the importance of the ACS marriage questions. They really are filling a void that has existed in the research community for some time. Understanding trends in family structure is important for a variety of economic and social phenomena.

It would be a shame to see those questions go.

598 As a family demographer, I am extremely concerned about the proposed elimination of the marital status questions from the American Community Survey (ACS). These questions are of fundamental importance for understanding patterns of marriage and divorce in the U.S., as well as their antecedent factors. Given the extent to which we expect U.S. families to care for dependents (children from birth to adulthood and elders after their productive years)--as well as the important role for marriage and divorce in affecting outcomes for adults and their offspring, having accurate information about these aspects of union formation and dissolution is crucial for understanding the composition and wellbeing of the U.S. population and for making accurate projections about the future.

599 Please see my comments, in the attached letter. Thank you.
[Text from attachment…] As Vice Provost and Graduate Dean at the University of California, Merced, in Merced, California, I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and feedback on the American Community Survey (ACS) Content Review Results.

The University of California Merced is the first research institution of the 21st century. We are proud members of the UC system, and are both a Hispanic Serving and Minority Serving Institution. Currently we have approximately 400 graduate students, with anticipated growth to 1,000 graduate students by 2020.
In my capacity as Vice Provost and Graduate Dean, I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question12 (Undergraduate Field of Study), where respondents are asked to provide specific major(s) of any bachelor's degrees received by the person with the highest degree in each household.

Many national sample surveys rely on the results of the ACS to construct a stratification sample design that most accurately reflects the true population of interest, and "specific major(s) for a bachelor's degree" is a key variable that allows researchers and policy makers to examine outcomes of postsecondary education with respect to fields of study. This is crucial for the graduate education community because postsecondary outcomes, including post-baccalaureate pursuit and workforce participation vary by discipline.
For example, we use the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics' National Survey of College Graduates (NSCG) to develop national benchmarks for career outcomes of our master's and doctoral degree recipients, by field.

The proposed elimination would make it impossible for any national sample surveys, including NSCG, to reliably capture potential field effects on postsecondary outcomes, which would impact our ability to utilize these data for public purposes. To this end, as Vice Provost and Graduate Dean, I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question 12 in the ACS.

600 I am a Ph.D student in Sociology at Bowling Green State University and study the family, with emphasis on marriage and cohabitation. I am writing to oppose the removal of the marital history questions from the ACS. This information is vital to my research area of focus (Family) and these data are needed to help us remain informed about the state of marriage in the U.S.

601 Please add my name to the list of folks writing to preserve the ACS,including the marital history and degree field questions. This survey is critical for a host of policy relevant research questions and for understanding patterns and trends in contemporary American society.

602 I am writing to state my objection to the removal of the marriage questions from the American Community Survey. As an early career researcher who focuses on understanding changing family formation patterns, including marriage and divorce among marginalized populations, I believe that no longer collecting data on these trends would be a serious blow to social science research about minority families. Accurate and up-to-date data about marriage trends in the population are important more now than ever as families in the US are rapidly becoming more complex. My specific area of interest, the relationship between cohabitation and marriage in low-income Black families, uses this type of information to accurately describe current patterns and most importantly to recommend timely social policies and programs that are well-suited to the realities of these marginalized families. Their patterns vary from the general population, and the ACS is currently the best and only way to know this with a nationally representative regular sample. I strongly encourage the Census Bureau to rethink the long-lasting impact this change would have on family research, and on the well-being of minority groups.

603 I am writing to urge the Department of Commerce and the U.S. Census Bureau to retain the following question in the ACS questionnaire:

Person Question No. 12—Undergraduate Field of Degree—This question focuses on this person's Bachelor's Degree. Please print below the specific major(s) of any Bachelor's Degrees this person has received.

I teach at a university. We see increasing expectations for universities to provide degrees that directly benefit immediate society needs as well as minimize student debt, we need all of the data that we can get on actual degree attainment and value. Publicly funded universities are receiving less and less funding--we do not have the resources to run research of the scale that this census data can provide.

The data from this question serves many agencies and research reports, ultimately benefiting the population. Please consider keeping this question to better serve the country in planning its higher education agenda.

604 I am writing in favor of keeping the ACS questions relating to marital history and undergraduate field of study.

I depend on these questions for ongoing and future research projects.
In particular, very few datasets ask about field of study, although the field of study is essential to understanding earning prospects and to explaining variables of interest like the gender pay gap.
One of my areas of study relates to household interactions. As you can imagine, it is *very* hard to talk about marriage and divorce decisions without knowing anything about individuals' marital history.

While I understand that the Census Bureau is trying to cut costs, I believe accurate and nationally representative data are essential to academic and policy analysis. The benefits stemming from these are far larger than whatever costs are cut from eliminating a handful of questions.

I therefore urge you to please keep the questions on the survey.

605 I write to let you know the importance of the marriage questions on the American Community Survey and to ask that the Commerce Department keep those questions in future waves of the ACS. It is my understanding as a consumer of peer-reviewed scholarly publishing that social scientists have made important use of the marriage questions over the past five years. I use the results of the peer-reviewed published literature to make comparisons for my students in undergraduate classes about the past and the present. Eliminating the questions, as proposed, will do a disservice to those who wish to compare and analyze data from today with data from the American historical past.

I also have a concern about the proposed elimination of the question about the college major. I am writing a history of my university and wish to compare it to similar institutions, that is, state colleges and universities in the Carnegie classification of public masters-level institutions. That work will become more difficult if the question is not asked on the ACS.

Thank you for keeping the marriage and college degree questions in the ACS.

606 Please do NOT drop the marital status and the undergraduate field of study questions from the American Community Survey Questionnaire.

The data generated by these particular marital status questions is currently the only data available to compute annual rates (of marriage and divorce) for population subgroups (e.g., socioeconomic status). The institution of marriage is undergoing such significant change right now. We need to collect this data so that we can track and research these changes. These social changes do impact life outcomes and program eligibility and participation. These rates also vary by geography and economic conditions.

The linkages between academic fields of study and eventual labor force outcomes is also significant to researchers and has policy implications. Again, there is no alternative source of these data short of administrative data sources.

I urge you to keep these questions in the ACS.

Thank you for your consideration.

607 I write in opposition to the proposal to eliminate questions 12, 21a-c, 22 and 23 from the American Community Survey. The question on majors earned in bachelor's Degrees is essential to economists and planners who examine such problems as employment trends and occupational mismatch.These questions on marital status are essential to social scientists who use microdata to research nuptiality and family formation.

The elimination of these questions is a false economy and will create a permanent gap in the time line of data availability on these topics in the United States. Remember, you cannot simply go back and ask these questions later if they are not asked in the ACS.

Please reconsider the decision to eliminate these questions.

608 I write as a researcher, an educator, and the President of the American Sociological Association, which has approximately 13,000 members, in response to the notice in the October 31, 2014 Federal Register requesting comments regarding the American Community Survey (ACS) Content Review Results. My comments are to stress how much practical utility the information has.
As a researcher, I often advise policy makers. For this purpose, the data in the ACS has great value. I believe that proposal to eliminate the questions on marital status and on undergraduate field of study is a shortsighted mistake.
Comments on Proposed Elimination of Marital Status Questions # 21a-c, 22, and 23
The federal government stopped collecting detailed marriage and divorce statistics in 1996 from states' vital records. In 2008, the five marital status questions were added to the ACS at the request of the Department of Health and Human Services after an extensive period of testing and analysis. If these questions are now dropped, the United States will become the only country in the developed world that does not generate annual age-specific rates of marriage and divorce. In addition, because the ACS is the only source of nationally representative data with a large enough sample size to provide reliable statistics for small population subgroups, the ACS marriage history questions are the only available data to examine trends in marriage and divorce transitions by socioeconomic status and by population subgroups. These trends have implications for administering and analyzing the impact of various government programs, including Social Security. The fact that the marriage history questions cannot be used for small area analysis is a shortsighted justification for their exclusion because many policy decisions respond to national patterns and trends, not geographically specific patterns. Further, the loss of these data will weaken the ability of family researchers to accurately describe long-term marriage trends in the United States and to analyze how changes in marriage trends impact the health and well-being of Americans.
I am also concerned about the proposed elimination of question #12 regarding undergraduate field of study. As you know, this question was added to the ACS in 2009 following recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences so that the ACS could serve as the sample frame for the surveys conducted by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and improve the National Survey of College Graduates (NSCG) program for the Scientists and Engineers Statistical Data System. This question has also provided much needed information on the size and the characteristics of the U.S. Science, Technology, Education and Mathematics (STEM) workforce; a question that has attracted increased attention in recent years. The elimination of this question would eliminate the ability to track this relatively small but important segment of the US workforce, and to analyze the changing race/ethnic and gender composition and geographic distribution of this workforce. It also impedes the ability of educational policy makers to assess the fields in which students are able to get jobs and decent earnings and feed this information back into educational decisions.
I hope the Office of Management and Budget working with the Census Bureau, will consider retaining the marriage history questions and the undergraduate field of study question in the ACS.
Thank you for your careful consideration.

609 I urge you to reconsider the elimination of the bachelor's degree major and marriage questions from the ACS.

While a college education is increasingly important to an individual's employment prospects, labor economists like myself are just beginning to understand how the demand for different college majors and skillsets relates to post-school employment, earnings, innovation, and competitiveness. The loss of the college major question will severely hamper this research.

The marriage questions are also important, with emerging trends in the age at marriage, family formation, and the durability of marriage now taking shape. American society, the workforce, and family life are rapidly changing in ways we do not yet understand, with unknown implications for economic and social wellbeing. These survey questions help social scientists illuminate these trends and inform the American public. Please fight to preserve them.

610 Please see the attached comments of the American Statistical Association in response to the 10/31 FRN on the proposal to remove ACS question #12 on the undergraduate field of degree.
[Text from attachment] I write to respond to the October 31 Federal Register Notice, "Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; The American Community Survey (ACS) Content Review Results," to express the strong concern of the American Statistical Association for the removal of question number 12 on the undergraduate field of degree.
Question 12 is important to (i) the understanding of the STEM workforce in the United States; (ii) economic development and workforce research; and (iii) the National Science Foundation's National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) for its National Survey of College Graduates (NSCG).
At the urging of NCSES (under direction from OMB to finds ways to cut survey costs), question number 12 was added to the ACS in 2009 and serves as the sampling frame for the NSCG. This arrangement has saved NCSES tens of millions of dollars—as intended—as it doesn't have to collect the information itself. Further, the collection of the field of degree information through the ACS was so efficient and effective that it allowed NCSES to discontinue the National Survey of Recent College Graduates. If the field of degree question were dropped from the ACS, not only would it cost NCSES millions of dollars to collect the information, it would also increase the survey burden on the public and potentially lower the data quality.
More generally, STEM workers are critical to the U.S. workforce because of their vital role in the innovation economy and boosting U.S. competiveness. Therefore, the understanding of our STEM workforce provided by ACS question 12 is an important part of our country's strategy for energizing our innovation economy and our international competiveness.
These points and more were made in the letter from the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics. The ASA is a member of COPAFS and we endorse their comments on this question.
We also note this question is viewed as being a light burden on respondents who take only nine seconds (on average) to respond to it. Given the light burden and the many benefits of including

611 Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and feedback on the American Community Survey (attached).
[Text from attachment…] BACKGROUND
The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) appreciates this opportunity to provide comments and feedback on the American Community Survey (ACS) Content Review Results. CGS is the only national organization in the U.S. that is dedicated solely to the advancement of graduate education and research, and our membership includes over 500 universities in the United States that annually award more than 92 percent of all U.S. doctorates and over 81 percent of all U.S. master's degrees.
SUGGESTION
CGS urges the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question12 (Undergraduate Field of Degree), where respondents are asked to provide specific major(s) of any bachelor's degrees received by the person with the highest degree in each household.
RATIONALE
Many national sample surveys rely on the results of the ACS to construct a stratification sample design that most accurately reflects the true population of interest, and "specific major(s) for a bachelor's degree" is a key variable that allows researchers and policy makers to examine outcomes of postsecondary education with respect to fields of study. This is crucial for the graduate education community because postsecondary outcomes, including post-baccalaureate pursuit and workforce participation vary by discipline.
For example, CGS and many of our members employ the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics' National Survey of College Graduates (NSCG) to develop national benchmarks for career outcomes of master's and doctoral degree recipients by specific fields. Also CGS uses NSCG to estimate the potential monetary cost and return on investment of pursuing advanced degrees, which is a key element of CGS's financial education website, gradsense.org and is utilized by prospective graduate students. Because NSCG is stratified by specific academic majors, CGS can confidently benchmark earnings data by degree and field of study.
The proposed elimination would make it impossible for any national sample surveys, including NSCG, to reliably capture potential field effects on postsecondary outcomes, which would impact our ability to utilize these data for public purposes. To this end, CGS strongly urges the Department of Commerce to retain Person

612 I wholeheartedly agree with the assessment of the Population Association of America and Association of Population Centers.

"The federal government stopped collecting detailed marriage and divorce statistics in 1996 from states' vital records. In 2008, the five marital status questions were added to the ACS at the request of the Department of
Health and Human Services after an extensive period of testing and analysis. If these questions are now dropped, the United States will become the only country in the developed world that does not generate
annual age-specific rates of marriage and divorce. In addition, because the ACS is the only source of nationally representative data with a large enough sample size to provide reliable statistics for small
population subgroups, the ACS marriage history questions are the only available data to examine trends in marriage and divorce transitions by socioeconomic status and by population subgroups. These trends have
implications for administering and analyzing the impact of various government programs, including Social Security. The fact that the marriage history questions cannot be used for small area analysis is a shortsighted
justification for their exclusion. Further, the loss of these data will weaken the ability of family researchers to accurately portray, interpret, and follow long-term marriage trends in the United States and to analyze
how changes in marriage trends impact the health and well-being of individuals across the lifespan."

613 I am writing to express concern over the Census Bureau plan to eliminate the marital event questions from the ACS. These data are essential for providing basic descriptive information about family change and how this varies across different population groups. I have used the ACS data on marriage in the last year for a forthcoming publication (Raley and Sweeney 2015, Future of Children). The ACS marital events data provide information otherwise unavailable due to the fact that NCHS no longer produces detailed reports on marriage and divorce. If the Census Bureau stops collecting this information, the United States will be the only rich nation that does not collect this basic information about its population.

614 As a higher education researcher, I would urge the agency to KEEP question 12: Undergraduate Field of Degree. This is the only survey that allows researchers to draw large-scale, generalizable conclusions regarding the impact of undergraduate major on other life outcomes. While the NSF was the only AGENCY that said it uses the field, there are a wide range of researchers currently working with this data in order to provide clear, broad-based information to parents and students of the comparative value of different degrees. That use makes this simple question of incredible value to the people of this country, even if it seemingly only impacts one other agency. (Although, as has been pointed out in numerous venue's , the Commerce department has used this field to look at STEM diversity (http://www.esa.doc.gov/Blog/2011/09/13/education-promotes-racial-and-ethnic-equality-science-tech-engineering-and-math-jobs).) Finally the inclusion of this question in the ACS, while adding minimal cost to the ACS survey process as a whole, saves a minimum of $4M in NSF funding that had previously been going to a less detailed survey of the same information. The marginal cost reduction in the ACS would result in a measurable cost increase for the NSF.

By the analysis presented, this is a LOW COST element; it doesn't cost much on the grand scale to answer the question, but as a matter of public service it is invaluable and irreplaceable. I urge you to retain the Undergraduate Field of Degree in the survey.

615 I am writing because of the proposed changes to the ACS. I am an economist and one of my main areas of research is in higher education. The questions about college major are very important to research opportunities. College major is typically only available in small datasets (such as the NLSY) or in the raw degree counts from the IPEDS data. The ACS is by far the largest sample of data about college major and, when combined with the labor market variables and other data, provides the most comprehensive source for thinking about the economic incentives for major choice and the economic consequences of college choice. I hope that the data could still be collected because there truly is no other source of data that is similar

616 It is essential to graduate schools everywhere, and especially to graduate schools such as ours which support community economic development, for the U.S. Census to continue to collect educational attainment data. We need to know the numbers and locations of people with bachelor's degrees in order for us to create job-producing degree programs for them. Please continue collecting this information.

617 Please find attached an electronic version of my recent letter regarding proposed changes to the American Community Survey (ACS).
[Text from attachment…] I am writing to express my concern over the potential removal of the "field of degree" question for bachelor's degree recipients from the American Community Survey (ACS). The results of this question provide important guidance for policy and practice, and its loss would reverse the recent progress made by higher education research community.
Significant attention has been paid of late to post-graduate earnings, and many policy makers have argued that they constitute a legitimate measure of educational quality. To be meaningful, however, post-graduation earnings must be measured beyond the first few years after graduation and disaggregated by college major. Otherwise, inappropriate policy conclusions could easily be drawn. Recent reports produced by the Georgetown Center for Education and the Workforce and the Association of American Colleges and Universities have demonstrated the usefulness of the "field of degree" question as well as the critical context it provides to post-graduation earnings.
Removal of the survey item would also diminish effective practice. Small and mid-sized private colleges work hard to orient perspective students to the employment they should expect should they earn a liberal arts degree, and then to place their graduates in related fields. The "field of degree" question currently provides important information regarding the types of occupations, areas of industry, and related earnings graduates should expect by college major, without which college admissions and career counselors would be less effective in directing the students they serve.
To support informed policy and effective practice, I urge you to reconsider the proposed removal of the "field of degree" question from the ALS.

618 I am writing to urge you not to eliminate the six questions that currently are part of the ACS questionnaire regarding education and marriage.

There elimination will severely limit the ability of researchers to continue their work in the many areas using these questions. I do not need to list these research areas, since Steven Ruggles has made that list available to you in his letter.

619 Jennifer - I am writing to you to suggest that the choices for self-described ethnicity in any future Guam census not include the term "Guamanian." The use of this term in a Guam census is equivalent to using the term "American" in a U.S. census. A preliminary review of the use of "Guamanian" as a descriptor of ethnicity based on Guam Cancer Registry data suggests that many of the persons describing themselves as "Guamanian" should actually be listed as Filipino or Micronesian other than Chamorro. As a result of this discrepancy, when calculating cancer or communicable disease incidence rates for Guam the practice of combining "Guamanian" and "Chamorro" numbers results in an under estimation of incidence or mortality rates for Chamorros and an over estimation of incidence or mortality rates for Filipinos or other ethnic groups.

I hope you will be able to consider this request and I will appreciate hearing any comments you care to make regarding the practicality of its implementation.

620 I am writing to say that the American Community Survey should not have its items on marriage altered in the way proposed. It is vitally important that we be able to measure the same phenomena over time using the same measures. I strongly and unequivocally oppose the changes.

621 I'd like to add my voice to those who are opposed to reducing or eliminating question related to marriage and education on the ACS. These are vital sources of information, critical to the task of social analysis today and for historical research in the future.

622 The ACS questions are extremely important to the integrity of our economic data. Please keep that in mind when considering any changes. The ability to understand our populous is extremely to making competitive business choices. Thanks.

623 Please see the attached letter commenting on the proposed elimination of Question 12 (field of degree) of the American Community Survey (ACS).
[Text from attachment…] It has come to my attention that the Department of Commerce is proposing to eliminate Question 12 on Undergraduate Major from the American Community Survey, and I am writing to you during this comment period to argue that removing this question from future surveys would have negative consequences. I am writing both as Dean of the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences at Boston University in Boston, Massachusetts and as a social scientist concerned with our nation's capacity to have sufficient accurate policy-relevant information about the American population. Boston University is one of the country's leading research institutions, with membership in the Association of American Universities (AAU).
At this time we are all concerned not just with how many of our young people receive undergraduate and graduate degrees, but we are deeply concerned with what kind of education and training they are receiving. Are we meeting national needs for the advancement of science or the training of a computationally skilled workforce? Are these educational needs being met nationally, across the board, or do we find that our urban centers and regions are differentially endowed with a workforce with the skills we need. There is considerable debate now about the relationship between fields of study in undergraduate and graduate degrees and outcomes in terms of employment, income, and other important indicators of success and education outcomes. We know that outcomes vary depending on the field of study, and in some unexpected ways. We need to track this for the purposes of education policy, workforce policy, and other uses. The data on education will be too blunt an instrument without knowing what the students actually studied! We do not know enough, and having this information on a survey is critical.
The data gleaned from this survey are not just important in and of themselves; many other research efforts rely on or leverage the results of the ACS for further research on questions of pressing national significance. The ACS can provide benchmarks, for example, for sample construction and quality control. Core data like this, widely available as a public resource, multiplies its usefulness through the way that we use the data in conjunction with other data collection and analysis efforts, both at a single point in time and across time.
As both a leader in higher education and as a social scientist I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question 12 in the ACS. Thank you for your attention.

624 I am writing at the request of the Minnesota Population Center at the University of Minnesota. I urge you to reconsider the notion to eliminate the six questions relating to marriage and education.

Currently I am an undergraduate research assistant at the University of Minnesota. I am working through the Department of Sociology and the School of Statistics under the supervision of Professor Zack Almquist to investigate the relationship between household wealth and internal migration during the recent recession. The analysis of a question of this magnitude requires significant social and demographic information, including American Community Survey Data. The removal of these questions would only hinder our ability to analyze this significant relationship.

In the best interests of those interested in learning about their communities, I respectfully urge you to reconsider the elimination of the six questions relating to marriage and education.

625 I am conducting my research based on the college major variables in the ACS, I really hope those variables will stay. I appreciate your effort on making the ACS so valuable. Thank you.

626 As a quantitative family and demographic researcher, I am writing to request reversal of the proposed changes to the ACS removing marriage and other demographic questions. Without these sources of information, we won't be able to answer very basic and important questions about American families that are fundamental to addressing problems in our society. Other developed countries have these sources of data, and it's very important that we keep ours. Omitting these questions would be a major mistake.

627 I write to you as the executive director of the National Humanities Alliance—a coalition of colleges, universities, scholarly societies, museums, research libraries, and humanities councils dedicated to advancing humanities policy—to urge the Census Bureau to retain the Undergraduate Field of Degree question in the American Community Survey. This question is critical to the ability of my organization and many of our partners to inform the current debate about higher education policy.

Organizations such as the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Association of American Colleges and Universities, and Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce depend on this question to create an accurate picture of the relationship between education in particular fields and earnings. Their work is critical as much of the national debate on the effectiveness of higher education is currently focused on these factors, and both the private decisions of individual students and the public decisions of policy makers are influenced by the analysis these organizations provide. Eliminating the Undergraduate Field of Degree question would compromise our ability to inform this debate.

We urge you and your colleagues to reconsider the recommendation to eliminate Question 12.

628 Please see the attached letter. Thank you.
[Text from attachment…] I understand that the Census Bureau is considering dropping questions about college field of study from the American Community Survey. The ACS is the nation's key annual source of data about earnings and other labor market outcomes for a nationally-representative sample of the population in the United States. Dropping the question about field of study will hamstring researchers' efforts to understand how different college majors lead to varying labor market outcomes.
In an era when the return on an investment in college is under such scrutiny, it would be a huge loss to no longer have these data in the ACS. I hope the Department of Commerce will reconsider its decision.

629 As Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of the Graduate School at the University at Buffalo in Buffalo, NY, I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and feedback on the American Community Survey (ACS) Content Review Results.
The University at Buffalo is the largest and most comprehensive campus in the 64-campus State University of New York system. It is a member of the Association of American Universities. It enrolls 30,000 students (20,000 undergraduates and 10,000 graduate and professional students). It offers more than 100 undergraduate and 300 graduate and professional degree programs.
In my capacity as Vice Provost and Dean, I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question12 (Undergraduate Field of Study), where respondents are asked to provide specific major(s) of any bachelor's degrees received by the person with the highest degree in each household.
Many national sample surveys rely on the results of the ACS to construct a stratification sample design that most accurately reflects the true population of interest, and "specific major(s) for a bachelor's degree" is a key variable that allows researchers and policy makers to examine outcomes of postsecondary education with respect to fields of study. This is crucial for the graduate education community because postsecondary outcomes, including post-baccalaureate pursuit and workforce participation vary by discipline.
At the University at Buffalo, we are constantly fine-tuning our academic offerings, not only to improve teaching and learning, but also to maximize the professional development and career prospects of our students. We rely heavily on benchmark data on student demographics, such as those on undergraduate-degree preparation, in such effects.
The proposed elimination would make it impossible for any national sample surveys to reliably capture potential field effects on postsecondary outcomes, which would impact our ability to utilize these data for public purposes. To this end, I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question 12 in the ACS.

630 As Graduate Dean of Mount St. Mary's College, Los Angeles, I would like to respond to the proposed elimination of question 12 on the Community Survey. Our institution has been serving the educational needs of Los Angeles since 1925 and offering graduate level degrees since 1932. It is my strong belief that the American public needs the information provided in question 12 in order to structure and prioritize our higher education resources, needs, and services.
In my capacity as Graduate Dean, I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question12 (Undergraduate Field of Study), where respondents are asked to provide specific major(s) of any bachelor's degrees received by the person with the highest degree in each household.
Our country's national research agenda and ability to respond to the educational needs of an educated citizenry depends on the type of specific data found in question 12. Without this specific data, we would know less about undergraduate educational trending, be less able to plan for the future of graduate programming, and be less prepared as a country to provide the types of post-baccalaureate educational programming needed in an increasingly global competitive market.
We must know who we are in order to know who we shall become!

631 I write in support of Steve Ruggles' letter regarding the ACS marriage questions:
http://ipums.us4.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=775cbf39c77535e784cdfd6f9&id=6acf74aec3&e=dd8ad86615

I personally use the marital status questions to document segregation at the census tract and school district level to show the role of family demography and changes in family structure in contributing to racial/ethnic and economic segregation.

The ACS provides a critically important data source for researchers of demography, social inequality, and public policy, and I urge the ACS to reconsider the proposal to eliminate the six questions on marriage and education.

632 Attached are comments from the President of the Department for Professional Employees, AFL-CIO on the American Community Survey Content Review Results. Please let me know if you are not able to open the attachment.
[Text from attachment…] On behalf of the 22 national and international unions in the Department for Professional Employees, AFL-CIO (DPE), I am writing to oppose the elimination of the bachelor's degree field of study, Question 12, from the American Community Survey. DPE represents over four million professional and technical workers employed in many sectors, including science, engineering, and technology; education and information resources; health care; arts, entertainment, and media; and public administration. DPE utilizes data from Question 12 to provide detailed labor market information for our members and the public.
DPE often uses bachelor's degree field of study data to help evaluate whether there is evidence of a labor shortage. This information helps DPE advocate for or against policy and legislation at the national level. For example, if there are 10 million people in the United States between the ages of 25 and 65 with a bachelor's degree in engineering, but only 5 million who are employed in an engineering occupation, it tells us a number of things about the potential engineering workforce in the U.S. DPE uses information like this to educate lawmakers on potential changes in the numbers of available guest worker visas for skilled workers. The availability of this data directly helps inform policy and legislation.
DPE also regularly researches the sectors our members work in to assess the health of the sectors, the opportunities available, and the requirements for entry. The bachelor's degree field of study is the only source of information on how holders of specific degrees are faring in the labor market, including whether they are employed, unemployed, or underemployed. The data also informs union members and the public about the value employers place on specific degrees and whether certain degrees pay a premium. This is important information for new job entrants as well as those seeking re-training. Being able to assess these trends over several years is also essential to fully understanding our dynamic labor market.
Finally, DPE anticipates future research to explore the prevalence of pay equity issues in certain detailed occupation groups. Bachelor's degree field of study data allows for more precise comparisons of similar workers. Again, there is no other data source available to researchers in this critical area.
DPE and our members value the data derived from Question 12. We urge the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce to preserve this question.

633 As Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Education at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and feedback on the American Community Survey (ACS) Content Review Results.

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute is predominantly a STEM institution with over 70% of its students in STEM fields. We have nearly 100 graduate degrees in these disciplines.
In my capacity as Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Education, I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question12 (Undergraduate Field of Study), where respondents are asked to provide specific major(s) of any bachelor's degrees received by the person with the highest degree in each household.

Many national sample surveys rely on the results of the ACS to construct a stratification sample design that most accurately reflects the true population of interest, and "specific major(s) for a bachelor's degree" is a key variable that allows researchers and policy makers to examine outcomes of postsecondary education with respect to fields of study. This is crucial for the graduate education community because postsecondary outcomes, including post-baccalaureate pursuit and workforce participation vary by discipline.

Eliminating Person Question12 will impede our ability to understand the demographics of each incoming class in our full time and part time programs and thereby limit our ability to recruit new students and develop new programs to address student interests.

The proposed elimination would make it impossible for any national sample surveys, including NSCG to reliably capture potential field effects on postsecondary outcomes, which would impact our ability to utilize these data for public purposes. To this end, as Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Education, I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question 12 in the ACS.

634 As a researcher and data journalist who has written frequently on the topic of inequality, race and millennials, I am concerned about the proposal to eliminate questions regarding marital history. These questions offer important insights into the impacts of the economy on divorce (Cohen 2012), on race and marriage (Qian and Lichter 2011), millenials and divorce (Family Inequality), and general trends regarding divorce (Kennedy and Ruggles 2014). It is always important for journalism to be grounded in facts and meticulous research. Without these questions, at least some of our understanding on marriage will become murkier, a worrying possibility.

635 I am writing to comment on several American Community Survey questions which have been categorized as "Low Benefit" in the 2014 Content Review. These questions are critical to my work as a researcher seeking to inform and assess public policy.

H15 - Food Stamp Program (SNAP) Participation
While SNAP administrators can report on aggregate participation rates, ACS is able to provide local insight into smaller-scale concentrations of food stamp use. This information has implications for a wide variety of social service operations. In my own work, I have advised a regional emergency food distributor in the Philadelphia area on their expansion into new neighborhoods; local SNAP participation was a key indicator for identifying areas of need.

SNAP participation rates are also critical for food retailers to understand markets they wish to serve. Stores with high rates of SNAP participation experience well-documented monthly fluctuations in food expenditures as benefits are exhausted. Retailers must anticipate this dynamic to best serve low and moderate-income communities, where low-margin businesses, like food retail, are already difficult to sustain.

Finally, as Congress considers potential revisions or reductions to SNAP, more - not less - data will be needed to inform these changes and measure their effects on individuals and households. I have recently published an article with the Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior [1] arguing the need for greater incorporation of local SNAP data into health research, and believe that ACS Question H15 is critical to this work.

P21 - Marriage/Widowed/Divorced
As a planner, I am particularly interested in processes of household formation. The changing context of marriage in American society is not well understood, though it has implications for how new households are created. This profoundly affects markets for real estate and housing, both critical sectors to the nation's economy. Again, more - not less - data are needed to help us understand these dynamics, and ACS Question P21 is an important piece of the equation.

Thank you for your consideration.

636 Attached please find a letter with comments opposing the deletion of questions from the American Community Survey as reported in the October 31, 2014 Federal Register.
This letter is being submitted on behalf of the Market Research Exchange of Central Ohio.
[Text from attachment...] This letter is submitted in opposition to the proposed removal of questions from the 2014 American Community Survey (ACS) as reported in the October 31, 2014 Federal Register. The Market Research Exchange of Central Ohio opposes the removal of the following questions:
- Person Question No. 12—Undergraduate Field of Degree
- Person Question No. 21a—Get Married
- Person Question No. 21b—Get Widowed
- Person Question No. 21c—Get Divorced
- Person Question No. 22—Times Married
- Person Question No. 23—Year Last Married

The Market Research Exchange of Central Ohio is a professional organization of representatives from the marketing industry that has been a part of the research community in Columbus, Ohio since 1993. It provides a forum to discuss research methods, industry trends, new technologies and other topics relevant to area researchers.
The marketing community relies upon continuous longitudinal, accurate, available, and timely data to supply business leaders with recommendations to advance product development and to remain competitive with existing product lines. Research is a fundamental feature of the marketing industry. While data are available from sources other than the ACS, it is important to note that most if not all of these other proprietary data sets are enhanced versions of data collected by the federal government through U.S. Census survey methods.
Marketing strategies are derived from data. Household characteristics reported through the ACS provide rich and single source insight into demographic trends, socio-economic conditions, and market sizes for our industry.

637 Please do not eliminate the questions from the IPUMS survey. They are valuable to many researchers.

638 I am writing in response to the request for public comments on the proposal to eliminate questions from the American Community Survey. I urge the ICSP Subcommittee NOT to eliminate the six questions (one on college major, and five on marital status) whose removal they are considering. These questions are important sources of information for sociological and other researchers on topics with great policy relevance, and in my opinion are not overly burdensome for respondents. There is really no other reliable source for this information, and maintaining continuity in collecting these data is crucial for longitudinal research on marriage, family formation, education, and labor markets. I strongly believe that removing these questions would provide very little savings of time or resources for the ACS and its respondents, and would incur a great cost on the progress of social science and formulation of well-informed public policy.

639 I am emailing you in regards to the possible elimination of serveral questions on the American Community Survey. I think the questions about marital status and undergradte feilds should stay on the survey.

Marital Status Questions
The Social Security Administration uses the information. According to CNN, 86% of the elderly who were single received Social Security Benefits in 2009, and 43% of the elderly who were single had a heavy reliance on their Social Security benefits. It is evident that many people in the US use Social Security and for a lot of people that is their main income once they are over 65. This loss of information would affect more than 38,333,783 people (*Census Bureau, 2013). As it becomes less clear how well Social Security will be doing within the next 75 years, it is wise to supply SSA with as much information, so that it may be able to make the most informed decisions as possible.
Undergraduate Field Question
As a recent undergraduate, I know how hard it is to find a job in this current economic environment…I can tell you, it is not fun. I was lucky enough to be hired by the university in which I graduated, however others have not been so lucky. As it becomes more and more common for people to attend college straight out of high school, an undergraduate degree becomes less valuable. This is why students should have access to the maximum amount of information about their desired fields as possible. Students need this information to make informed decisions about an extremely important facet of their future lives!
In my opinion, all these facts and observations outweigh the cons of spending more time filling out the census and money spent processing the data received from the census.
Thank you for your time, and I hope your department takes into honest consideration mine, and other's opinoins on this matter.

640 I write to you with great concern about the proposal to eliminate marriage-related questions from the ACS. As I'm sure you are aware, these questions provide not only family scholars, but policymakers, and the general public with information about families that allow us to understand many factors associated with family wellbeing—something about which Americans claim to care a great deal.
I implore those who are considering these cuts to reconsider and retain these important questions as they help us to understand and help American families more than some may realize.

641 Greetings! I want to express support for the ACS survey and the questions regarding marriage to be included. I use the ACS survey quite frequently. The challenge I face is finding data on African foreign born - for some reason I cannot get it using Factfinder for recent years in the more detailed form, for example for people from Liberia. If something can be done for this it will be great. Thanks. bruce

642 I urge the Census Bureau not to remove the 5 marriage status questions nor the "undergraduate field of study" questions. I recognize that the Bureau is obligated by law and by concerns about encouraging respondents to complete the survey to periodically examine the survey content. However, I submit that the negative impact on continuity of research data is significant and unlikely to be easily measured by the Bureau's cost-benefit criteria.

It is my understanding from reading your materials that a primary consideration in potentially removing questions is the absence of mandatory or required uses for the questions. While that is certainly an important measure, I'd urge you to also consider the impact on private, non-profit, and academic researchers data needs. From the perspective of my work assisting students and faculty in their academic research, removing these questions is problematic.

The American Community Survey has been a major step forward in providing detailed data for academic research with a frequency much improved from the days of "decennially available only". ACS results have only been available for a decade or so; for researchers needing annual observations of various factors, this is but a drop in the bucket. Cutting off these questions and their possibilities for use in longer term analysis seems to be an unnecessary loss relative to the minor amount of time saved for respondents (perhaps a couple of minutes per survey?).

The marital status questions, as I understand them, were added to the ACS after other federal agency data collection efforts in this area were eliminated. If this is truly now the only comprehensive, reliable, ongoing data collection on marital status, eliminating these questions would seem to do significant harm to both federal/state agency needs as well as those of academic researchers in most social science and some STEM fields.

Similarly, the "major field of study" question is the best population-wide source of data on undergraduate majors, and the availability to use that data with the other ACS demographic and socioeconomic data is critical to our researchers.

Please retain these questions.
Thanks for your consideration.

643 I understand that the Census Bureau is considering eliminating the "degree field" question, which asks respondents about their field of undergraduate study. I urge the Bureau not to do so. The ACS is the only major survey that has such information, which has proven important in a number of research inquiries. Indeed, I believe the degree field question should be expanded to cover post-graduate education.

If, for instance, one wished to study institutional pay differences – say, salary differences between genders or between public and private sector employees – degree field is an extremely useful variable. It shows, for instance, that part of the pay difference between genders is accounted for by women on average majoring in fields that tend to pay less following graduation. Likewise, part of the higher salaries paid to some public sector employees is attributable their having majored in fields that tend to pay more in the job market.

In addition, degree field allows for more basic research on which college majors tends to lead to higher pay post-graduation, a topic of both practical and policy interest. Expanding the degree field questions to cover Master's and doctoral degrees would be of further use to the public now that more Americans are pursuing graduate studies.

Again, I urge the Bureau to retain the degree field question.

644 Per the Federal Register's American Community Survey Content Review Results published on 10/31/14, I oppose the elimination of 7 questions from the American Community Survey.

As an urban planner at an urban and regional planning consulting firm, I frequently utilize ACS data to help client communities identify analyze social and demographic trends in their communities. We almost exclusively use tract-level data, the ACS's most detailed unit of geography, to gain insight into internal variations of populations within individual communities, so that those communities can better understand their own composition and craft policy accordingly.

I am strongly in favor of having as much detailed demographic data publicly available as is feasible, and the ACS should continue to include in its annual survey the questions on marriage and Bachelor's degree education that are proposed for removal.

In particular, I believe the question regarding a respondent's Bachelor's degree is extremely valuable. Recently we have been helping communities identify potential Economic Clusters to target for large scale economic development initiatives, based on their inherent advantages in particular fields or sub-fields. Being able to identify an area's educational specialties for workforce development is a huge part of this that would be unquestionably more difficult and less accurate with the elimination of this question from the ACS.

645 It is my understanding that ACS is considering removing six questions that pertain marital history and education. I use ACS quite a bit. I use them for my students' undergraduate research. Currently I am using ATUS and CPS combined for my own. I believe the questions regarding marital status and education are CRUCIAL for research. I believe that elimination of these questions would severely damage our ability to understand American society and to implement effective policy responses.

I would respectfully urge you to keep these important questions.

646 I am encouraging the Census Bureau to retain Question 12 about college major. There are so many fields that rely on this information.

Thank you for your consideration!

647 Why deprive educational and vocational researchers the important data about undergraduate majors? This is clearly important information for public policy making. Also, as a faculty member for 45+ years, I can tell you that there is a huge difference between philosophy majors, who are bright, articulate, and welcome challenging courses, and religious studies majors, who are coddled and given high grades by professors desperate to have their courses attract sufficient numbers of students to avoid being cancelled. Combining these two majors into one category for reporting purposes is as bad an idea as combining the two departments into a single academic unit.

648 I credit the Minnesota Population Center at the University of Minnesota for alerting me about the proposed changes to the American Community Survey. The proposed elimination of the marital history and undergraduate degree questions would significantly hamper my ability and the ability of others to analyze household changes and population dynamics. My niche is focused on housing demand (and supply), thereby requiring an understanding of the households whose needs we're trying to meet.

The great research that has come before me and will hopefully follow is made possible by in-depth ACS questions like the ones proposed for elimination. So long as these questions are seen as "Low Cost," I urge you and your colleagues continue including them in the ACS, lest we miss the chance to conduct research on questions that we haven't yet thought to ask.

649 I am writing to urge the Census Bureau not to eliminate the marital and undergraduate degree questions from the ACS. The marital questions are needed by the federal government itself for Social Security projections, and all of the questions are needed by researchers in order to provide an accurate understanding of marital and educational patterns in the US.

I agree with Steve Ruggles' assessment of these cuts in his response (director, Minnesota Population Center, University of Minnesota):
http://www.pop.umn.edu/sites/www.pop.umn.edu/files/ACS_Letter_Ruggles.pdf

650 I am writing in regards to the recent discussion to drop a handful of marriage-related questions on the ACS. I wrote roughly a month ago to put in my voice of concern, as an economic demographer who studies questions about fertility and marriage, and their centrality to women's labor market behaviors and outcomes. But as I read my students' final papers for the fall semester, it occurred to me that I should also point out more generally how amazing a resource the IPUMS is, not just for professional researchers like myself, but as a teaching tool for college students.

I teach in the economics department at Harvard, and I had one student using the ACS to look at fertility levels across Asian Americans from different "source" countries, to see if variation across Asian Americans can be tied back to home-country variation in fertility, and speaks to an influence of "culture." I had another student studying the link between labor force participation and fertility among American couples with one foreign-born partner, to see if home-country culture (reflected in the female labor force participation) is related to the balance between women working vs. women raising kids.

I also taught a course on Stata (the statistical package that all economists use) to all the Harvard economics sophomores, and all the seniors writing theses. For the purposes of learning how to use this program to work with data, I had them use data from the ACS. For the lectures I used ACS data on female labor force participation and fertility, and for the problem sets they used data on male earnings and marital status to explore the level of the "marriage premium", the fact that married men earn more, even holding constant their education, race, hours worked, etc. I thought it was very important to get my students used to work with REAL DATA, and learning how to get it from the web, get it into the form they want. And also to introduce them to all the amazing information that they can find in the ACS.

So here is a plea not to cut back on questions in the ACS – it will harm a very important resources!

651 I am writing this brief note to register my opposition to the discontinuation of questions on marriage and divorce in the American Community Survey. Having just published a major piece of research on the geographic distribution of divorce, I found it almost impossible to secure information on nationwide trends in marriage and divorce given the paucity of federal data collection prior to the ACS. Since the discontinuation of data collection from states in 1996 (that was formerly the charge of the National Center on Health Statistics), the U.S. has funded major pro-marriage initiatives and struggled with the questions of marriage promotion and fault-based divorce without any solid empirical information on trends in these areas. The ACS is absolutely vital for public policy and public health decision-making in the future, and should not be eliminating these important indicators.

652 The marriage history questions are crucial because the United States has no alternative source for detailed annual statistics on marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage. The federal program to gather detailed statistics from marriage and divorce records was discontinued in 1996; the ACS marital history questions were designed as a replacement. If the marriage questions are eliminated now, the U.S. will become the only country in the developed world that does not generate annual age-specific rates of marriage and divorce.

653 Please find attached comments from the American Chemical Society in response to the Federal Register Notice 2014-25912 regarding the American Community Survey.

Please contact me if you have any difficulties opening this attachment or need further information.
Thank you for your attention to this matter.
[Text from attachment...] On behalf of the American Chemical Society's more than 161,000 members, I am writing to express our concerns regarding the U.S. Census Bureau's Federal Register Notice (2014-25912) on proposed changes to the American Community Survey (the Survey). The Society commends the U.S. Bureau of the Census for its systematic and transparent review of the Survey. However, we worry that the removal of the Survey Person Question No. 12 regarding Undergraduate Field of Degree may adversely affect the efficiency and effectiveness of many programs across the country.
The American Chemical Society is the world's largest scientific society and one of the world's leading sources of authoritative scientific information. A nonprofit organization, chartered by Congress, the Society is at the forefront of the evolving worldwide chemical enterprise and the premier professional home for chemists, chemical engineers, and related professions around the globe. In order to achieve one of our key strategic goals of improving chemistry education and professional development, we often employ undergraduate degree data to understand the paths by which students enter or do not enter careers in chemistry.
With fewer universities providing the Society with the names and email addresses of graduates, it is becoming increasingly difficult for us to conduct our New Graduate Survey. This means that we are beginning to utilize other sources more heavily. Additionally, the National Science Foundation's National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) relies on Person Question No. 12 to produce the only national source of information about the United States' science and engineering workforce. As our nation so desperately needs a diverse STEM workforce, understanding these educational and career paths is essential.
Thank you for your time and opportunity to comment on this notice. Please do not hesitate to contact the American Chemical Society if you have any question or concerns.

654 As the Assistant Provost for Graduate Studies, Research, and Innovation at American Public University, I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and feedback on the American Community Survey (ACS) Content Review Results.

Our institution has more than 30 Masters degrees, and 40 graduate level certificates and enrolls more than 30,000 students.

In my capacity as Assistant Provost for Graduate Studies, Research, and Innovation I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question12 (Undergraduate Field of Study), where respondents are asked to provide specific major(s) of any bachelor's degrees received by the person with the highest degree in each household.

Many national sample surveys rely on the results of the ACS to construct a stratification sample design that most accurately reflects the true population of interest, and "specific major(s) for a bachelor's degree" is a key variable that allows researchers and policy makers to examine outcomes of postsecondary education with respect to fields of study. This is crucial for the graduate education community because postsecondary outcomes, including post-baccalaureate pursuit and workforce participation vary by discipline. In a time when we are focused on gainful employment of our graduates, it is imperative that we have access to such information.

The proposed elimination would make it impossible for any national sample surveys, including NSCG to reliably capture potential field effects on postsecondary outcomes, which would impact our ability to utilize these data for public purposes. To this end, as Assistant Provost for Graduate Studies, Research, and Innovation I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question 12 in the ACS.

655 I am a graduate student in economics at the University of Illinois at Chicago. I am writing to support the retention of the current menu of questions on martial history and undergraduate degree field. Given the low-cost nature of continuing to gather this information and the fact that the recent commencement of gathering this data leaves a period of time insufficient to truly evaluate its usefulness (though preliminary evidence of early research using this data supports a hypothesis that it is quite valuable).

In my field of study, applied microeconomics, questions such as these are of tremendous value. Most of the work we do on policy analysis and program evaluation has to be done using observational studies that are often already rife with data-related shortcomings and other confounders common to non-experimental research. Questions such as the ones under consideration here are of critical value in using techniques such as sample matching as well as simply providing a richer set of control variables to aid in the identification of causal effects of interest in social and public policy.

Please consider keeping these valuable questions in the ACS.

656 Attached to this email please find a letter signed by twenty-five higher education associations in response to the Census Bureau's Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; The American Community Survey Content Review Results (FR Doc. 2014-25912). Please let me know as soon as possible if you have any difficulty opening the attached document, or any other questions or concerns.
[Text from attachment...] "On behalf of the undersigned associations, we write in response to the Census Bureau's Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; The American Community Survey Content Review Results (FR Doc. 2014-25912), which appeared in the Federal Register on October 31, 2014. The associations listed include members from every sector of higher education, representing the full spectrum of American colleges and universities.
We are writing to urge the Census Bureau to retain Person Question No. 12 (Undergraduate Field of Degree) in the American Community Survey (ACS). Removing the question would harm our ability to understand the career and employment pathways and the quality of life of college graduates residing in the United States.
The rationale for removing the question appears to be that no federal law mandates or requires it, and it is listed as a "low cost/low benefit" question.1 But collecting this information has great benefit, and not collecting it would raise the cost to the federal government.
The Undergraduate Field of Degree question was added to the ACS in 2009 after field testing and evaluation, as well as study by the National Research Council.2 The National Science Foundation's (NSF) National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) uses the question to create a sampling pool for examining trends in the science and engineering workforce, including the status of women, minorities, and disabled persons in science and engineering. Understanding the science and engineering workforce is important to our nation's economic competitiveness and national security, which rely upon individuals trained in these disciplines. The information provided by Person Question No. 12 informs policy decision making in a cost-efficient way. The linkages between undergraduate field of degree, employment, and other outcomes are important to understand across all fields, especially at a time when the value of specific majors, and of college education overall, is being questioned. The inclusion of this question in the ACS provides the basis for scholarly and applied research in these matters.
The addition of this question has saved NSF, and the federal government, millions of dollars,3 and has provided necessary information not available through other sources. A recent Census Bureau presentation lists six other federal agencies, besides NSF, that make programmatic use of this information.4 Were the question removed, another source for obtaining this information would need to be developed by the federal government, likely at significant new costs. The ACS is the most efficient and cost-effective way known to collect this valuable information.
We believe that the inclusion of Person Question No. 12 has yielded important information that is useful to policymakers, colleges and universities, and the public, and that it will continue to do so. Its removal would compromise understanding of how undergraduate education across fields affects the nation's workforce and individuals' quality of life. Moreover, its removal would cost the government more than it would save. We urge that this question about Undergraduate Field of Degree be included in future administrations of ACS.

657 I am writing to strongly encourage the U.S. Census Bureau to maintain all ACS questions related to marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage, as they are presently included on the ACS questionnaire.

As a demographer who studies family change and fertility, these series of questions are absolutely critical to my work, particularly given the fact that nationally-representative data are no longer available via
Vital Statistics, or via the Current Population Survey.

Most recently I used MARRINYR and MARRNO (from the IPUMS extract of 2013 ACS data) to examine remarriage trends and patterns in these reports:

http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2014/11/14/four-in-ten-couples-are-saying-i-do-again/
http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/12/04/tying-the-knot-again-chances-are-theres-a-bigger-age-gap-than-the-first-time-around/

These findings have been reported widely, with articles in the Wall Street Journal, U.S. News and World Report, the Chicago Tribune, TIME magazine, and the Washington Post, to name a few.

I am presently working on a follow-up report examining the characteristics and shares of children who are living in families with remarried spouses. Without access to the information available through the present version of the American Community Survey, it would not be possible for me to continue this work, and to examine this important phenomenon.

Today, 43% of all married people have been married previously, as compared with just 25% in 1960; and something like 17% of all children live in a household with a parent who has been married before—the patterns of marriage, divorce and remarriage are changing dramatically, and they have important long-term implications. I hope that the ACS will continue to collect these data so that research into the evolution of the American family can continue.

While I am employed by the Pew Research Center, these comments represent my own personal views only, and not those of Pew, which does not take positions on policy matters.

658 I am writing to oppose the proposed elimination of the marriage and education questions from the ACS questionnaire. I am a social epidemiology researcher at Stanford, and such questions are vital in my field, used frequently to answer questions about the social and economic determinants of health. The ACS is a powerful and unique data set. Without these questions, we will not be able to use these data to characterize the fundamental predictors of population health. I strongly feel that this decision should be reconsidered.

659 I am adding my voice to those of other social scientists protesting the removal of the marital history questions and the question about undergraduate field of degree. Having good, annual data on these items is essential for understanding family dynamics in the United States and for understanding trends in the kinds of degrees Americans receive. The Federal Register states all of these items are designated as "Low Cost". I fear if they are cut we will discover the benefits of these questions far exceed their cost!

660 I'm emailing in response to the proposed removal of several questions on marriage from the American Community Survey. The proposal to remove questions allowing researchers to identify marriages contracted in the last year and to determine whether they are first or higher-order marriages is both disheartening and alarming. No other source of data offers researchers the ability to analyze this information with a sample size this large. Researchers and the public alike need this information as many of our policies, fairly or not, rely on assumptions about the family that the proposed questions help researchers examine. Further, the ACS offers researchers the opportunity to examine data on marital incidence, rather than prevalence, which is crucial for providing accurate information on demographic trends in this country. Please do not remove these questions and make it impossible for researchers to analyze and share data that is vital for our nation's understanding.

661 I am writing today to urge you to reconsider the elimination of six questions on marriage and education from the American Community Survey. The potential loss of information about educational background and marriage/divorce is especially concerning as a citizen and researcher.

The ACS marriage history questions are the only available data to examine trends in marriage and divorce transitions by socioeconomic status and by population subgroups. Removing these questions from the ACS will limit the ability of family researchers to accurately describe, examine, and understand long-term marriage trends in the United States and to analyze how changes in marriage trends impact the health and well-being of individuals across the life course. Marriage is a fundamental institution in the United States and serves as the basis for many programs. In many ways, the cost of NOT knowing about changes in marriage seem more costly (i.e. implications for Social Security and other public and social programs) than the expense of retaining these questions on the ACS.

The education question at risk of being cut is also important. The large sample sizes of the ACS combined with the frequency of data collection mean that we can get a good picture of the science and engineering workforce, including it's growth and demographic composition. Furthermore, because the ACS is sample frame for the NSF surveys on the STEM workforce, eliminating this question to reduce costs in one place would only increase costs in another.

Please reconsider the elimination of these extremely important questions to the ACS.

662 I am writing to express support for keeping questions related to college major choice in the ACS. Understanding the skills people acquire in higher education is paramount to understand labor market outcomes for high skilled. Eliminating it from the ACS would be truly a loss for scholars across the world.

663 *Ms. Jessup – Please see the letter from my colleague [redacted] pasted below. I fully agree with him. Please do not cut the marital history and undergraduate study questions from the ACS!*

664 As Dean of the Graduate School at Creighton University in Omaha, NE, I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and feedback on the American Community Survey (ACS) Content Review Results.

Background
Our Graduate School offers 35 master's degree programs (including programs in business, education, healthcare, humanities, international relations, leadership, ministry, negotiation and dispute resolution, and science), a Doctorate (Ed.D.) in Interdisciplinary Leadership, 3 Ph.D. programs in the biomedical sciences, Certificate programs and Dual-Degree programs. We have over 1250 students enrolled and 344 faculty drawing from 7 of Creighton's 9 schools and colleges.

Suggestion
In my capacity as Dean I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question12 (Undergraduate Field of Study), where respondents are asked to provide specific major(s) of any bachelor's degrees received by the person with the highest degree in each household.

Rationale
Many national sample surveys rely on the results of the ACS to construct a stratification sample design that most accurately reflects the true population of interest, and "specific major(s) for a bachelor's degree" is a key variable that allows researchers and policy makers to examine outcomes of postsecondary education with respect to fields of study. This is crucial for the graduate education community because postsecondary outcomes, including post-baccalaureate pursuit and workforce participation vary by discipline.

For example, Creighton University employs the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics' National Survey of College Graduates (NSCG) to develop our graduate benchmarks for career outcomes of our master's and doctoral degree recipients by specific fields.

The proposed elimination would make it impossible for any national sample surveys, including NSCG to reliably capture potential field effects on postsecondary outcomes, which would impact our ability to utilize these data for public purposes. To this end, as Graduate Dean I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question 12 in the ACS.

665 I support a change to Question 12 on the ACS. The question asks the survey respondent's major. It's my view that ACS should keep question 12 but allow "philosophy" as its own, distinct major, separating it from religious studies and others. Philosophy majors may well have statistically significant differences from these other majors.

666 I am a doctoral student in Public Policy at UNC Charlotte. I use the ACS survey for my research. I will be negatively affected if questions on marriage are eliminated from future versions of the ACS. Marriage is a variable that I regularly use in my analysis.

667 As a tax paying American citizen, I request the marriage/divorce questions be KEPT in the annual American Community Survey. I agree with the statements found in the Manchester Union Leader editorial (12/17/14) - "…The bureau has been asking Americans about marriage since 1850. Now it wants to cut the questions from its annual surveys, citing the cost. That would be an information disaster….Having that data helps us understand our nation and how public policy affects behavior. Losing it would hide a great deal of useful information."

668 I am writing to you in reference to a recent local editorial regarding questions about the annual survey. It appears that you have decided to cut the questions about marriage from the annual surveys, citing the cost. This seems shortsighted and imprudent to me. Breaks in data collection as well as political reasons for removing data that may inform future decisions should not be undertaken lightly. These typical government choices in the face of budget reductions - eliminating things that are useful to enhance your argument for more money and making no reductions in wasteful spending - are not lost on the American voter.

This survey information supplements the larger censuses, and provides a treasure trove of demographic data. I hope that you will reconsider your decision and think about the American citizens that you are supposed to work for as a government servant.

669 I'm writing in response to the proposed elimination of the six ACS questions on marital history and field of educational degree. I believe such a move would be to the detriment of researchers like myself who rely on these questions in combination with other data from the ACS for hard-hitting, incisive analyses that really have the potential to help decision-makers understand the facts and pursue more informed policies. The ACS has been enormously valuable for my work and the work of my colleagues, and it's my hope that these questions will remain intact.

Thanks for taking my opinion into consideration.

670 My name is [redacted], and I write in response to a public request for comment on the design of the American Community Survey. It has come to my attention that the agency is considering eliminating question 12, which asks for the respondent's college major, from the survey.
I write in favor of an alternative proposal. In my view, this question provides valuable information at very little burden to the respondents, and should be retained. However, the options for response should be rewritten such that philosophy, which the survey has customarily grouped with Religious Studies and Theology under one response option, be given its own separate option.
The reasons for this are many. For one, philosophy as practiced in the majority of American universities in the 21st century bears little resemblance to Religious Studies or Theology. Its concerns, methods, canonical texts, inculcated skills and learning outcomes are demonstrably different and the survey should reflect this. More importantly, there is mounting evidence that Philosophy majors perform markedly better than Religious Studies and Theology majors on a number of post-college metrics: later income; LSAT, MCAT and GRE performance; degree "usefulness," and so on.
I am not fully confident that a significant difference exists, but there is reason to believe it might, and Question 12 as currently written would completely obscure any such effect, which would be a shame.
Given how little burden it would be to redesign the question, I think giving Philosophy its own option on Question 12 is a good thing to do. Thanks for taking the time to read my comment and all the best,

671 We have no objection to the proposed elimination of 7 questions in the ACS. However, we would suggest adding questions related to Marketplace coverage under the Affordable Care Act. The data regarding Marketplace enrollment will be very helpful for tracking purposes. We would recommend that the eliminated questions can be replaced with questions on enrollment in the Marketplace.

672 I am writing to you as a sociologist who studies mental health and family life and a member of the American Sociological Association Section on Family. I would like to express my concern about the proposal to drop a number of family-related questions from the American Community Survey (ACS). As you know, the ACS is currently the most reliable source for estimates of marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage. I am very concerned that the removal of these key questions about family life transitions will inhibit the ability of researchers to understand changes in family life, especially among groups with lower prevalence in the general population such as Asian Americans and same-sex couples. I believe that it is vital that these changes/cuts not be made.

673 Attached please find my comment letter urging retention of five marriage questions and a question on college field of degree in the ACS.
[Text from attachment…] I am writing to respond to the request for comments about the proposed elimination of questions on the American Community Survey, specifically on five questions relating to marital history and the college field of degree question. The Census Bureau has determined that all these questions are low cost. As a user of Census Data in my work as a financial writer and historical researcher, I am concerned that removing them from the ACS would severely damage the nation's statistical infrastructure, our ability to understand ongoing changes in American society and to implement effective policy responses.
There is no alternative source for this information, and the data are essential for both the effective operation of government and for scientific understanding of changes in American society.
I urge you to reconsider

674 This is to respectfully request that vital information regarding marriage arrangements be considered an important component of the American Community Survey. The data derived from the responses to the survey will be invaluable for demographers and planners both now and to historians years hence.

There are few institutions as vital to our culture as marriage, whatever its composition. Please do not delete reference to marriage in your survey. Instead, please keep track of its role in our society.

675 As a researcher for the American Council on Education, I believe that questions regarding marriage, divorce, and widowhood should be kept on the American Community Survey. I must ask though, what is the reason behind the proposed removal?

676 I have recently received news that the ACS is debating on eliminating certain questions pertaining to marriage. As a budding social demographer who is interested in studying issues pertaining to race/ethnicity, immigration/integration, and social stratification, ACS is one of the few datasets that captures some of phenomena that I'm interested in studying. I have a hard time enough as it is attempting to find datasets to study themes such as intermarriage and the elimination of the particular marriage questions would be a great disservice. I hope you all reconsider the change to the survey. Thank you.

677 This is a comment in regard to proposed changes to the American Community Survey:

I am an assistant professor at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. I study the impacts of state and federal policies on health insurance coverage and access to care of vulnerable populations. Now, more than ever, it is critical to use scientifically valid, large population surveys to understand dynamics of coverage and enrollment among all segments of the U.S. population.

Accordingly, I am writing in support of adding marketplace coverage as a category to the ACS, and including additional items on premiums and premium subsidies. Marketplace coverage is not currently included, but it is a vital piece of the changing insurance coverage dynamics in the U.S.
Here are four examples of studies related to the Marketplace that the ACS would be the best, and perhaps the only suitable survey to study:
1. A study on enrollment in Marketplace coverage that compares Marketplace to other coverage options in an individual's health care market. This study requires detailed geography that the ACS could provide.
2. A study on employment dynamics that may drive individuals labor response to the ACA coverage options (especially job lock). The ACS provides the necessary items measuring employment and can also provide details of local economic conditions.
3. Actionable estimates of ACA related enrollment that could be used by cities and counties to guide outreach efforts. Only the ACS has adequate sample sizes to guide these efforts in a valid and comprehensive manner.
4. A study of racial/ethnic and country of origin disparities in ACA related enrollment. The ACS provides a detailed roster of country of origin and ethnicity measures that can help analysts understand whether disparities will persist in the future across different coverage types that are being affected by state and national policies.
Thank you for your consideration.

678 Department of Commerce to retain Person Question 12 (Undergraduate Field of Study), where respondents are asked to provide specific major(s) of any bachelor's degrees received by the person with the highest degree in each household.
Many national sample surveys rely on the results of the ACS to construct a stratification sample design that most accurately reflects the true population of interest, and "specific major(s) for a bachelor's degree" is a key variable that allows researchers and policy makers to examine outcomes of postsecondary education with respect to fields of study. This is crucial for the graduate education community because postsecondary outcomes, including post-baccalaureate pursuit and workforce participation vary by discipline.
For example, the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS), an organization to which our Institution belongs, employs the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics' National Survey of College Graduates (NSCG) to develop national benchmarks for career outcomes of master's and doctoral degree recipients by specific fields.
The proposed elimination would make it impossible for any national sample surveys, including NSCG to reliably capture potential field effects on postsecondary outcomes, which would impact our ability to utilize these data for public purposes. To this end, as WHOI Dean, I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question 12 in the ACS.
Thank you for your consideration.

679 I am writing to urge the retention of questions about marriage on the American Community Survey. As someone who works with families and who tries to use research in guiding the information I pass along to families, I want to ensure that family life researchers have access to large databases that include information about marriage.

680 I write to comment on the proposed removal of family-related questions from the American Community Survey (ACS). As a family scholar, I am concerned that the removal of these questions will affect the ability of family scholars to examine important questions about American families. The ACS is the most reliable source of national, state, and city data on the frequency of marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage. Moreover, the ACS is the only data source that cam measure marital behavior in relatively small population groups in the population (e.g., ethnic subgroups). .The ACS also provides the best quality national data for estimating the effects of social programs and policies on married and unmarried populations.

In summary, removal of these questions would represent a major loss to those who study families or examine family policies and programs. Therefore, I strongly urge that these questions be retained in the American Community Survey.

681 In response to your requested input regarding the seven questions of the 2014 ACS questionnaire, yes, these questions should be retained.

The survey will be of less value both to researchers and policy makers if important data compiled by asking for such information is not available for informed decisions.

Please keep the aforementioned questions.

682 I am writing to you concerning the proposed deletion of questions in the American Community Surveys.

I think that, with the current changes by the courts in the marriage laws, it is important to get feedback from the population regarding any new trends that may be developing in traditional marriage.

I request that you continue to ask questions 21a-21c, 22 and 23.

I am somewhat surprised that these sociological questions are proposed to be dismissed when traditional marriage is in such flux.

683 MS. JESSUP: PLEASE RECONSIDER YOUR DECISION TO ELIMINATE THEQUESTION OF MARRIAGE IN THE ANNUAL AMERICAN SURVEY. THIS INFIORMAQTION IS THE ONLY WAY TO UNDRSTAND THE MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE RATE ON THE LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL LEVELS AND IS VITAL TO THOSE WORKING IN THIS FIELD TO HELP ,STRENGTHEN MARRIAGES AND FAMILYS IN THE USA. PLEASE CONTINUE TO FIND THIS INFORMATION FOR THE GOOD OF OUR COUNTRY

684 Please do not remove marriage statistics from the ACS.

685 The intent of this communication is to discourage any thoughts of eliminating questions regarding marriage, widowhood and/or divorce from current Census Bureau collections.

686 The undersigned scholars at the American Enterprise Institute have been foloowing with concern the proposal to eliminate some questions about marriage and education from the ACS. We will not try to build a detailed care for retaining those questions. The letter of Decemeber 9 that you received from Prof. Steven Ruggles, President-elect of the Population Association of America already does that, and we endorse his statement. We will simply confirm to you that many scholars at AEI use the ACS extensively, including the questions on marriage and divorce at issue, and the elimination of those questions would materially damage our ability to answer important questions that we ask of the ACS. Please keep the questions.

687 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

688 I am writing to comment on the Federal Register notice about the American Community Survey (ACS). I work at the State Health Access Data Assistance Center (SHADAC) where we use the ACS extensively for our own projects in addition to our technical assistance to states as they monitor health reform. The ACS represents an invaluable annual source of health insurance information at the national, state and local level. With its large sample size, it is also the source of information on insurance coverage, or lack of coverage, among subpopulations of interest, including disparities populations.

The ACS is a critical resource for monitoring the health of state economies and changing demographics and how this influences rates of uninsurance. This information is used to monitor the impact of state (and federal) health reform efforts that seek to ensure access to needed health care services.

The introduction of the Health Insurance Marketplace dramatically changed the way health insurance is purchased; however, the ACS health insurance series is not designed to pick up enrollment in the Marketplace or know who is obtaining subsidies. Tracking enrollment in the Marketplace is important given the resources invested to provide broad access to quality health insurance products.

As the Census Bureau contemplates removing items outlined in the Federal Register, please consider adding 'Marketplace' to the list of sources of coverage and adding additional questions on premiums and premium subsidies aimed at tracking the health insurance market.

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The introduction of the Health Insurance Marketplace dramatically changed the way health insurance is purchased; however, the ACS health insurance series is not designed to pick up enrollment in the Marketplace. Tracking enrollment in the Marketplace is important given the resources invested to provide broad access to quality health insurance products. As the Census Bureau contemplates removing items outlined in the Federal Register, please consider adding 'Marketplace' to the list of sources of coverage and adding additional questions on premiums and premium subsidies aimed at tracking the health insurance market."

One area I work on is to help health insurance marketplace officials use data to target their efforts to enroll individuals (particularly those that are subsidy eligible) and evaluate their outreach strategies. This effort depends on having good annual data at low levels of geography which is only possible in the ACS However, the usefulness of the ACS for this purpose would be vastly improved if "Marketplace" was added to the list of sources of coverage and additional questions were added on premiums and premium subsidies. It would then be possible to analyze the characteristics of the individuals enrolling in health insurance marketplaces by census area which is crucial data for evaluating and targeting outreach. Without these questions, differentiating between public and private coverage will be difficult and between coverage obtained outside and inside the marketplaces extremely problematic.

690 I am writing to comment on the Federal Register notice about the American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS represents an invaluable annual source of health insurance information at the national, state and local level. With its large sample size, it is also the source of information on insurance coverage, or lack of coverage, among relatively small subpopulations. Much of my research, for instance, takes advantage of the rich data in the ACS to better understand health insurance coverage and economic well-being in same-sex households.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) dramatically changed the way health insurance is purchased. However, the ACS health insurance series is not designed to measure enrollment in the Marketplace. Tracking enrollment in the Marketplace is important given the resources invested to provide broad access to quality health insurance products. As the Census Bureau contemplates removing items outlined in the Federal Register, please consider adding 'Marketplace' to the list of sources of coverage and adding additional questions on premiums and premium subsidies aimed at tracking the health insurance market.

Thank you for your consideration to add Marketplace options to the ACS.

691 I am writing to comment on the Federal Register notice about the American Community Survey (ACS). I work at the State Health Access Data Assistance Center (SHADAC) where we use the ACS extensively for our own projects in addition to our technical assistance to states as they monitor health reform. It has become the source of health insurance information at the national, state and local level. However I worry about its value moving forward as it does nothing to capture enrollment in the new Marketplace and our ability to know who is obtaining subsidies on the Marketplace.

With its large sample size, it is also the source of information on insurance coverage, or lack of coverage, among subpopulations of interest, including disparities populations. The CPS, while extremely valuable, does not allow for the granular distinction between racial/ethnic and socioeconomic groups whose access to insurance and sources of insurance are important to monitor so that we can formulate better policies aimed at reducing disparities or make different decisions about allocating resources to achieve this goal at the local level.

I personally do not know enough about the merits of the data captured by the seven items that are being considered for deletion so cannot advocate for or against specific items. That said, as the Census Bureau contemplates removing items outlined in the Federal Register, please consider adding 'Marketplace' to the list of sources of coverage and adding additional questions on premiums and premium subsidies aimed at tracking the health insurance market.

692 I have heard that the Census Bureau is considering removing the questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. This concerns me greatly, and I ask you not to drop those important questions.

Marriage is a vital relationship that binds a man and woman and allows a child to enjoy the benefit, right actually, of a mother and father. When marriage rates decline, children suffer and so do communities and, in turn, our nation. Statistics of fatherlessness bear this out. We are reaping the results of some of the decline in marriage right now, and monitoring those trends through the use of the ACS and other means is vitally important for the health of our nation and its future generations. Certainly these questions in your survey are much more important than questions about plumbing, internet use and what type of computers we own!

Please retain the marriage questions that will help to track what I hope, for our nation's sake, will be an improving trend in this institution: questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23.

Surely you and others in our government, when stepping back and looking at what is really critically important for our nation's future, can see that our country is formed by families and communities. The healthier the family, the healthier the communities and nation. The healthier the family (mom, dad and children), the higher the level of education, the higher the sense of security, the higher the income, the lower the crime rate, and so on. This is deeply important statistical information.

693 I am writing to appeal to you to keep the marriage and divorce questions in the ACS survey that would permit for analysis of age-specific rates of marriage and divorce. These questions are critical to continue excellent research on trends in American marriage and family formation. No shortage of changes in these trends in recent years and decades. □

Thank you for considering this matter.

694 I believe you have received MANY email about the ACS, but let me illustrate why the ACS marriage questions are so important for my research. When I was in graduate school I was discouraged from studying the stability and circumstances of same sex relationships because same sex marriage was not legal. Today, same sex marriage is legal in many states and I am finally able to look at same sex marriage trends and predictors or same sex divorce. But the threat of the changes in the ACS mean that this strand of research on a theoretically (and politically) important topic could be "dead" before it really could begin. Please let me know if there is ANYTHING I can do to prevent the planned changes.

Thanks in advance for reading this message.

695 I want to object to the removal of marriage from the ACS!

696 Please do not remove the information on marriages in the ACS. I feel it's important to include this in the survey.

697 We strongly object to removing marriage and divorce statistics from the Annual American Community Survey. The institutions of marriage and of family are vitally important to the very fabric of our communities and of this country. It would be completely wrong to leave such data out of the ACS.

698 Please continue to include questions related to marriage and divorce. It is important for we Americans to know this information in order to see how we value of the institution of marriage in our country.

699 I have learned that the Census Bureau has proposed to eliminate questions about marriage, divorce and widowhood in its Annual American Community Survey (ACS). This must be avoided! If these questions are dropped, the United States will become the only country in the developed world that does not generate annual age-specific rates of marriage and divorce.

I object the removal of marriage from the ACS. These statistics are vital!!!

Thanks

700 I object to the removal of marriage from the ACS! Please help us keep this way of measuring marriage in our country.

701 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

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705 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships and should be treated as an important part of American life. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline, but if you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends nor research the changes to society because of the decline.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

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I would also like to know the reasons behind removing the questions in the Census!

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707 We think keeping the marriage question on government forms would be an important issue to continue tracking. That way you can statistically compare trends that include all forms of families. The results would prove insightful and interesting to those who read your reports.

708 Do exactly as you are told by those who are over you and forget what the American people really want from their employees (you). This way you can have a great position like Lois Lerner did and make a huge salary while retiring with a great pension no matter how many felonies you commit.

709 I am concerned that the Census Bureau is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Demographic data related to marriage is important to government policy makers as well as to people outside of government. Marriage is a unique relationship and we should continue to track it. I urge you to continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23.

710 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing the questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.
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712 Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this brief email to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. I am writing today to express my concern that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage is an important institution and in the last several years we have seen this institution decline. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends. Other questions on the ARC relate to much less important issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC.
Furthermore, the removal of these questions represents a marginalization of marriage. As an American citizen, I value marriage and I know many others who do as well. Marriage is the core of the family, and as the institution of marriage deteriorates so will the institution of the family. Strong families are the key to a strong society. The benefits of understanding marriage trends and supporting the institution of marriage are important to our nation and to me. I urge the Bureau to leave these questions as a part of all future ACS questionnaires.
I appreciate your help and your service to our nation.

713 With consensus status approaching, do not delete asking about marriage status.

It is pertinent to be asking. We need a moral compass to right our wrongs, because it is most beneficial to the children to come from the most stable environment possible, and that is a married man and woman scenario.
Doing the right thing is pursuing a stable environment for the future generation , and that is through marriage of a man and woman.
Kudo for not trying to be politically correct, but for doing what is best for future generation of a value based society.

714 Child Trends, a non-partisan research organization and a frequent user of data from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS), voices its strong support for retaining in the ACS a brief series of questions on marital history.

The ACS is a uniquely valuable resource for researchers, advocates, and policymakers, because it is one of a very few data-gathering tools that yields reliable national, state, and city data on a regular basis. Since ACS replaced the "long form" of the decennial census, it has become the only continuing source of certain detailed data on key demographic indicators, including race/ethnicity, age, nativity, country of origin, housing, education, income, and family structure. The ACS is also unique in its ability to measure small groups in the population, such as Asian Americans.

With respect to ACS's marital history items in particular, they allow researchers to examine the effects of marital transitions on the well-being of adults and children, as well as the effects of economic changes, social programs, and public policies on married and unmarried populations. The ACS is the only source of national information on same-sex marriage and the characteristics of the same-sex married population.

At a time when programs and policy initiatives are increasingly required to use data to show their effectiveness, we are concerned with the prospect of eliminating a critical data resource on marital history.

715 Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this brief email to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. I am writing today to express my concern that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage is an important institution and in the last several years we have seen this institution decline. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends. Other questions on the ARC relate to much less important issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC. Furthermore, the removal of these questions represents a marginalization of marriage. As an American citizen, I value marriage and I know many others who do as well. Marriage is the core of the family, and as the institution of marriage deteriorates so will the institution of the family. Strong families are the key to a strong society. The benefits of understanding marriage trends and supporting the institution of marriage are important to our nation and to me. I urge the Bureau to leave these questions as a part of all future ACS questionnaires.
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I appreciate your help and your service to our nation.

717 Please keep Marriage in the American Community Survey.

718 It is troubling that the Census is thinking about removing questions about changes in marital status in American Community Surveys. Marriage is unlike any other relationship. Recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. It is only by asking the questions that you will be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about much less serious matters, such as their plumbing and internet use, you can surely ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

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721 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

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Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends.
Other questions on the ARC relate to much less important issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC.
Furthermore, the removal of these questions represents a marginalization of marriage.
As an American citizen, I value marriage and I know many others who do as well.
Marriage is the core of the family, and as the institution of marriage deteriorates so will the institution of the family.
Strong families are the key to a strong society.
The benefits of understanding marriage trends and supporting the institution of marriage are important to our nation and to me.
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Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

726 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage and it's support of children is critical to the success of a society. Recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, surely you can ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

727 OH no! It is important to know how many people are married and not. The census records are a part of our history. I know they are used for all kinds of current research, but they are also valuable 100 years from now. Stating if you are married, how many times, at what age you married, how long you have been married are very important things to know generations later. Knowing how many pregnancies a woman has had and how many children are still living is a very valid question today. It will be just as important 100 years from now.

We don't need to streamline everything. We are the collectors of data today. Others will use it for generations.

728 Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this brief email to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. I am writing today to express my concern that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the American Community Survey. Marriage is an important and foundational institution and in the last several years we have seen this institution decline. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends nor meet pressing needs of the family unit. Other questions on the ARC relate to much less important issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC.
Furthermore, the removal of these questions represents a marginalization of marriage. As an American citizen, I value marriage and I know many others who do as well. Marriage is the core of the family, and as the institution of marriage deteriorates so will the institution of the family and the strength of our nation. Strong families are the key to a strong society and good behavior. The benefits of understanding marriage trends and supporting the institution of marriage are important to our nation and to me. I urge the Bureau to leave these questions as a part of all future ACS questionnaires. We must not lose this ancient marker in our nation's fabric.
I appreciate your attention to this matter and your service to our nation.

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As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

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730 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

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As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

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733 I recently heard about a change in the Census questions; apparently there is a move afoot to remove the question about marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

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734 I find it strange that asking what type of internet connection a person has is more important to the government than marital status.
Why is your department considering removing questions about changes in marital status from the American Community Surveys?

As divorce is commonly recognized now as a traumatic event in the lives of children (and even in the adults themselves, sometimes traumatic enough to cause PTSD), doesn't it seem unwise to cease collecting data about something that affects so many Americans so deeply?

In my work with over 500 families at a large church on the border of two gang territories, I found that there was one family structure that all my kids in gangs had: mom and dad had split up, found someone new, had new babies with new partners, and the older kids were not part of that new family. One of my kids came back from being incarcerated for a while and spoke very frankly to me about why he'd joined a gang. He said that the gang replaced the family he no longer had. He said, "you need a place to stay, the gang gives you that. You need money, they give you that. You need food, they give you that. They're like your family."
Marriage is a serious thing: it is a commitment that is supposed to last. It is the way our societies have always regulated the spontaneous creation of life (regardless of whether it was about love or not, it was always about linking children to their biological parents). At its outset, the adults involved usually expect it to last, and when it doesn't, at least one of them, usually, is wounded. The children certainly expect it to last, and when the union that created them is torn in two, it hurts them and affects them for the rest of their lives. No matter what age the child is when this happens, it hurts them.
With the divorce rate we have in this country and the harm divorce causes, marriage statistics are not negligible information. Certainly there's more to be learned about the way an American Community is going from marriage stats than from what kind of computer they use.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. I don't think we can afford not to know what's going on with the families of our country and how it's affecting all of us, especially the next generation.

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735 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

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736 I am very concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is very different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you aren't asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends. As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their Internet use, then you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is another form of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

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737 Is it true that the Census is considering removing the questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys?

Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline.

If the questions are not asked, it will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I must request that you support and continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23.

If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, it can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage.

I truly and deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention.

I earnestly request you to support and continue to include these questions.

738 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

739

I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

740 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you stop asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.
I hope you will continue to include these questions.

741 I am CONCERNED that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will NOT be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you CONTINUE TO MONITOR the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is SYMBOLIC of the government's ATTACK ON THE INSTITUTION OF MARRIAGE. I DEEPLY RESENT the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will CONTINUE TO INCLUDE these questions.

742 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions

743 Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this brief email to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. I am writing today to express my concern that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage is an important institution and in the last several years we have seen this institution decline. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends. Other questions on the ARC relate to much less important issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC.

Furthermore, the removal of these questions represents a marginalization of marriage. As an American citizen, I value marriage and I know many others who do as well. Marriage is the core of the family, and as the institution of marriage deteriorates so will the institution of the family. Strong families are the key to a strong society. The benefits of understanding marriage trends and supporting the institution of marriage are important to our nation and to me. I urge the Bureau to leave these questions as a part of all future ACS questionnaires.

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As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

746 To whom it may concern...

Regarding: http://www.nature.com/news/keep-asking-the-question-1.16566

I think Question 12 should be maintained in the census questionnaire, as it provides an additional layer of information that would otherwise be costly to obtain via alternative paths.

I hope this message reaches you well.

747 Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this brief email to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. I am writing today to express my concern that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage is an important institution and in the last several years we have seen this institution decline. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends. Other questions on the ARC relate to much less important issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC.

Furthermore, the removal of these questions represents a marginalization of marriage. As an American citizen, I value marriage and I know many others who do as well. Marriage is the core of the family, and as the institution of marriage deteriorates so will the institution of the family. Strong families are the key to a strong society. The benefits of understanding marriage trends and supporting the institution of marriage are important to our nation and to me. I urge the Bureau to leave these questions as a part of all future ACS questionnaires.

Lastly, continued use of these questions will provide continuity with historical census data and allow researchers to monitor and document the changing relational landscape of America.

I appreciate your help and your service to our nation.

748 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

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Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

750 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

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Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

752 We are concerned that the ACS is proposing to drop the questions about marriage and divorce. As per the Federal uses listed, there are quite a number of departments who use this info and it helps to give a sense of the health of the family in the US. These questions should be considered as a high benefit to all those who receive the data from the ACS. Please keep these questions in the ACS.

753

I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

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As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

755 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Holy Matrimony (Marriage) is markedly different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, then the Census can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on Holy Matrimony. I am deeply disappointed that the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions. Thank you!

756 It has come to my attention that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is a bedrock institution that has served individuals, families, and countries, including especially the United States, well for now centuries. Recent trends in marriage, divorce, and single-parenting seem to indicate that the institution is in decline. If we stop asking the questions, we will not know and not realize the extent of these trends.

Please continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking Questions 21a-21c, Question 22, and Question 23. To remove them from the Surveys would reflect of this administration's recent attempts to dilute the institution of marriage. These questions are important to America's understanding of the health of one of our most basic institutions. I ask you, please continue to include Questions 21a through c, Question 22, and Question 23. Thank you very much.

757 I just wanted to send you a message letting you and those involved with making changes to the census that I strongly believe that it is important to continue asking about marital status and the number of marriages.
As a society it is important to see the changes as they happen.
We are at a time in history that data and information is important. It is easier to have the information and not need it, than it is to need the information and not have it.
I hope that those involved will see the importance of continuing to gather this information.
Thank you for your time.

758 I have heard that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. This would be a mistake since marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

759 I understand that the Census Buereau is considering removing questions that center around marriage. As a citizen who is very concerned about the effect of declining marriage in our country, I'm asking you to please leave those questions on the census. My belief, along with much research, sees the family, defined by a mother and father, married, raising their children together, as central to the success of our communities and nation. Policy makers and others who rely on census data to implement strategies for solving our social problems need to see data that includes which households are married couples in order to accurately assess and address these social concerns. Marriage is so much more than "intimate partners" or "roommates". Please allow the census data to continue to reflect that.

760 I've heard about a change going on regarding our Census. The change is removing questions about marital status. This is a tragedy. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. We need to know all kinds of trends, especially with regard to effect on society.

As a taxpaying citizen, I believe you need to continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

The institution of marriage is being attacked. It is not politically correct to ask many questions these days. But we need to know about our society. If you remove these questions it is another attack on this very important institution. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

761 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

762 I am writing because I am concerned that four questions regarding marriage was omitted from the Census form. Questions 20-23 appear to be omitted. I am concerned because it seems that marriage is being redefined in our society and I feel that is desperately wrong. I simply wanted to register my concern and urge you to share it with whomever should be aware that this omission is now well received.

763 I appreciate your help in getting this info to those in charge of making decisions at the Dept of Commerce. It has come to my attention that the Census Bureau us considering the removal of Questions 20, 21a-21c, 22 and 23 from the ARC. With this coming to pass, important documentation of historical data will not happen. Changes to the information gathered must be considered judiciously and trends need to be tracked as they occur.

It is my personal belief that marriage as an institution means stronger families and if we want a strong society and country, marriage is of utmost importance in sustaining these.

It is my thinking that these questions as enumerated above should be kept as part of ACS questionnaires in the future.

Thank you for all you do in your service to our country.

764 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

765 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

766 I have recently become aware that the Cencus Bureau is considering removing family-related questions from the American Community Survey. I am writing to request that the these questions not be removed from the ACS. Many scientists who study families depend on this information for several reasons:

1. The ACS is the most reliable source of national, state, and city data on the frequency of marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage.
2. The ACS is the only data source that can measure marital behavior in relatively small groups in the population, such as Asian Americans.
3. The ACS is the only national source of information on the frequency of same-sex marriage and the characteristics of the same-sex married population.
4. The ACS provides the best quality national data for estimating the effects of social programs and policies on married and unmarried populations.

As a family scientist, I ask that you take these items into consideration and not remove these questions from the survey. Thank you for your time. I hope you have a happy holiday.

767 I understand that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is such an important institution that it always needs to be considered in shaping public policy. How will you be able to keep track of its status if you totally remove it from your surveys?

As a taxpaying lifelong United States citizen, I strongly urge the Census to continue asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23 on your American Community Surveys to monitor the state of marriage. Isn't asking questions about such an important status as marriage relationship far more important than asking questions about internet use and plumbing? I am highly offended that an institution such as marriage, that has been around so many centuries, and that is in fact the basis of all humanity, is being undermined in this way.

I look forward to hearing that you have the courage to keep these questions in your survey. Thank you very much for taking into account this opinion of the majority of the citizens of this great country.

Yours in support of truth and justice.

768 Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this brief email to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. I am writing today to express my concern that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage is an important institution and in the last several years we have seen this institution decline. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends. Other questions on the ARC relate to much less important issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC.

Furthermore, the removal of these questions represents a marginalization of marriage. As an American citizen, I value marriage and I know many others who do as well. Marriage is the core of the family, and as the institution of marriage deteriorates so will the institution of the family. Strong families are the key to a strong society. The benefits of understanding marriage trends and supporting the institution of marriage are important to our nation and to me. I urge the Bureau to leave these questions as a part of all future ACS questionnaires.

I appreciate your help and your service to our nation.

769 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government’s attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

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I appreciate your help and your service to our nation.

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As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government’s attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

772 Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this brief email to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. I am writing today to express my concern that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage is an important institution and in the last several years, we have seen this institution decline. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends. Other questions on the ARC relate to much less important issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC. Furthermore, the removal of these questions represents a marginalization of marriage. As an American citizen, I value marriage and I know many others who do as well. Marriage is the core of the family and as the institution of marriage deteriorates so will the institution of the family. Strong families are the key to a strong society. The benefits of understanding marriage trends and supporting the institution of marriage are important to our nation and to me. I urge the Bureau to leave these questions as a part of all future ACS questionnaires.
I appreciate your help and your service to our nation.

773 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

774 Why is the Census considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys? Marriage is an important institution, and we must track it statistically.
I teach courses on Marriage and Family at a State University, so the information you collect is ultimately very important to me and other scholars.
I urge you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23.

Is our government so derelict that it does not consider these questions worthy of attention? I hope you will continue to include these questions. Otherwise, I will suggest to my representatives that they consider cutting your budget.

775 On future American Community Surveys I would request that marital status questions remain. Marriage is different than any other relationship and it's important that we can detect and follow marriage trends, which lately has shown the institution to be in decline. Without asking questions about marriage we won't be able to follow the trends.
Questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23 are important and I ask that they continue to be asked.
Marriage is so important and it pains me that the government continue's to attack such a necessary family system for children and adults. These questions are very important and worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

776 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the federal government's attack on the institution of marriage, encouraged by rabid homosexuals, a tiny minority of the population of this country. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. Please continue to include these questions in the C ensus.

777 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Marital status is important-- -should be important--- to economists and others in the government. For instance, single motherhood is the single biggest factor causing poverty in our country. It would seem to me that the government would be interested in reducing single motherhood, for instance, since not only does the economy suffer, but the children of single mothers fare worse in education, health, emotional stability, personal safety, and overall achievement and productivity than children in homes where a father is present. This is just one example, but I'm sure that there are many more when you get into the details of the effects of cohabitation, so-called gay marriage, civil unions, etc.

If the Census is not just about numbers, which theory is supported by the types of questions mentioned above, i.e., plumbing and internet usage, let's get information about how family style and composition affect other aspects of the community and the economy. You would have a hard time denying that easy access to this information would be useful to sociologists, economists, demographers, and others. Are we trying to obscure the facts or what? Are we afraid of what will emerge from the investigation here?

It would appear that removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

778 Dear Ms. Jessup,

I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23.
Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I am very saddened by the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions. My parents have been married for 58 years, & my husband & I for almost 30. I believe that is something worth recognizing & celebrating!

779 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

780 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

781 Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this brief email to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. I am writing today to express my concern that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. The institution of marriage is the fundamental building block of a healthy society. Stable marriages are critical to the wellbeing and development of children to be productive citizens. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends. Other questions on the ARC relate to much less important issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC.

Removal of these questions represents a marginalization of marriage. As an American citizen, I value marriage and I know many others who do as well. Marriage is the core of the family, and as the institution of marriage deteriorates so will the institution of the family. The benefits of understanding marriage trends and supporting the institution of marriage are important to our nation and to me. I urge the Bureau to leave these questions as a part of all future ACS questionnaires.

782 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

783 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

784 Thank you for passing along our thoughts to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. We are writing to express our opinion that the Census Bureau NOT remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. We believe questions about marriage are important and an important trend to track. Surely there are other questions on the ARC less important if the issue is the length of the survey.

As it is we are concerned that removal of these questions would further represent a marginalization of marriage. As American citizens, we value marriage and know many others who do as well. We urge the Bureau to leave these questions as a part of all future ACS questionnaires.

Thank you for your help and your service to our nation.

785 Please forward to the appropriate decision-makers in the Department of Commerce my concern that the Census Bureau to retain questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage is an important institution, and in the last several years we have seen it decline. Without the information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends. Retaining the questions should not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC.
Further, the removal of these questions would represent a marginalization of marriage. I value marriage and know many others do as well. Marriage is the core of the family, and as the institution of marriage deteriorates so will the institution of the family. Strong families are key to a strong society. The benefits of understanding marriage trends and supporting the institution of marriage are important to our country. I urge the Bureau to leave these questions on all future ACS questionnaires.

786 I feel that I must write to you about my concern over the contemplated removal of questions regarding Marital Status in future American Community Surveys. I feel that the removal of Questions No. 21a, 21b, 21c, 22, and 23 are 1) unnecessary, and 2) may result in unreliable information about Marriage trends, which is important for the management and evaluation of certain Federal programs.

Questions regarding Marriage should be valued more highly by the Census than other questions currently included in the Survey, such as those regarding Computer and Internet use, Plumbing Facilities, and Length of Commute to Work. Marriage, though declining in recent years, is an essential institution for raising physically and mentally healthy children, and will directly affect the future of our nation. Therefore, if questions are being removed as a result of budget concerns, I would strongly urge review of other, less vital questions currently included in the Survey. In that way, an issue that has the power to transform the nation's future will not be neglected.

As a taxpaying citizen of the United States of America, I insist that these questions remain in the American Community Surveys. These questions do not discriminate against or violate the rights of any citizen of the United States. The removal of these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on Marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the Federal Government considers trends regarding Marriage unworthy of attention and evaluation.

I do sincerely hope that you will continue to include these questions.

787 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government’s attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

788 Please keep the marriage questions on the federal census forms. Marriage is a social good for the benefit of children, and tracking marriage trends is an important measure of the health of our society and the wellbeing of our children.

Please do not ignore the importance of marriage on the census form. As with any other question on the census, people are free to ignore a census question about marriage, but will never answer the question if they are not asked. Thank you for your kind attention.

789 Once again I am baffled and concerned that there is continued misguided change in the structure of our government and its continued attacks on the institution of marriage. Now I understand that Census is considering removing the questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is the one standard that is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.
As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.
Removing these questions is symbolic of the government’s attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

790 The proposal to remove questions about changes in marital status (questions 21a-21c, 22, and 23) from future AC Surveys is regrettable. If we are to be long-sighted as a Nation, it will be helpful to know trends and to be able to see variables - the family unit is undeniably the cell of society which, if strengthened, can most easily, economically, and importantly provide love, education, memory, well-being, support, moral development, stability, etiquette, safety, and human development to our citizenry. If unhealthy or attacked, many of these benefits are in danger. It seems imperative that we do a minimum to keep a pulse on where, whether, and why family status changes, to a reasonable degree, as the pulse of the family indicates the health of the heart of the nation.
I am a taxpayer and a voter. Thank you for your consideration.

791 My husband and I think it is ridiculous to eliminate questions pertaining to marriage status out of the census questionnaire. Marriage is the cornerstone of the family and it is important to keep the questions a part of the census.

792 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.
As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.
Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions. Thank you.

793

I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

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Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions

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Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

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Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

796 Thank you for the hard work that you do in serving our nation at the Department of Commerce. I am a retired Army chaplain so I know a little about serving Uncle Sam. I am writing to express a concern that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage is an important institution and in the last several years we have seen this institution decline. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends. Other questions on the ARC relate to much less important issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who use the ARC to study trends in our culture.

I was married to my first wife 23 years and now my second wife 16 years and I believe that marriage is very important to our society. I do not believe it is in the best interest of the government to go neutral on the institution of marriage.

I appreciate your help and your service to our nation.

797 Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this brief email to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. We are writing today to express our concern that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage is an important institution in every civilization, and in the last several years we have seen this institution decline. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends. Other questions on the ARC relate to much less important issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC.
Furthermore, the removal of these questions represents a marginalization of marriage. As American citizens,we value marriage and we know many others who do as well. Marriage is the core of the family, and as the institution of marriage deteriorates so will the institution of the family. Strong families are the key to a strong society. The benefits of understanding marriage trends and supporting the institution of marriage are important to our nation and to us. We urge the Bureau to leave these questions as a part of all future ACS questionnaires.
We appreciate your help and your service to our nation.

798 Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this brief email to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. I am writing today to express my concern that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage is an important institution and in the last several years we have seen this institution decline. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends. Other questions on the ARC relate to much less important issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC.

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As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.
Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

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800 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you stop asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I ask that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

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Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

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relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I request that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and
resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage! I hope you will continue to include these questions.

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Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

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Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. Marriage is a fundament part of society, especially in the USA, and removing them is ridiculous

I hope you will continue to include these questions.

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Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. Please continue to include these questions.

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Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

More and more people believe that our government is not responsive to the citizenry. I certainly hope this is not the case in your department.

812 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

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Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

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As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.
Furthermore, as a researcher, I am seriously concerned about this eliminating of important questions that are necessary for good social science research to be conducted in the future. The census is vital to much informative research related to social science, as applied in many different fields. By eliminating certain questions or the use of the word marriage in certain questions, you will be severely limiting the kind and quality of research that researchers can do to help our society learn more and improve.

816 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

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As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.
Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

818 Please keep the marriage, divorce, widowhood questions in the ACS report !
We need to know how they are affected by many things and your reports are very helpful
with these statistics in it.

819 Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this brief email to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. I am writing today to express my concern that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage is an important institution and an issue of much concern in our country. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends. Other questions on the ARC relate to much less important issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC.
Marriage is still the defining voluntary relationship most affecting citizens' lives. Marriage is the core of the family, and as the institution of marriage changes so will the institution of the family. Strong families are key to a strong society. The benefits of understanding marriage trends and supporting the institution of marriage are important to our nation and to me. It makes no sense not to track this information. I urge the Bureau to leave these questions as a part of all future ACS questionnaires.
I appreciate your help and your service to our nation.

820 Please find attached a letter relating to the proposed changes to the American Community Survey referenced in the subject line. Feel free to contact me if I can provide any additional information., [Text ofWe, are, writing, to, respond, to, the, request, for, comments, about, the, elimination, of, questions, relating, to, field, of, study, among, BA, recipients, in, the, ACS, ("Person, Question, No., 12)., This, question's, elimination, would, greatly, limit, the, nation's, ability, to, understand, how, Americans, make, educational, investments, and, to, craft, appropriate, policies, to, address, changing, educational, needs, for, a, dynamic, modern, economy., The, educational, questions, on, the, ACS, are, profoundly, useful, to, researchers, and, policymakers,, as, they, provide, a, great, deal, of, detail, on, both, current, and, historical, educational, choices., While, a, great, deal, is, known, about, the, amount, of, education, obtained, from, surveys, like, the, ACS, and, the, Current, Population, Survey,, much, less, is, known, about, areas, of, expertise, and, field, of, study., Without, information, on, field, of, study,, we, would, not, know, what, human, capital, investment, decisions, individuals, are, making, while, in, college., As, an, example,, it, would, be, difficult, to, determine, whether, investments, and, policies, designed, to, encourage, STEM, degrees, are, effective., We, would, also, not, know, how, these, investment, decisions, have, changed, over, time., One, great, advantage, of, the, ACS, is, that, the, question, on, field, of, study, is, asked, of, all, BA, recipients,, not, only, those, who, are, recent, graduates., Thanks, to, this, information,, it, is, possible, to, trace, of, the, distribution, of, major, choices, across, many, cohorts, of, graduates., In, recent, research, (conducted, with, Erica, Blom),, we, have, done, exactly, this:, We, use, the, ACS, to, establish, long-- -run, patterns, in, major, choice, and,, in, particular,, examine, how, sensitive, the, choice, of, college, major, is, to, both, local, and, national, economic, conditions., Despite, the, commonly, held, view, that, college, students, study, an, area, that, they, are, "passionate", about, or, intend, to, use, as, a, stepping-- -, stone, to, a, long---term, field, of, interest,, we, find, that, college, students, are, actually, quite, sensitive, to, the, economic, conditions, at, the, time, of, graduation., Department of Economics t 303 492 7908, Brian Cadena f 303 492 8960, Assistant Professor of Economics brian.cadena@colorado.edu, 256 UCB, Boulder, Colorado 80309-0256, In, particular,, we, find, that, there, is, a, clear, cyclical, pattern, in, the, choices, of, college, majors,, as, students, select, majors, that, are, more, quantitative,, higher-- -paying,, and, rigorous, during, recessions., We, find, that, women, are, especially, responsive, to, the, business, cycle,, and, our, results, suggest, that, there, is, a, group, of, college, students, who, are, capable, of, studying, STEM, fields, who, choose, not, to, during, economic, booms., Our, findings, could, not, have, been, done, with, any, other, dataset, in, the, United, States, (that, we, are, aware, of),, and, this, type, of, research, greatly, expands, our, understanding, of, choices, made, by, college, students, over, the, last, 50, years., There, are, many, other, papers, that, have, used, this, data, to, explore, the, impact, of, college, major, choice, on, lifetime, earnings, and, other, important, choices,, including, marriage, and, fertility., Given, the, novelty, of, this, question, (relative, to, existing, measures, of, human, capital, accumulation, in, other, surveys),, we, believe, that, researchers, have, only, begun, to, scratch, the, surface, of, the, possible, research, questions, related, to, education, decisions, and, economic, and, non---economic, outcomes., Given, the, ongoing, policy, discussion, surrounding, the, value, of, a, college, education,, we, believe, abandoning, this, question, will, weaken, our, ability, to, have, an, informed, discussion, about, the, choices, college, students, make, in, developing, the, skills, for, a, successful, career., With, the, dramatic, changes, in, college---going, over, the, last, 25, years,, eliminating, this, question, will, make, it, more, difficult, to, understand, the, consequences, of, these, large, changes, in, the, American, workforce., We, urge, you, to, reconsider, this, decision,, and, thank, you, for, your, attention.

821 I would like to express my thought that questions 20-23 remain on the long form of the census in order that adequate information can be gathered related to families. Thank you for passing this to the appropriate persons/agency.

822 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

823 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

824 This responds to your request for comments concerning your proposal to remove marriage questions from the Community Surveys:
I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status!

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I urge you to continue to include these questions.

825 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

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As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

827 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. I believe it is important to leave in questions about changes in marital status, as this information helps the government follow trends in marriage relationships and hopefully can strengthen society by supporting marriage

828 As the Director of Evaluation at the Jack Kent Cook Foundation, I am writing in support of keeping question #12 of the American Community Survey (Field of Undergraduate Degree). My organization supports the college education of high-achieving low-income students because we know how critical a college education is to breaking inter-generational poverty. Not all college degrees are created equal, however; students' choice of major plays an important role in determining their subsequent career path and success. Understanding trends in long-term career earnings as they relate to college major provides our Foundation and all American students with better information to make informed choices about college major. I urge you to keep question #12 on the ACS so that we and the education community can continue to better advise the next generation of students.

829 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

830 In response to Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; The American Community Survey Content Review Results I respectfully request the Department of Commerce reconsider the proposal to remove Person Question No. 12 – Undergraduate Field of Degree.

As noted in the Department's documentation regarding this question (http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/QbyQfact/degree.pdf), information about undergraduate field of degree is useful for understanding the United States workforce in all the ways and for all the reasons cited by the Department. The real value of this information is that it can be used in conjunction with other questions on the American Community Survey. For researchers and planners, it's easier to utilize the information obtained from this question in conjunction with the other ACS questions. Other sources of this information may not be readily available to other researchers (e.g., individual level records held by postsecondary institutions) or the information may not be reported in a manner that is appropriate for the analysis needed (e.g., aggregated by institution via the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)).

Question No. 12 of the ACS is a very valuable and widely used data element for workforce development and academic planning purposes. Its removal from the survey would significantly impact critical analyses needed to ensure that the United States continues to play a significant role in the global economy and that local, regional, and state communities have the tools they need to support that effort.

831 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing the questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.
As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.
Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

832 I urge the Census Bureau to keep the marriage and family questions in its questionnaire. This remains as an important and valid statistic, and removal of such questions would wrongly suggest that marriage and family are insignificant. Kindly forward my input as needed to the correct person(s).

833 First of LL, thank you for the service you provide for our country.
I would like to express my concern about the possible removal of Questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. I believe to do so would represent the loss of critical data in the future. These questions does not present an unreasonable burden to anyone.
The removal of these questions would represent a marginalization of marriage. As an American citizen, I value marriage and I know many others who do as well. Marriage is the core of the family, and as the institution of marriage deteriorates so will the institution of the family. Strong families are the key to a strong society. The benefits of understanding marriage trends and supporting the institution of marriage are important to our nation and to me. I urge the Bureau to leave these questions as a part of all future questionnaires.

834 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

835 I am concerned about questions re: marital status and married couples being downplayed on the Census. I please ask for your being an advocate to not having these removed.

836 I am writing to request that the Census Bureau KEEP questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 on the ARC. Marriage is an important institution that is vital to the health of our nation. Information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC is important for monitoring future trends.

I urge the Bureau to leave these questions as a part of all future ACS questionnaires.

I appreciate your help and your service to our nation.

837 We need to continue to gather and disseminate data regarding marital status, it is a key indicator of families and their outcomes, and provides a fair comparison with decades of marriage data.
Please include questions on marital status on all future census and data gathering.
thank you for your consideration,

838 Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this brief email to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. I am writing today to express my concern that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage is an important institution and in the last several years we have seen this institution decline. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends. Other questions on the ARC relate to much less important issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC. Furthermore, the removal of these questions represents a marginalization of marriage. As an American citizen, I value marriage and I know many others who do as well. Marriage is the core of the family, and as the institution of marriage deteriorates so will the institution of the family. Strong families are the key to a strong society. The benefits of understanding marriage trends and supporting the institution of marriage are important to our nation and to me. I urge the Bureau to leave these questions as a part of all future ACS questionnaires.
I appreciate your help and your service to our nation.

839 We are concerned about the possibility of having the marital status questions removed from the Census questions. Marriage status is important and affects our nation as much as any of the other questions included. If questions regarding marriage status are removed, the trends regarding this institution will be undetected through the years.

As taxpaying citizens, we request that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their internet use (why would this be considered important?), you can certainly ask a few questions about marital status.

By removing the "marriage" questions, it shows government's attack on this institution, which we resent. Please continue to include marital status questions with the Census.

840 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing the questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.
The lack of this valuable and objective information will further hurt efforts to strengthen this very important institution to the detriment of American society.
Thank you for your consideration.

841 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing the questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.
As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.
Removing these questions is symbolic of the government’s attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

842 I support leaving the marriage questions as is so that researchers can have this valuable data that can be used to study the trends in marriage. Marriage provides the most stable environment to raise children, so it would be good policy to see trends so society can take action that best provides a place for children to grown.

843 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government’s attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

844 For more than 20 years, I have been investigating statistical relationships between college major and labor market outcomes among U.S. college graduates. My current research, utilizing the American Community Survey college major question, also contributes to knowledge about the long-term effects of national and state-level educational investments. Beginning in 2007, I served my country as a member of the National Academy of Sciences "Panel to Assess the Benefits of the American Community Survey for the NSF Science Resources Statistics Division."

I am baffled and dismayed by the suggestion to remove the question about college major from the American Community Survey. Our economy is changing rapidly, and it is important that young people and those who help to educate the next generation be well informed about trends in the skills required to become contributing members of society. My research and writing aim to make that information widely available, but rely on high quality, nationally representative data.

In the early years, it was very difficult to find reliable data, but I felt this was an important national issue and so I persisted, doing the best I could with limited data. After the National Science Foundation conducted the 1993 and 2003 National Surveys of College Graduates, I was able to take advantage of large, nationally representative data sets to facilitate detailed description. Since the inclusion of the college major question in the American Community Survey, I have used these data to facilitate study of the impacts of both historical and current education policies. For some of the studies I hope to conduct soon, I am still waiting until the day when the American Community Survey will have included the college major question for a sufficient number of years.

It would be disruptive and inefficient to discontinue the college major question after only five years. I hope that the Census Bureau will steady the course and continue to include the college major question in the American Community Survey.

[2nd email, 12/28/2014] I wrote last year to note my consternation about a proposal to remove a marriage question from the American Community Survey, but I am truly alarmed to learn about a current proposal to remove several questions pertaining to marriage. I feel that it is particularly important to understand the dynamics of marriage in U.S. families during this period of public discussion about the value of marriage to individual adults and their children. ACS questions to elicit information about the duration and frequency of marriages provide valuable information based on nationally representative U.S. samples.

845 Please find attached my comment regarding the elimination of the “undergraduate field of degree” question from the American Community Survey. Please let me know that you have received this, and if you have any questions or need the comment in a different format.
[Text from attachment...] I write regarding the proposed elimination of the “undergraduate field of degree” question from the American Community Survey (ACS). I urge that this question not be eliminated. This question yields data that are absolutely crucial for understanding the education-to-work transitions made by workers in the U.S., and the question is necessary for government data collection and research that can maintain both national security and national competitiveness. While the question is of great importance to a variety of government agencies, my interest in this issue comes primarily as a social scientist involved in multiple projects focused on the dynamics and vitality of the science and engineering workforce. Yet this is hardly an issue of interest only to government agencies and researchers, for reasons that I explain below.
The reason that the question is important is because it helps us to understand the employment trajectories of college graduates. Without this question, we cannot understand the employment prospects of people trained in engineering of various types, life sciences, physical sciences, computer science, and on and on. The ACS question allows us to identify the field of degree of respondents whether it was obtained in the U.S. or not. What percentage of workers trained in science and engineering work in the area in which they were trained? What percentage leave—and can we understand why they leave science and engineering? Previous survey research has found that about a quarter of our scientists and engineers have degrees that are not even in the sciences. Can we count on these workers to be a significant source of science and engineering talent in the future? From which fields do they come? The undergraduate field of degree question is a diagnostic tool with which we can assess the health of the science and engineering workforce, and prescribe policy measures to improve it.
The field of degree question is not simply supplying answers to questions asked by the idly curious. Getting the best data possible in this area is essential to the nation’s future. Since the 1950s, when the U.S. was involved in the Cold War struggle with the Soviet Union, officials in the federal government have identified detailed knowledge of the science and engineering workforce as key for maintaining the nation’s ability to defend itself in conflicts that increasingly depend on advanced technology. By the 1980s, government officials saw this kind of knowledge as not only crucial for the U.S.’s ability to defend itself, but also for the nation’s ability to compete economically. This is because economic vitality and growth now depend on continual

846 The Kauffman Foundation, as the nation's largest foundation devoted to furthering understanding entrepreneurship, has a strong interest in high-quality social science research
relating to the conditions under which entrepreneurs and innovations are most likely to develop and succeed. Our research and policy staff relies on high-quality data to research trends and best practices in supporting our nation's economic development through entrepreneurship and education. In this capacity, Kauffman Foundation takes a leadership and advocacy role for the protection and continuation for the collection of high-quality data. As such, we do not support the October 2014 recommendation for removal of the Undergraduate Field of Degree ACS question; in accordance with this, we would like to offer a few points of comment on the existing survey:
• Persistent Need: There is a need among the wide research and policy community that strong, consistent, expansive aggregated information on the makeup of our nation's economic development exists. Between 2003 and 2013, the percentage of individuals between ages 25-29 who received a bachelor's or higher degree increased from 23 to 34 percent, according to a study on Educational Attainment by the Institute of Education Sciences. Thus, it is our belief that the collection of information on the Undergraduate Field of Degree is becoming increasingly relevant.
• Granular Education Research: Other research from the Census Bureau, such as the Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI), provide key research on specific components of workforce such as wage, net employment growth, unemployment insurance, business dynamic statistics, and demographics; however, the education component of demographics only aggregates the type or amount of education received. Filling the education studies gap with more specific information such as Undergraduate Field of Degree would expand our ability to define more interesting and important trends in workforce studies.
• Survey of Business Ownership: The Kauffman has invested significantly in partnering with the Census Bureau to create a new version of the Survey of Business Owners (SBO), which expands data collection to an annual basis, rather than the previous reporting schedule of every five years. In doing so, both organizations benefit from insights on a number of variables including barriers to growth, financing, innovation, firm dynamics, demographics, and background characteristics on American entrepreneurs.

847 Please leave marriage-related questions (21a-c, 22 and 23) in the Census Survey. DO NOT remove them. The questions are LOW Cost but HIGH VALUE. Any information we can get on the status of marriage in America is useful to understanding how we can strengthen marriage and family.

Studies show children raised in an intact family have a greater chance to succeed in life and are more likely to contribute to the overall strength of our country. What can be greater value than that? PLUS, when kids succeed in life, the government gets more tax revenue!

848 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

849 I understand that removing questions about marital status is being considered for the American Community survey. I know it has gotten quite complicated, but I am in favor of the government continuing to gather statistically relevant data on marriage and all it's variations including cohabitation.

850 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

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851 a) I think that the questions on marriage status (21-23) should be retained. Given the statistical links found between single parenthood and poverty, lower educational attainment, unemployment and participation in welfare programs, this information is critical to programs hoping to lower single parenthood, improve the poor prospects for children born into this situation, and possibly encourage marriage. It also helps the government track the success of programs aimed at improving this situation for children raised by single parents (mostly mothers). And possibly if the statistics show that the program is not helping, the money can be redirected to programs that are more successful at achieving their goals! Without this information, the government might continue to fund programs that are not helping.

b-d) no comments

852 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

853 The Family is and has always been the root element of a society. We already have garnered through this data the impact upon our society from the erosion of the family as morals and mores have decayed. Masking this data would not only be a disservice to science, but a direct attempt to undermine our ability to monitor and modify policies that could have a positive impact on our society.

In the interest of science and the betterment of our society and as a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. We have an obligation to improve and further enlighten our society and data gather is paramount to this end. Deliberately removing the collection of this data is a pernicious effort to conceal critical information that discloses the continuance of decay, and this would suggest that those who are ardently making these types of changes to data points possess machinations to subvert the root of our society. Thank you.

854 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing the questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government’s attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

855 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government’s attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

856 I am a genealogist and as such rely on the census records for my search and for validation of various things such as birth dates, marriage and when people disappear from the census one can begin to search for exact death dates. And I hope my descendants will be able to easily get marriage information about myself and my sons from the census in the future.

[redacted]

But please think of adding questions similar to the census taken in 1850-1900, but do not take off the marriage question.

857 As a psychologist, author, supervisor, consultant, and teacher, I am writing to request, in the strongest possible terms, that the Census Bureau ACS survey not eliminate questions that gather information about marriage, widowhood, and divorce. This data is absolutely critical for providing information that helps us to support healthy families. Without it, we cannot speak factually about what is actually happening here in the United States in terms of family relationships. Please please do not eliminate this key data source.

858 Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this brief email to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. I am writing today to express my concern that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage is an important institution and in the last several years we have seen this institution decline. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends. Other questions on the ARC relate to much less important issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC.
Marriage is the core of the family, and as the institution of marriage deteriorates so will the institution of the family. Strong families are the key to a strong society. The benefits of understanding marriage trends and supporting the institution of marriage are important to our nation and to me. I urge the Bureau to leave these questions as a part of all future ACS questionnaires.
I appreciate your help in this matter.

859 My interest in important demographic data, social science and the lives of all Americans causes my to have great concern that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

I hope you will continue to include these questions.

860 Sneak Attack on Marriage by The S*xual State
An urgent message from Dr. Jennifer Roback Morse
The U.S. Census Bureau is in the process of removing questions about marriage from its surveys. According to the Washington Examiner:

"Members of Congress and agencies rely on demographic data to shape policy. Marriage has been declining, and the presence of single mothers is among the largest factors in the growth of entitlement programs.

But the government soon may have no idea how marriage is changing in America and how it is linked to the well-being of children and adults. The American Community Survey is sent yearly to a small fraction of Americans and goes into more detail than the once-every-ten-years Census, which sticks to basics and to which all Americans must respond."

Removing questions about marriage from the Census is a small step. However, marriage matters. A tremendous amount of social science research shows that "marriage" really is more than a piece of paper. If we quit asking people questions about marriage, divorce, remarriage and the like, all s*xual coupling will be blurred together under the heading of "intimate partners" or "roommates."

Did I mention that the comment period on these changes closes on December 30, 2014? They are seriously not expecting you or me to notice what they are about to do, over a holiday.

Shall we surprise them? Write to the Jennifer Jessup, the bureaucrat who is in charge of handling the "requests for comments." She, no doubt, expects to hear only from other federal agencies about whether they will be inconvenienced by dropping these questions. She probably is not expecting to hear from outraged citizens about the blatant attempt to manipulate reality.
Surprise her. Her e-mail is jjessup@doc.gov. Below is a sample email you can cut and paste into your own email. Please help the future of marriage by taking this small step.
Sample email:
Dear Ms. Jessup,

I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time

861 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

862 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. We need to be more aware of marriage instead of less. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

863 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

864 I understand the Census is considering removing the questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys.

I'm writing to support keeping those marriage questions in the surveys as they are.

865 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing the questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

866 Please keep the questions that concern marriage on the American Community Survey.

Many people and organizations, including the federal government rely upon current marriage statistics. They play an important role in short- and long-term projections for social security payments. These questions are also important contributors to demographical research.

The short amount of time saved from removing these questions would lead to a great loss of data and valuable information.

867 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing the questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is the basic unit of society, thus making it different from other relationships. Furthermore, recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to accurately detect such trends.
As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their electronic devices, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.
Ignoring this petition and removing these questions would be a clear signal that the federal government is fighting against clear data on marriage. I resent and reject the idea that these questions are unworthy of attention. Please continue to include these questions. Thank you!

868 Please do not eliminate 5 of the marriage questions on the ACS. At a time when marriage patterns are drastically changing, this information is needed more than ever before. In fact, rather than remove these questions, there are probably numerous more that could and should be added. The small amount of time it takes to read and answer these questions is a small price to pay for the information it will provide for generations to come.

869 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

870 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. It would be a major mistake to remove those questions.

871 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

872 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing the questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.
As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.
Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

873 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships as it is the bedrock upon which all human society is built. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about the number and type of computers they have, and the number of cars in their household, you can certainly ask a few questions about changes in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

874 Please don't take the marriage questions out of the survey.

875 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

876 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

877 Please do not take the marriage questions out of government documents. Marriage has been greatly diminished in our society as it is. Please let my grandchildren grow up in a society where having a mother and father is ideal. Please protect the sanctity of marriage and the future of our great nation!

878 I have just heard that the U.S. Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships; it is not the same as co-habiting, or roommates, or intimate partners. Recent trends in marriage show that the institution of marriage is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends, and neither will anyone else who is studying our society. We have decades of data about marriage, and we should continue to track it.

As a taxpaying citizen, I think it's important that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23, so important that I must insist. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Please don't participate in the government's attack on the institution of marriage in this way. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

879 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. I believe the institution of marriage is critical for a society to function and that families supported by this institution are the cells that make up a healthy society. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.
As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you
continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people
about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.
Removing these questions is symbolic of the
government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions
worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

880

I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

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As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

882 Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this brief email to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. I am writing today to express my concern that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage is an important institution and in the last several years we have seen this institution decline. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends. Other questions on the ARC relate to much less important issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC.

Furthermore, the removal of these questions represents a marginalization of marriage. As an American citizen, I value marriage and I know many others who do as well. Marriage is the core of the family, and as the institution of marriage deteriorates so will the institution of the family. Strong families are the key to a strong society. The benefits of understanding marriage trends and supporting the institution of marriage are important to our nation and to me. I urge the Bureau to leave these questions as a part of all future ACS questionnaires.

883 Please keep the sanctity of marriage included in the census. Marriage is important! Families are important!

884 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

885 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing the questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.
As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.
Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

886 I object to the removal of marriage from the ACS.

887 I am writing to petition to keep the questions on marriage as they are. I feel that researchers and citizens benefit from the knowledge obtained by these questions and request that they be kept as is in the census. Thank you!

888 As taxpayer I request that you honor marriage enough to ask questions 21a-21c and 22 and 23. Marriage is very important when children are involved and we want to know statistics for marriage, divorce, or single. The backbone of our society is still having a mom and dad for children so we want these numbers too

889 I'm opposed to dropping the questions on marriage from the census surveys. There are many government agencies and research organizations that depend on those questions to project trends & plan services for large groups of people.

890 Please continue to ask the marriage questions in the census.
I believe that this information is valuable in any study of our society.
It is also a fundamental part of my family genealogy with 20,000 names.

891 It has come to my attention that you are removing questions related to marriage, widowhood and divorce from your American Community Survey. I ask that you please KEEP and even add to those questions, as they are vital to our knowledge of couple relationships in the US.

892 I'm concerned about the Census Bureau removing questions regarding marriage. Strong marriages are the bedrock of a healthy society. I resent this recent anti-marriage action by the government and I am strongly in favor, as a taxpayer, of keeping the questions on marital status in the survey.

893 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

894 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing the questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

895 I strongly object to the proposed elimination of questions regarding marriage, divorce, and widowhood from the annual ACS. We do not want to be the only country in the developed world that cannot generate annual age specific rates of marriage and divorce. This can only be seen as yet another attack by our government on the American family, and certainly an attack on the institution of marriage. Thank you for considering my opinion.

896 Attached is NCSES' response to the Census Bureau's Federal Register Notice of October 31, 2014, summarizing results from the 2014 ACS Content Review and proposing the removal of Question 12—Undergraduate Field of Degree—from the survey. In addition, NSF's Office of General Counsel has been in discussion with the Office of General Counsel at the Department of Commerce regarding NSF's statutory requirements as they relate to this question and has prepared a written response to be sent under separate cover. In light of the additional information provided in these documents, we respectfully request that Census reconsider its proposal and retain Question 12 in future cycles of the American Community Survey.

We appreciate the support received from your staff as we worked to understand the results of this Review and look forward to a positive resolution. As always, I am available if you have questions or need additional information.

[Text of attachment...]I am writing in strong support for retaining Question 12, "Undergraduate Field of Degree," on the American Community Survey. Established by the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 20101, the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) is directed to "...collect, acquire, analyze, report, and disseminate statistical data related to the science and engineering enterprise in the United States and other nations that is relevant and useful to practitioners, researchers, policymakers, and the public..." Information obtained through Question 12 is critically important to our ability to measure the education and employment of scientists and engineers and is the cornerstone of NCSES's data collection program that produces the nation's only source of comprehensive information about the size and characteristics of the science and engineering workforce. These data are central to the analysis presented in a pair of congressionally mandated2,3 reports published by the National Science Foundation, Science and Engineering Indicators and Women, Minorities, and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering.

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a valuable resource that provides benefit to the general public, private and public businesses and institutions, and state and local as well as federal government agencies, giving communities the information they need to plan investments and services. Broadly speaking, communities may be defined geographically, they may be interest-based or they may be specifically defined subsets of the U.S. population; they may be large or small, rare or plentiful. As noted in the Census Bureau's ACS Strategic Plan4, "The ACS has a special niche in the federal statistical system because it delivers detailed information for small geographic areas and small populations." Individuals educated in science or engineering, identifiable through the information collected by Question 12, is an example of a small population for which the ACS was designed to provide benefit.

NCSES and the Census Bureau have collaborated for more than 50 years to provide important data about the nation's science and engineering workforce, first through the Decennial long form and more recently through the ACS. Prior to using the ACS, NCSES commissioned several studies by the National Research Council Committee on National Statistics to explore the availability of alternatives means; all reports concluded that there are no practical, viable alternatives.5 At the first opportunity presented, NCSES worked in partnership with the Census Bureau and the Office of Statistical and Science Policy of the Office of Management and Budget to add the field of degree question to the ACS.

The Census Bureau's recommendation to add a field of degree question beginning in 2009 included the following language:

"The addition of a FOD of a person's bachelor's degree is proposed for the ACS beginning in 2009. It will be Question 12 on the printed questionnaire. Two versions of such a FOD item were tested in the 2007 ACS Content Test, and the open-ended version performed better than the categorical version. The addition of such an item would yield substantial benefits to a wide variety of users. First, it would greatly increase the efficiency of sampling for the National Survey of College Graduates (NSCG) in several respects. It would eliminate the need for a very large screener sample to identify individuals in the science and engineering (S&E)

897 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

898 I would like to urge the Dept. of Commerce to not eliminate the six ACS questions relating to marriage and education. These questions are very important in my own research as a labor economist and to my students.

899 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. I think it's as important as race and ancestry, and it's far more telling about a family and the state of our nation and households than number of cars or type of internet usage.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, I think that marriage should also make that cut.

I am deeply offended by the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

900 Please do not remove questions about marital status from future census surveys.

If you do not ask the questions you will not be able to decipher between married or roommates. Marriage is different from other relationships.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c, questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about marital status.

I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

901 I am not able to find any way to respond to this request, except by writing to your office. If I am wrong, please guide me.

Your office should be very interested in this editorial: http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865618527/Keep-marriage-questions.html

I quote 2 paragraphs from that editorial:

"The American Community Survey was a godsend," said Steven Ruggles, president-elect of the Population Association of America, the country's professional group for people studying population trends.
"Marriage patterns are changing more rapidly than in any time in our history," Ruggles continued to the Tampa Bay Times. "Without this data, we would have no idea that a third of the people who are 20 to 24 years old now will never get married. We wouldn't know that divorce has surged among baby boomers."

Obviously, it would be (or should be) useless to ask questions concerning slavery in the 21st century (even though such questions were asked in the 1860's). But data on marriage is critical! Please keep the questions referred to.

I also respectfully request that you look at the comments board associated with the above mentioned editorial. At least two persons have suggested asking additional questions. Those questions do indeed seem appropriate!

902 We are concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you stop asking the questions, our nation will not be able to detect such trends.

As taxpaying citizens, we insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, there certainly must be the resources to ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. We deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. We hope you will continue to include these questions, and we are grateful to you for your work in tracking census statistics for our nation.

903 Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this brief email to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. I am writing today to express my concern that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage is an important institution and in the last several years we have seen this institution decline. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends. Other questions on the ARC relate to much less important issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC.

Furthermore, the removal of these questions represents a marginalization of marriage. As an American citizen, I value marriage and I know many others who do as well. Marriage is the core of the family, and as the institution of marriage deteriorates so will the institution of the family. Strong families are the key to a strong society. The benefits of understanding marriage trends and supporting the institution of marriage are important to our nation and to me. I urge the Bureau to leave these questions as a part of all future ACS questionnaires.

I appreciate your help and your service to our nation.

904 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. I believe that it is important to track statistics on marriage.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

905 Please reconsider eliminating these important questions from the ACS – they are imperative for demographers to provide nationwide estimates on these vital population trends.

906 If you get only this one comment regarding removing questions regarding marriage from the census please be sure it is recorded and reported.

It is my opinion that marriage and the family is the bed rock upon which society rest and that marriage and the family are under attack for godless purposes by godless parties.

907 Mrs. Jessup, we are given to understand you propose to eliminate questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23 in future American Community Surveys, questions that deal directly with the state of marriage in the U.S.
The Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, yet you are proposing to remove questions dealing with the single most foundational institution of any nation...marriage? Surely you can ask a few questions about changes in marital status without threatening this administrations culture-changing agenda can't you?
As an American taxpayer I ask that you abandon this incredible proposed change. I will ask as many friends as I can to contact their representatives if it is needed. Please abandon this course of action.

908 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing the questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.
As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.
Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

909 Please see the attached comments on the notice of Proposed Information Collection regarding the 2014 ACS Content Review. Thank you.
[Text from attachment…] Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed information collection. The Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF) is a national health justice organization that influences policy, mobilizes communities, and strengthens programs and organizations to improve the health of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (AAs and NHPIs). For nearly 30 years, APIAHF has dedicated itself to improving the health and well-being of AA and NHPI communities living in the United States and its Pacific jurisdictions.
With the proposed removal of seven questions from the American Community Survey (ACS), we would like to suggest adding questions to measure how many Americans are obtaining insurance coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplaces created by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). Currently, the ACS health insurance series of questions is not designed to pick up enrollment in Health Insurance Marketplaces. We recommend adding questions to measure how many people have enrolled in coverage and if they utilized the Federal or State-based marketplaces to enroll in coverage.
Including questions in the ACS to track the impact of the ACA would be of particular value for smaller ethnic populations. While a small number of national and local surveys have been conducted to understand the impact of the ACA on various subpopulations, most of these surveys do not cover small populations. For example, the 2014 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) included several additional questions to capture health insurance obtained through the Federal and State-based Marketplaces. However, even in the relatively large NHIS sample, most ethnic groups are too small for sufficient statistical power. Collecting Marketplace data from the ACS will help to inform future interventions for these smaller, underserved populations that are likely to lack coverage.
The ACS also helps reduce language-related barriers for AAs with limited English proficiency in responding to the survey, and reduces a selection bias related to English-language proficiency. This is of tremendous significance, as an English-only survey would result in a skewed sample of Asian Americans with higher socioeconomic status and an underestimation of the socioeconomic disparities affecting Asian Americans. Including ACA-related questions in the ACS would ensure that data for limited English proficient Marketplace enrollees is also captured and measured.
Thank you for the opportunity to provide suggestions for improving the collection of valuable data for all Americans. Please direct any questions about our comments to [redacted]

910 Attached please find a public comment letter regarding the American Community Survey.
[Text from attachment…] In response to the Department's Federal Register Notice of October 31, 2014, inviting comments from the public, I am writing to urge the Census Bureau to retain American Community Survey (ACS) Person Question No. 12—Undergraduate Field of Degree.
RAND and many other organizations regularly use this question to conduct research into Americans' educational attainment and, in particular, the relationships among educational field, occupation, and earnings.
As an example, we are completing a major project for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board that addresses these issues. In our report, we use this ACS question to identify patterns of occupation holding by field of bachelor's degree earned, and vice versa (patterns of degree field by occupation). We prepared a comprehensive crosswalk of these variables using ACS data for the state of Texas, covering every occupation and field of degree with sufficient data. The Board has stated that it intends to make this crosswalk available to Texas higher education institutions to improve their degree program planning, and potentially to develop a tool for students to help them explore future education and career options using these results. Our findings and tools are documented in a forthcoming RAND report, Using Workforce Information for Degree Program Planning in Texas by Charles A. Goldman, Lindsay Butterfield, Diana Lavery, Trey Miller, Lindsay Daugherty, Trinidad Beleche, and Bing Han.
As you may be aware, the U.S. Departments of Education and Labor publish a "CIP to SOC Crosswalk" that attempts to map the linkages between field of degree and occupations, but this crosswalk is well known to be extremely limited. As an example, following the fields of degree listed in the CIP to SOC Crosswalk accounts for only nine percent of the computer systems analysts in Texas. Using the ACS data (2010-2011), we see that degree holders in fields not listed in the Crosswalk—e.g., business, finance, and mathematics—account for a significant portion of this occupation. Without the detailed information from the ACS, government officials, educational institutions, and researchers are forced to rely on the limited Crosswalk, hindering planning and analysis.
OBJECTIVE ANALYSIS. EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS.
Indeed it would be helpful to expand the coverage of the field of degree question to include sub-baccalaureate and graduate awards, at least from time to time, as we face challenges in

911 Of course you should continue asking the marriage questions. Social patterns are always relevant

912 Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this brief email to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. I am writing today to express my concern that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage is an important institution and in the last several years we have seen this institution decline. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends. Other questions on the ARC relate to much less important issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC.
Furthermore, the removal of these questions represents a marginalization of marriage. As an American citizen, I value marriage and I know many others who do as well. Marriage is the core of the family, and as the institution of marriage deteriorates so will the institution of the family. Strong families are the key to a strong society. The benefits of understanding marriage trends and supporting the institution of marriage are important to our nation and to me. I urge the Bureau to leave these questions as a part of all future ACS questionnaires.
I appreciate your help and your service to our nation.

913 Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this brief email to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. I am writing today to express my concern that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage is an important institution and in the last several years we have seen this institution decline. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends. Other questions on the ARC relate to much less important issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC.
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I appreciate your help and your service to our nation.

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The benefits of understanding marriage trends and supporting the institution of marriage are important to our nation and to me. I urge the Bureau to leave these questions as a part of all future ACS questionnaires. I believe that the removal of these questions represents a marginalization of marriage. As an American citizen, I value marriage and I know many others who do as well. Marriage is the core of the family and as the institution of marriage deteriorates so will the institution of the family. Strong families are the key to a strong society.

Thank you for your assistance and thank you for your service to our great country!

915 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing the questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Is order to best serve individuals and families, especially children, who are the most vulnerable, the government must have the fullest possible information about family structure and what provides the best outcomes for those involved.
Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.
As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.
Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

916 I strongly support traditional marriage. I strongly feel that questions regarding marital relationships should continue to be included in questions relating to the census and demographics of Americans. I believe that by not asking these questions, we're slowly tucking marriage into a closet where it can then be covered by other stuff that we put on top of it. Please don't bury marriage. It may be the only thing protecting this nation from itself.

917 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

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919	I am writing to offer input on the removal of the ACS survey questions regarding marriage. I am strongly opposed to the removal of these questions. Marriage is key to the health and stability of families, and stable families are the foundation of a strong society. One must only glance at the headlines these past few years to see that attitudes and behaviors with respect to marriage are in a constant state of evolution. Understanding these ever-changing attitudes, behaviors, and trends is key to preserving this all-important institution. The marriage questions in the ACS survey provide data that is extremely valuable to our understanding of marriage in our country. Please do not remove any marriage questions from the ACS survey. This would be a serious mistake.
920	I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends. As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status. Removing these questions is symbolic of the government’s attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.
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927 Dear Ms. Jessup,

I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

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Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

Having been in the Public Health field for over 30 years, I see the decline in families, morals, marriage and society along with the rise of chaos, rampant sexual immorality portrayed as "good, normal, etc." while in fact this deluge of immorality - (which includes co-habitation, single moms, irresponsible males who get women pregnant and then run off, the gay phenomenon, the rise in sex diseases, divorce, domestic violence, rape/sexual assault, and a myriad of other problems affecting America), destroying American lives, families and society.

The "Greatest Generation" saved America from the Nazi's and Imperial Japan. Now America is CRUMBLING from Within from moral decadence. The current generations are exceedingly immoral and despise God and everything the "Greatest Generation" fought to save from annihilation. Americans are now destroying themselves and this country bringing upon America an even worse evil than what the "Greatest Generation" fought to save. There is a lot of work to be done to reverse this destruction and keeping the "Marriage Questions" is part of that reversal.

The questions regarding marriage are profound and are crucial to the census data and to America - please retain them.

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As an American citizen, I asked that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

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930 SRI is please to offer our comments on the proposed action ACS Q12. Please see attached comments.
[Attachment indicates page 2 of 2, but there is only one page. Text from attachment…] "The data for this S&T worforce analysis comes from the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) at the National Science Foundations. The NCSES National Survey of College Graduates provides critical data for CSTED and other econokmic development orgnizations for understanding sub-state workforce structure and capabilities. The NCSES uses question 12 on the ACS to generate the sampling frame for the National Survey of College Graduates, a key survey tracking the population of science and engineering workers in the U.S. The detailed data collected through this question ultimately informs state and local government agencies and their affiliated economic and workforce development organizations on the availability and adequacy of each state's human capitol pool for technical workers.
We do not see any viable alternative to the use of ACS Question 12 for generating that sample frame. NCSES reports that the current collection and method saves substantial money while increasing the quality of its data collection. Given the need to use public fundingwisely and efiiciently, retaining Question 12 would ensure the future collection of critical data for economic developers, at a lower cost to the government and with very minor burden to ACs respondents.
As innovation is a key lever for propelling robust growth in economic output and employment at the regional level, the alternative would hamper attempts to formulate effective state and substate economic strategies. We therefore request that Question 12 be removed from consideration as a candidate for elimination from the ACS instrument, and that the Bureau of the Census retains this important source of valuable data.

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931 As a concerned United States' citizen, the removal of questions regarding changes in marital status in American Community Surveys is a grave mistake. Marriage is different from other relationships and a primary indicator to the health of our culture. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends..
As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about the important changes in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions that are foundational to this country worthy of attention. I expect you to continue to include these questions and to monitor marriage in our society.

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Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

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936 Attached, please find HUD's comments as requested in the Federal Register on the ACS content review. I apologize for resending if one of my colleagues has already sent this to you; however, since I was not copied on any emails to you, I wanted to make sure that this gets to you before the comment deadline.
[Text from attachment...] The Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R), within the Department of Housing and Urban Development, welcomes the opportunity to comment on the American Community Survey (ACS) as requested through Federal Register Notice 2014-25912. In general, PD&R offers its full support of the American Community Survey's continued operation and recommends expanding the ACS sample as much as possible. Based on the comments requested in the notice, HUD chooses to comment on the necessity of the proposed collection of information and potential ways to minimize the burden of the collection of certain information from respondents. HUD also suggests an additional reporting level for the ACS.
HUD was an active participant in the 2014 ACS Content Review. PD&R took responsibility for coordinating the data collection effort within the Department and working with HUD's Office of General Counsel to ensure that the submission was properly reviewed. Through this process, HUD identified twelve new uses of ACS and submitted 24 ACS uses to the Census Bureau.
While HUD submitted 24 uses of the ACS, PD&R's comments focus on the ACS components integral to the operation of the nearly $20 billion Housing Choice Voucher program. HUD uses income data and gross rent data collected through the ACS to set operating parameters for HUD's largest rental assistance program. HUD is focusing its comments on this program and its use of ACS data because several of the items collected through the ACS and used by HUD for the Housing Choice Voucher program have been the subject of intense scrutiny throughout the ACS Content Review process.
HUD uses income data collected through the ACS to calculate HUD' s estimates of area median family income and Income Limits, which are used to set income thresholds for program eligibility. HUD uses median family income data collected by the ACS at the metropolitan area level for OMB-defined metropolitan areas, some HUD defined subareas ofOMB metropolitan areas and non-metropolitan counties when setting income thresholds. These income thresholds are used by the Department to determine income eligibility for housing assistance applicants and to whom housing assistance should be targeted among the lowest income families. From its work on the ACS Content Review, HUD understands that income questions are a sensitive topic for ACS
www.hud.gov espanol.hud.gov

937 Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this brief email to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. I am writing today to express my concern that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage is an important institution and in the last several years we have seen this institution decline. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends. Other questions on the ARC relate to much less important issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC.

Furthermore, the removal of these questions represents a marginalization of marriage. As an American citizen, I value marriage and I know many others who do as well. Marriage is the core of the family, and as the institution of marriage deteriorates so will the institution of the family. Strong families are the key to a strong society. The benefits of understanding marriage trends and supporting the institution of marriage are important to our nation and to me. I urge the Bureau to leave these questions as a part of all future ACS questionnaires.

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939 I hope this message finds you well.

I am deeply disturbed that the Census Bureau has proposed to eliminate the questions about marriage, divorce and widowhood in its Annual Community Survey (ACS). It is VITAL that this information be tracked given the importance of marriage and families in our society! Other developed countries track this information, so why are we considering its removal?

Of all the information that is tracked, I can't think of anything more important to track. I'm convinced that removing the marriage questions will ultimately have a negative impact on American families and marriages.

Thanks for letting my voice be heard on keeping the marriage questions in the Annual American Community Survey (ACS).

940 My comments regarding the American Community Survey Content Review are attached. Please note: the views expressed are solely my own and do not reflect the official positions of the California Employment Development Department (EDD). Have a great holiday!
[Text from attachment...] I would recommend keeping ACS question no. 12 that asks the person to identify the specific major of their Bachelor's degree(s). Based upon Department of Commerce criteria, this question was identified as low benefit/low cost, but from a labor market information (LMI) perspective I believe it provides a "high benefit" to various users (e.g., higher education, workforce developers, LMI shops). The benefits include: skills gap analyses; targeted recruitment efforts; and comparative advantage analyses.
Skills gap analyses are being conducted by LMI shops to provide insight into the gap between workers' education levels and the demands of employers. Data from question no. 12 provides information that can be used for these types of analyses. For instance, if a county has a large number of job openings in psychology fields, LMI shops can use the detailed information supplied by question no.12 to ascertain if a county, when compared to the state or other counties, has a relatively high or low share of psychology degrees. This type of analysis enhances an LMI shop's ability to identify skills gaps for its customers (e.g., workforce investment board, higher education, etc.).
Firms weigh a host of issues (e.g., tax structure, physical location, etc.) before deciding to settle into a specific location. One issue they have to contend with is labor supply. I believe question no. 12 provides detailed information that firms can use to gauge the availability of skilled labor. For example, if a firm is looking to hire workers with a background in computers, mathematics, or statistics, they will be able to easily ascertain where large concentrations of these workers are located by using data from question no. 12 (see example of ACS data below) and focus their recruitment efforts in those areas. In addition, the data can be used by local economic developers to point out comparative advantages (e.g., supply of skilled labor) at the local level and draw firms to their area. [Field of degree table from 2013 5-year ACS attached]

941 Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this brief email to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. I am writing today to express my concern that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage is an important institution and in the last several years we have seen this institution decline. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends. Other questions on the ARC relate to much less important issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC.

Furthermore, the removal of these questions represents a marginalization of marriage. As an American citizen, I value marriage and I know many others who do as well. Marriage is the core of the family, and as the institution of marriage deteriorates so will the institution of the family. Strong families are the key to a strong society. The benefits of understanding marriage trends and supporting the institution of marriage are important to our nation and to me. I urge the Bureau to leave these questions as a part of all future ACS questionnaires.

I appreciate your help and your service to our nation.

942 I recently learned that the following questions have been proposed to be eliminated in the upcoming ACS. I believe these cuts would be detrimental to the state of research on family in the U.S. Such questions have helped to provide data that shape substantive policy and funding decisions. I am asking you to reconsider and continue to include these meaningful, relevant, and important questions.

Proposed cuts
Here are the questions that will be discontinued:
~ In the past 12 months did this person get married?
~ In the past 12 months did this person get widowed?
~ In the past 12 months did this person get divorced?
~ How many times has this person been married?
~ In what year did this person last get married?

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me if you have any questions or would like me to add more to my request.

943 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

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When working with sociology and social questions in undergraduate research and analysis these statistics provide an understanding of marriage and family structure across time.

Removing the undergraduate degree question will also impact the understanding and analysis of college degrees as they relate to employment.

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948 Thank you for your work. Please forward these comments to the proper decision makers. Question 6 about a business in operation at the residence seems quite relevant in today's society, although the wording may need to be updated to reflect the work from home paradigm the internet has afforded. The questions regarding marriage are important, but could perhaps be consolidated. They should certainly not be eliminated as the stability of marriage and the welfare of widows is central to the stability of our society. The value of whether marriage, divorce or widowhood has occurred in the past twelve months is debatable, but some kind of marital status questions should be reformulated or retained. Marriage has a profound effect on many aspects of our society from economics, child-rearing and welfare, law, education etc. The direction of many public resources is often determined by the secondary issues related to the stability, breakdown or absence of marriage in our communities. Please consider retaining or rewording questions 21a-23 so that this valuable information can be gathered and utilized.

949 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends and gain valuable information that could and should effect policies and programs.

As a taxpaying citizen, I request that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, surely you can ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on and undermining of the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

950 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing the questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.
As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.
Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

951 Please do not remove the marriage questions from the ACS. They are important means for gathering information that is used by so many people. Thank you.

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Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

953 Dear Ms. Jessup, I urge you to retain questions related to marriage in the revised census. As the executive director of a private foundation, I rely on census data as a point of analysis in granting decisions related to social programming. Accurate information about the state of and trends in marriage are important tools.

954 I understand that the Department of Commerce is considering revising the Census Questionnaire and deleted the questions relating to marriage and family. I would appreciate your forwarding my input to the relevant officials who are discussing and then deciding on this revision regarding questions 20, 21, 22 and 23 and deleting them. Thank you!
I firmly believe the family is one of the key pillars that upholds order in our society and country. I believe that strong families make for a strong nation, and conversely, weak families lead to a weak society and weak nation. The family is the best place for the teaching and modeling of virtues like honesty, goodness, hard work, etc. Even in nature, most animals learn survival skills from their parents.
To minimize the role of marriage and family (which would be the implication of deleting these questions), would be a mistake and another step in weakening our great nation. Please support the importance of marriage and family as they relate to the well-being of our nation! Understanding marriage trends is necessary to supporting our nation's families! Please don't do anything to minimize them!

Thank you for sending my message to the Census bureau officials.
Thank you for your service.

955 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

956 I am writing to voice my opinion on the consideration to drop seven questions form the American Community Survey. I think these questions, particularly the ones on family, are critical for us to follow and track. To remove them may save a minute or two of response time but the loss of this critical information is more costly than any such savings. Please reconsider and leave these questions in. The family has always been the basic unit of our society and changing trends are critical to watch and are helpful in strengthening a society.

957 Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this brief email to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. I am writing today to express my concern that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage is an important institution and in the last several years we have seen this institution decline. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends. Other questions on the ARC relate to much less important issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC.

Furthermore, the removal of these questions represents a marginalization of marriage. As an American citizen, I value marriage and I know many others who do as well. Marriage is the core of the family, and as the institution of marriage deteriorates so will the institution of the family. Strong families are the key to a strong society. The benefits of understanding marriage trends and supporting the institution of marriage are important to our nation and to me. I urge the Bureau to leave these questions as a part of all future ACS questionnaires.

I appreciate your help and your service to our nation.

958 Dear Ms. Jessup, please keep question 12 on the survey. We need the data!

959 Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this brief email to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. I am writing today to express my concern that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the American Community Survey. Marriage is an important institution and in the last several years we have seen this institution decline. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the American Community Survey, we will not be able to track future trends. Other questions on the ACS relate to much less important issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ACS.

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I appreciate your help and your service to our nation.

960 Thank you in advance for forwarding this email to those in the Department of Commerce who will consider the removal of the marriage questions from the American Community Survey.

I am writing to express my hope that the Census Bureau not remove questions 21a, 21b, 21c, 22, and 23 from the ACS. Marriage is an important institution in American society, yet in the last several years it seems to be de-valued and weakened. It also seems that this weakening and devaluation is directly related to other social problems, such as crime and a lower standard of living for many households. Without specific information about marriage collected via the ARC, it will be difficult to track future trends. I also do not think that the inclusion of these questions presents an unreasonable burden for ACS respondents.

The removal of these questions could certainly be interpreted as a marginalization of marriage by the Federal Government. I highly value marriage and I'm sure many other Americans do as well. Marriage is the core of the family, and as the institution of marriage deteriorates so will the institution of the family. Strong families are the key to a strong society. The benefits of understanding marriage trends and support for the institution of marriage are important to our nation and to me. I urge the Bureau to leave these questions as a part of all future ACS questionnaires.

I appreciate your help and your service to our nation.

961 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing the questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.
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Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

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967 I learned recently that the Department of Commerce proposes to remove questions from its ACS on the field of the respondent's undergraduate degree and on marital history. In much of my research over the past 25 years, questions of marital history were of substantial interest. Studies of divorce and effects on children's cognitive and noncognitive development, for example, would be negatively impacted were questions on marital history removed. More generally, inquiries into the causes and impacts of marital instability would be made more difficult. The questions about field of undergraduate degree are important for studies of such questions as the gender wage gap. If college educated women and men receive different salaries, to what extent can that be explained by differing fields? How is the distribution of women and men across fields of study in college changing as those very fields themselves change. At a time when fields like informatics and new media are starting to change the face of college education it is important to have this question included.

Naturally I do not want to second guess the experts that advised the Commerce Department on this difficult question. Certainly the time it takes respondents to answer survey questions is important, not only to Commerce but to the researchers who use the surveys. If it takes too long, respondents who value their time will be reluctant to participate or, having agreed to participate, may drop out in the course of the survey, rendering their information useless. Such selective participation raises questions about the validity of results.

I do urge Commerce to give some extra thought to the retention of these questions because they contribute information that researchers use to address important questions of ongoing societal concern.

968 I am writing on behalf of the National Science Board (NSB) to urge you to retain the "Undergraduate Field of Degree" question (Question 12) on the American Community Survey (ACS).
A U.S. workforce educated and trained in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) is vital to our Nation's prosperity, security, and competitiveness. To ensure the health of that workforce, policymakers, leaders in academia and industry, and other decision makers need objective data. The data and analyses enabled by the responses to Question 12 inform decisions regarding job creation, competitiveness, innovation, education, and research and development, and many other issues of national interest.
Congressional action over the past 60 years clearly demonstrates the value of these data to informing U.S. policy decisions. As part of the National Science Foundation (NSF) Organic Act, NSF was charged "to provide a central clearinghouse for the collection, interpretation, and analysis of data on scientific and engineering resources ... " 1 The America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 further codified this mission through the establishment of the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES).2 Among the responsibilities for NCSES set forth in the COMPETES Act was collecting, acquiring, analyzing, reporting, and disseminating statistical data on the science and engineering (S&E) workforce. Likewise, the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act of 1980 requires NSF to provide Congress with "an accounting and comparison, by sex, race, and ethnic group and by discipline, of the participation of women and men in scientific and engineering positions ... [and] . .. an assessment. .. of the proportion of women and minorities studying scientific and engineering fields."3
The "Field of Degree" question on the ACS is a cornerstone to NSF's ability to carry out its congressionally mandated mission to monitor and report these vital indicators. The NSB's Science and Engineering Indicators (Indicators) report provides Congress and the President, state and local policymakers, researchers, and numerous other stakeholders with policy-neutral, largely quantitative data and analysis on the state of the U.S. S&E enterprise, including a full chapter covering data and trends relating to the S&E labor force. The majority of the analysis is
based on survey data that are derived from the Field of Degree as included within the ACS. It is important, however, to note that this question is asked in a section on educational attainment- it is the combination of the responses to Question 12 with the responses to these other contextsetting

969 As a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening families for a better community, we are keenly aware of the effects of family fragmentation on our community. In Metropolitan Richmond alone, these costs place a burden of more than $350 million each year, and quality research and data helps us better understand our community.

There is little quality data out there, and I have relied on the ACS and its available information quite often in portraying our community and the impact of family on our region. Numerous other resources I reference also incorporate the ACS data into their analysis of family and the dynamics of single parent households, divorce, extended singleness and other factors.

I hope you will take serious consideration of this and ensure these questions regarding marriage and divorce remain in the ACS for years to come.

970 I'm writing to add my voice to the community of researchers concerned about the possible elimination of the marriage questions and the undergrad field question in the ACS. Please do not allow these questions to be eliminated from the ACS. While I appreciate the Census Bureau's efforts to reduce respondent burden, these questions are low cost and vital to research on the US population. I'm particularly interested in disparate labor market outcomes for workers in the US. For both men and women, marital status and history shape labor market opportunities and outcomes. And at a time when support for education is focused almost entirely on supporting STEM students, knowing less about the correlations between undergraduate degrees and labor market outcomes is damaging.
Please keep these questions on the ACS.

971 My name is [redacted] and I am writing regarding the proposed elimination of six questions relating to marriage and education from the American Community Survey (ACS). I urge that these six questions not be eliminated, since the ACS is one of the primary and only sources for questions regarding marriage and education decisions. It is a valuable source for researchers like myself, who are interested in exploring these questions. These questions are important for the understanding the relationships between the labor force, educational investment, and marriage, which have direct impacts on societal welfare.

972 I hope this message finds you well. This is [redacted], a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Vermont. I was informed of this review from a recent editorial in Nature magazine, and thought it a responsibility to request that Person Question Number 12 on the census survey remain in use.

Many other questions set to be discontinued seem (at least to me) to be of little correlation to current broad US policy. Whether or not someone has become married, divorced, or widowed, while mildly important for some tracking metrics, and certainly valuable in the political or social sciences arenas, are uninformative on broad economic issues. On the surface it might seem like Person Question #12 is similar, as in many cases, specific undergraduate degree fields are unrelated to actual job fields - with the exception of STEM, Medical, many advanced Art professions, and Computer Science/Engineering professions to name a few. While many people working in business for example, may have unrelated undergraduate fields of study, rarely does someone with a science, math, or engineering background not choose to stay at least moderately in that field of study, either in the private or public sector. To effectively track the number of people in these jobs, and thereby facilitate discussions on how to fund and cater policy to these populations, the actual field of study is helpful. These fields of study produce data that is mineable not only now, but also in aggregate across census studies, as the fields haven't changed names. While someone studying design may have declared "home economics" in the 1960s, they would declare "architectural design" or something more specific now, making the data difficult to track. Science careers, on the other hand, have for at least 50 or more years, held constant names with the words biology, chemistry, physics, etc. somewhere in the description.

This is increasingly important, as the number of advanced STEM graduates grows and outpaces the academic job market growth rates. How is scientific funding to be managed, if there is no record of the number of skilled scientific workers in the US? What indication is there of the importance of arts and humanities unions as subgroups if little is known about their numbers? It is for these reasons that I support continuation of Person Question #12 as a survey question.

973 I recently found out the proposal to eliminate the field of study question from ACS.

Using the ACS to track field of study is a very inexpensive way to track degree fields. As an expert in the area of human capital (who is currently serving as a UN and OECD expert), I am very concerned about this proposal. Knowing about trends in fields of study, particularly for STEM fields, is critical to understand how the U.S. is faring in an increasingly competitive global economy. As I look through my sample of human capital in 18 countries, I am well aware of the education "catching up" to the U.S. that is commonly occurring.

Please use whatever means that you can to guarantee that this question is NOT eliminated.

974 I write to you as the President and CEO of the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) in response to the Federal Register Notice that announced the findings of the content review of the American Community Survey (ACS). In particular, I write to highlight the importance of retaining Person Question No.12 -- Undergraduate Field of Degree as a critical component of the ACS. Educators, researchers, economic developers, and federal and state policymakers rely on this "Field of Degree" question to understand trends and the link between higher education and the workforce. This type of information is critical to understanding how individuals are educated and retained in fields across the spectrum of professions.
This is particularly critical for understanding the workforce trends for fields like social work, which the Bureau of Labor Statistics anticipates experiencing a nearly 20 percent growth over the next decade as demand for service continues to grow. Social workers are increasingly incorporated into interprofessional healthcare delivery and the need for healthcare social workers is expected to increase 27 percent over that same time window, with a large portion of that group assisting in caring for the expanding aging Baby Boomer population.
The field of social workers experiences a high turnover rate, in part due to poor financial compensation relative to their level of training and skill as well as chronic stress and emotional exhaustion. While workforce retention and attrition is a problem in many high-stress fields, social work in particular has suffered from a lack of studies or meaningful databases, and therefore, besides the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the ACS is one of the most consistent and reliable sources of this data which is available to researchers.
The ACS enables those who study workforce trends to identify those who have left the field and the rates over time, not just in social work but other fields as well, which is important for policymakers and researchers, particularly at a time when the ability of universities to produce graduates who can find jobs in their field is potentially being linked to financial support and ratings. Removing Question 12 will make it significantly more difficult to study outcomes related to the fields in which individuals earned their degrees as well as to study other links between gender, salary, ethnicity, and career trajectories which inform policies related to workforce development.

975 I'm writing in response to the request for comments about the proposed elimination of questions relating to marital history and education from the ACS. These types of questions are vital for understanding patterns and trends in the nation, and their removal would severely inhibit our ability to understand changes in American society and the effects of policy on the lives of Americans.
I work with both faculty and students who use these types of questions in their research. The questions are especially pertinent to understanding the effects of policy on womens' education and quality of life, which is an exceptionally important topic. The five marital history questions and the college field of degree question contain information that is not available from other sources, and removing them from the ACS would severely damage the statistical system. I urge you to reconsider their removal.

976 I wanted to briefly express my support for keeping the marriage and education questions on the ACS. The questions posed by this survey are incredibly valuable for figuring out trends in marriage & education and removing them would be highly detrimental to the research community within these topics. For example, as an economics Masters student, my thesis relies upon some of these questions that ask about age of first marriage and times married. From these pieces of information, I was able to deduce which individuals were still with their first spouses, and in my regression analysis, control for age of first marriage. These questions combined with the ACS' questions on level of education allowed for me to study the diffusion of the birth control and how it impacted differential levels of education between husbands and wives for the baby boomer cohort.

I see a lot of opportunity in continuing my studies into a Ph.D program, in part as a function of knowing how I can study marriage markets using ACS data. As such, I urge that the Department of Commerce refrain from removing these important questions.

977 The State of North Carolina has read the Federal Register notice concerning the content review of questions asked on the American Community Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. The North Carolina Office of the Governor and Department of Commerce Labor and Economic Analysis Division commend the Census Bureau for its continuing commitment to producing accurate data to support state government, business, and public needs. It is appropriate to review processes to verify that they effectively meet these needs. However, North Carolina is concerned that the content review process for the American Community Survey recommends eliminating Person Question No. 12 – Undergraduate Field of Degree. The American Community Survey data on undergraduate field of degree is the sole source for this information, and the following examples demonstrate the importance of the information from this question to North Carolina.

Undergraduate field of degree data produced by the American Community Survey helps to inform workforce, education, and training policy initiatives by the North Carolina Office of the Governor.

Elimination of the undergraduate field of degree question will have a negative impact on research and analysis that is done in support of North Carolina economic and workforce development. This data is vital in understanding the labor force, education level, and types of degrees obtained in local communities.

The North Carolina Department of Commerce uses the undergraduate field of degree data in company recruitment projects. Availability and education level, including the type of degree, of the local workforce is an important factor for companies when determining site locations. The American Community Survey undergraduate field of degree is the only source for this data at the small geographic areas needed.

The undergraduate field of degree statistic is a factor in assessing the level of labor productivity in a locality. The level and type of educational attainment and degree has an impact on income distribution and is important in measuring the health of local economies.

The undergraduate field of degree data produced by Person Question No. 12 on the American Community Survey is unique and important to state policy, service, and economic development; and the State of North Carolina strongly recommends that the question remain on the American Community Survey. We appreciate U.S. Census Bureau information as a dependable resource for serving all communities in North Carolina.

978 Please find attached the National Women's Law Center's comments in response to the American Community Survey content review results (Document Citation 79 FR 64743). The comments are also available online on our website.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment. Please let us know if you have any questions.
[Text from attachment...] The National Women's Law Center (the Center) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that has been a leader in analysis and advocacy to promote policies that improve the lives of women and their families.
We appreciate the opportunity to respond to the proposed information collection published by the Census Bureau (the Bureau) on October 31, 2014 at 79 Fed. Reg. 64743, which would eliminate certain questions from the American Community Survey (ACS).
As the Bureau recognizes, the ACS gives "communities the current information they need to plan investments and services [and]…generates data that help determine how more than $400 billion in federal and states funds are distributed each year."i Additionally, the ACS provides researchers unique state- and community-level data with which to assess the current status of American communities and the impact of policies on these communities. The Center has frequently used the ACS for these purposes and we consider the ACS essential to our work.
We are concerned, however, that the Bureau is proposing eliminating six questions from the ACS, one regarding undergraduate field of degree and five regarding marital status and events pertaining to marital status. The Bureau's method of classification identifies these six questions as both Low Cost and Low Benefit. While the questions certainly appear Low Cost for respondents, there are several benefits to retaining these six questions.
With regard to undergraduate field of degree, the Bureau has used this information to document racial and gender disparities in educational achievement, employment, occupation, and incomes.ii Using the very question being proposed for elimination, undergraduate field of degree, the important 2013 publication, Disparities in STEM Employment by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin, shows that women, Hispanics, Native Americans, and African Americans with science and engineering undergraduate degrees are less likely to be employed in STEM occupations than men or whites who hold these degrees.iii Specifically with regard to gender, the report makes the critical point that "[e]ven among science and engineering graduates, men were employed in a STEM occupation at about twice the rate of women." iv The report also identifies income disparities, noting that, "[a]mong science and engineering graduates that worked full-time, year-round, men earned $85,000 per year compared with $58,800 among women."v Such
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important analyses would be impossible should the question regarding field of undergraduate degree be eliminated.
With regards to the battery of questions relating to marital status, these questions are particularly important for women for several reasons. First, voter identification laws are disproportionately likely to affect women because they are more likely to change their name after a change in marital status.vi Largely because of name changes, researchers have found that "only 66% of voting-age women with ready access to any proof of citizenship have a document with current legal name."vii Knowing how many

979 The ACS question on field of degree should NOT be categorized as "low benefit." As the demand for highly educated workers increases, and with concerns about the country's ability to supply that demand, the ACS question has proved of incredible benefit to policymakers and higher education officials as they seek to effectively target programs to improve college completion with an eye to labor market demand (e.g. in computer science and engineering). The ACS question allows for a comprehensive understanding of the wage returns to a bachelor's degree, and how those returns vary by major. We have used that information extensively in our work here at the Public Policy Institute of California, and met with government officials who are keen to understand how they can encourage more students to pursue majors in STEM fields.

Person Question No. 12—Undergraduate Field of Degree—This question focuses on this person's Bachelor's Degree. Please print below the specific major(s) of any Bachelor's Degrees this person has received.

980 This is in reference to the "American Community Survey (ACS) questions, highlighted in the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section of this Notice, which are slated for removal from the questionnaire based on the results of the 2014 ACS Content Review."
I understand that Question 12, concerning a student's declaration of major is to be removed.
I urge you not to do this and also to allow "philosophy" to be a separate major declaration from "religious studies" and "theology," with which it is currently grouped.
Thank you for your consideration,

981 The US Census should keep the Person Question No. 12 ("Undergraduate Field of Degree—This question focuses on this person's Bachelor's Degree. Please print below the specific major(s) of any Bachelor's Degrees this person has received.") Asking about degrees is a minimal burden for respondents, and there is a need for more data to keep track of what studies relate to what careers and socioeconomic factors. What is studies can show important patterns in demographic groups like women, under-represented minorities, immigrants and disabled people. From a scientist's perspective, there is power and value in increasing efforts to study and foster our workforce. Investing in science and technology fields is of national importance in improving any country's future. For these reasons it is important to keep track of citizens' academic pursuits in the most efficient way possible.

982 With the removal of recent questions, please consider adding a simple question regarding self-reported health.

How would you describe your current health? Then have a standard likert scale from poor to excellent.

This one question is used often in measuring movement in well-being over long periods of social/ecological interventions at the community level.

Please respond to this request.

983 On behalf of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), I am submitting comments in regards to the proposed changes to the American Community Survey (ACS) published in the Federal Register. Volume 79. Number 21 1. AAAS stands in opposition to the elimination of Person Question 12, which requests information regarding an individual's undergraduate field of degree.
AAAS is the largest general scientific society in the world, representing over 120,000 scientists of all disciplines; as well as the publisher of the peer-reviewed journal Science. For decades AAAS has worked at the intersection of science and society, and the promotion of education and careers in STEM fields.
The results of the Person Question 12 within the ACS survey is critical to enhancing our understanding of national trends in STEM at a time when other countries are expanding their own investments in research and generating an ever expanding number of graduates with degrees in STEM fields. The results of the ACS survey and Question 12 in pa1ticular allows federal agencies, universities, industry, and non-profit organizations to make more informed decisions in the development of new programs, the recruitment of STEM graduates, and the determination of investment opportunities.
In addition, this Question is a critical component to other congressionally mandated surveys and is a cost efficient way to gather important data that multiple stakeholders can utilize, including the federal government. For example, Question 12 is a key data point in the National Science Foundation's National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) National Survey of College Graduates (NSCG). The Census Bureau should carefully weigh the added costs to other government surveys that will be impacted by its elimination.
Removing Person Question 12 is not good for science and it is not good for an economy whose growth is driven by advances in science and technology. We strongly recommend that it remain as part of the

984 I am writing to comment on the proposed elimination of seven questions from the American Community Survey. I support the comment submitted by Steven Ruggles, who outlined in detail the value of the six questions about marriage and divorce for research in family economics. I also oppose the elimination of the field-of-degree question, which provides valuable information about academic specialization and the accumulation of human capital in the United States. I think the content review has underestimated the benefits of these questions to academic researchers.

985 The information provided by Q12 is essential for tracking the career outcomes of scientists and engineers trained with federal money.

See http://www.nature.com/news/keep-asking-the-question-1.16566?WT.ec_id=NATURE-20141218

986 I am writing to comment on the proposed elimination of American Community Survey questions on marriage and field of study. This is extremely ill-advised. I work with researchers on a regular basis who use these data to understand the changing social and economic reality in these critical areas. Family formation and dissolution are of great interest to scholars, journalists, and the populace at large. With its large sample size, the ACS is the only viable source for much of the research that is necessary to understand ongoing changes in marriage in modern America. How are we to devise reasonable public policies without high quality data? Similarly, perhaps the most dynamic sectors of our economy depend on the STEM workforce. Policy considerations range from priorities in higher education to immigration. The NSF studies of the STEM education pipeline will be undermined by the proposed dropping of the field-of-study question, and many valuable research avenues will be foreclosed. I urge the relevant parties in the government to reconsider these changes to the ACS.

987 My name is [redacted] and I am an Assistant Professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at Auburn University. I am also an active member of the National Council on Family Relations.

As a family scientists who teaches undergraduate and graduate students as well as conducts research on families in the context of domestic violence, I am very concerned about the proposed cuts of census questions specific to marriage, divorce, and widowhood.

The American Community Survey is the most reliable and respected source of facts and statistics at the national, state, and city level when it comes to marriage, etc. My students NEED to see these facts as most of them are very privileged students with two heterosexual (largely White) parents. These statistics and trends are needed so that I can show them the diversity of family forms and experiences across the country as they will be working with families far more diverse than their own. In addition, Auburn University is in Alabama - a state with many same-sex couples - but most presume includes very few gay or lesbian individuals, couples, and families. The ACS data shows how my students live with and around same-sex couples and without it, they could possibly continue believing that gay couples only live in San Francisco or big cities. You see, the ACS data is a teaching tool that I need to have for my students, so we can jump off the data into discussions of these data and trends.

I can think of many other reasons that we need to keep these questions in the Census - mostly specific to my research or community organizations needing to justify funding to enhance their efforts to reach smaller ethnic groups such as Somalis, or Pacific Islanders...they need the data to back them up...data that only comes from ACS.

988 This email is a plea for you to save the marriage and education question on the chopping block for the ACS.

These questions allow researchers to track demographic shifts in ways that would be lost without them.

Save the questions!

989 I am writing to you as a public health graduate student and concerned citizen. I understand there has been a well-thought and scientific minded approach to evaluating the necessity of questions asked in the ACS. However, I urge you to do everything in your power to keep from removing the six ACS questions relating to marriage and education. These questions while integral to generating annual age-specific rates of marriage and divorce are also informative of overall marriage behavior in the US and how our society will view and construct "marriage". Our country is having a discussion about how marriage should be constructed and it is an important societal and moral conversation. It is most apparent in the political offices and governing halls, but it is most discussed at the kitchen tables; in the bars/restaurants; at the churches, synagogues, mosques, and other spiritual settings; and on the playgrounds and school hallways. My point is, we cannot have these discussions about marriage, about what it means to individuals and to society, and its corollaries if we are not given accurate and informed data regarding it.

Please refrain from removing the proposed questions from the ACS.

990 I am writing to ask you to reconsider the decision to remove six ACS survey questions related to marital history and bachelor's degree field of study, as listed here: https://www.pop.umn.edu/index.php?q=acs/more_info

While I do not directly use this data in my current research, I feel that these survey questions are a vital source of information to help researchers understand trends in marriage and divorce across the U.S., as well as college specializations. Marriage and higher education decisions are both fundamental to national prosperity, and these survey questions will inform public policy and research in the years to come. I agree with the views expressed by Steven Ruggles and urge you to take action to reinstate these questions.

991 The proposal to drop question no. 12 would be detrimental to the ongoing management of the U.S. scientific and engineering workforce by several scientific and engineering agencies, societies and foundations. This survey information is valuable and can not be readily obtained by other methods. The survey question allows agencies to determine the size of the available trained population and their employment status-and to respond accordingly. It is absolutely necessary to know the Bachelors degree and majors to avoid surpluses, as well as shortages. This is particularly true when a STEM shortage is being claimed, possibly contrary to the data. The survey provides the factual information from a large population that is necessary to make decisions on immigration, education as well as regional business development.

992 I am concerned about plans to eliminate the "Field of Degree" question (question 12) from the ACS Survey. According to the Association for Women in Science, of which I am a member, "This question is critical to the work of NSF's National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES). Removing it from the survey will impact the quality of the National Science Board's Science and Engineering Indicators and the Women, Minorities, and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering report, which are essential to the work of broadening participation in STEM. In fact, more research and data collection is needed, not less."

I strongly urge the Census Bureau to keep Question 12 in the survey.

993 I am writing in strong support of maintaining person question 12 on the ACS questionnaire. This question is urgently needed for tracking both scientific and non-scientific careers.

A recent National Academies report stressed the need for more data to track careers of degree holders. In scientific fields, this information is provided by the National Science Foundation's biennial Science and Engineering Indicators, which provides statistics on participation of women, under-represented minorities, immigrants and disabled individuals.

Congressional mandates demand that the NSF produces such reports. Before question 12 was introduced by the census bureau, NSF had to carry out its own survey, at a cost of $17 million in 2003, to acquire the information that the responses to Question 12 provide.

Given that the ACS Content review determined that Question 12 requires only 9 seconds to provide, it will provide crucial information to guide education and science policy. I strongly urge you to retain this question and continue collecting this information.

994 I think it would be unfortunate if the field of degree and marital status questions were removed from the ACS. Both provide useful information to researchers and to policy makers, and the information is hard to obtain from other sources.

Thank you for considering the requests to retain these important questions.

995 I hope this finds you doing well. I apologize in advance if this issue is causing you any stress, and I appreciate your time and attention to this issue.

I would like to add my voice to the many others asking you NOT to remove the undergraduate field of study variable from the American Community Survey. I am a director of student affairs assessment and research at a top tier research university, and we rely on government data in a number of ways.

Given the accountability concerns concerning Higher Education and the current lack of infrastructure to collect and aggregate employment and earnings data from any other source, this particular variable is remarkably valuable. Without it, higher education has little else to go on when calculating changes within the career fields and how that impacts their offering of majors or how the value of higher ed is changing.

These are critical questions, and this variable from the ACS is our only broad and comparable data source. So I respectfully ask that you keep it for now, and help us build the necessary infrastructure to get better and more direct data so that this particular variable would not be so important to us.

996 I was one of the academic users of the American Community Survey who attended the ACS Users Conference last spring. At that conference I made a plea for expansion of the ACS for the benefit of the academic user community. The decision to eliminate the Census "long form" has made the ACS a crucial resource for researchers on topics that require detailed sub-samples based on criteria other than small areas. For example, I have done research, both published and in progress, that takes advantage of the large sample size to study Hispanic immigrants from nations other than Mexico.
I have recently become aware of the possible elimination of the ACS questions on undergraduate major and on marital history. I have made direct use of the undergraduate major questions to study assortative mating patterns among the college-educated. It is a useful question that is not found in other large surveys, and I would grieve its loss.
From a research perspective, however, the marital history questions are more important. Most of my research focuses directly on poverty in America, and there is no question that improved data on marital history are going to prove essential in understanding the role that marital history plays in the study of poverty. The ACS is unique among large surveys in providing reliable data on marital history.

997 I just read an article in the Union Leader newspaper of Manchester, NH. I am writing to say I agree with the article's author in asking you to keep the marriage question in the census. I believe that data helps us understand our nation and how public policy affects behavior. Losing it would hide a great deal of useful information.

998 Our social structure revolves first and foremost around family. Marriage is obviously at the heart of how family is formed and divorce helps us to know when the construct is not working. The fact that we have had the data at our disposal to watch social trends has been tremendously useful in understanding the foundation of the population in the U.S.

I understand the need to cut costs but I would ask that you cut a different stat that is less relevant to the welfare of so many.

999 I was alarmed to read that the Census Bureau is considering no longer asking people what they majored in as undergraduate students.
Please retain Person Question No. 12 (Undergraduate Field of Degree) in the American Community Survey (ACS)!
As we in higher education are increasingly asked to assess the outcomes of undergraduate education, we need good information on student experiences.
The ACS provides so much helpful information as we try to understand how we are doing.
Thanks for your consideration,

1000 Please find attached Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC's comments re: the Federal Register Notice - Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; The American Community Survey Content Review Results (Document Citation: 79 FR 64743).
[Text froma ttachment...] Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC (Advancing Justice | AAJC) is a national non-profit, nonpartisan organization founded in 1991. Advancing Justice | AAJC considers the census, including the American Community Survey (ACS), to be the backbone to its mission to advance the human and civil rights of Asian Americans, and build and promote a fair and equitable society for all. Advancing Justice has maintained a permanent census program monitoring census policy, educating policy makers, and conducting community outreach and education to encourage participation in the surveys conducted by the Census Bureau. We appreciate the opportunity to respond to the proposed information collection published by the Census Bureau (the Bureau) on October 31, 2014 at 79 Fed. Reg. 64743, which would eliminate certain questions from the ACS.
Advancing Justice | AAJC considers a fair and accurate census and comprehensive ACS among the most significant civil rights issues facing the country today. Our wide-ranging efforts to promote civic engagement, forge strong and safe communities and create an inclusive society are guided significantly by objective, inclusive data on America's diverse communities and populations. We appreciate the importance of fact-based analyses for identifying disparate access and outcomes and devising effective solutions. To that end, we are concerned that the Bureau is proposing to eliminate a question from the ACS regarding undergraduate field of degree. While the Bureau's method of classification identifies this question as both Low Cost and Low Benefit, we believe that this question actually provides benefits that argue for its retention.
With regard to undergraduate field of degree, the Bureau has used this information to document racial and gender disparities in educational achievement, employment, occupation, and incomes in their 2013 American Community Survey Report, "Disparities in STEM Employment by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin."1 Using the very question being proposed for elimination, undergraduate field of degree, the report shows that women, Hispanics, Native Americans, and African Americans with science and
1 Liana Christin Landivar, Disparities in STEM Employment by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin (Sept. 2013) available at http://www.census.gov/prod/2013pubs/acs-24.pdf.
www.advancingjustice-aajc.org
engineering undergraduate degrees are less likely to be employed in STEM occupations than men or whites who hold these degrees. And while the report noted that Asian Americans are overrepresented among science and engineering majors relative to their share of college graduates, it is important to

1001 The ACS survey is critical to my research and the advancement of knowledge regarding social issues.
Please continue funding for this important resource and do not accept the current proposal to eliminate the six questions being assessed.

1002 I write in response to the request for comments about the elimination of questions relating to marital history and college field of degree from the ACS. As a scholar and educator who regularly uses ACS data in research and teaching, I strongly advocate retaining these questions, which provide uniquely valuable information to a variety of researchers and policy makers.

As many others have no doubt noted, the ACS questions regarding changes in marital status during the preceding year provide the most reliable and consistent data we have on these important social phenomena, particularly since the demise of marital status reporting in vital statistics. The size of the ACS sample and the availability of demographic and socioeconomic covariates make it invaluable for studying the determinants of marriage, divorce, and widowhood, and their trends. There appears to be no substitute for the ACS for documenting and understanding these dynamics.

I would be particularly disappointed to see the field of degree question dropped. Scholars of the gender gap in earnings and occupations have often noted the potential importance of gender differences in the field of study. The historically poor representation of women in relatively high-paying STEM disciplines is the most obvious manifestation of this effect. Once again, the large sample and availability of a broad set of covariates make the ACS particularly useful in studying the relative role of degree field compared with other factors such as presence of children or labor market discrimination. Indeed, I recently asked my undergraduate econometrics students to analyze ACS samples to address this very question. Over time, we will accumulate enough years of ACS data to conduct quite interesting cohort-based studies of changing gender status.

This brings me to a general point I would like to stress as the DOC considers the benefits and costs associated with retaining or eliminating these questions. Major federally sponsored surveys such as the ACS and the CPS provide extraordinary public benefits well beyond their uses by federal agencies in the design and implementation of policy. These benefits are most immediate and obvious in the areas of social science research and teaching. Obtaining observational data on the scale, frequency, and quality of these surveys by any other means is simply unimaginable. Although I have used Census Bureau surveys regularly in my own scholarly work, I would emphasize their value in training the next generations of scholars, policy makers, and citizens to understand and even conduct empirical social science. I hope the Department will take a broad view of the benefits of these questions, which in my view are considerable.

In sum, it would be very unfortunate if these questions were dropped, and I hope you will reconsider.

1003 I would like to argue for the continued inclusion of "Person Question No. 12" in the ACS. Education is a key aspect of the success of American science, technology, and industry in the past few decades, and being able to track educational majors through the ACS gives important information to governmental funding agencies, educational systems, and industry about trends in workforce training. Rapid changes in education systems and fields of study puts greater emphasis on measuring the education of the american workforce. This information will be much harder and more expensive to measure outside of the ACS, especially given the large sample sizes needed to accurate sample the small populations of specific fields of study. The question is quick and easy to answer, and adds little to the existing time commitment of the ACS as a whole. Its benefits exceed the small gains that would result from its removal.

1004 I am writing in regard to the proposal of eliminating marital history questions from the American Community Survey. I am a Family Sociologist who has extensive research experiences of tracking family changes in the United States over time. Like many of my colleagues, I have heavily relied on these questions to conduct my research. For example, without these questions, my colleague, Dr. Susan Brown, and I would not have been able to document the doubling of people who divorce after age 50 (see our publication in The Journals of Gerontology: Social Sciences, 2012, doi:10.1093/geronb/gbs089). This important shift in union dissolution during late life has attracted much media attention (see http://www.bgsu.edu/ncfmr/news/ncfmr-in-the-news.html for some samples) and stimulates many further studies like our recently funded NIA grant on later-life divorce and subsequent repartnering. Thus, I sincerely hope that the Census Bureau will reconsider the proposal by keeping these essential questions, allowing family researchers to continue monitoring the trends in changing American families.

1005 Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this brief email to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. I want to express my concern that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage is a key/critical institution and in the last several years, we have seen this institution decline. Lacking datum specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to correctly track or predict future trends. As many other questions on the ARC relate to much less important issues, the inclusion of these questions is hard to justify. Perhaps it is time to end the Census entirely, rather than watch as it descend the slippery slope reducing it to a meaningless waste of resources.
Indeed, the abandonment of interest in the marriage datum gleaned through the use of these questions represents a marginalizing of marriage itself. As an American citizen and a pastor who has performed weddings for 40 years, I understand the value marriage and I know thousands of others who do as well. Marriage is the core of the family and any student of World History knows as the institution of marriage deteriorates so will the nation. Strong families are the key to a strong society. The benefits of understanding marriage trends and supporting the institution of marriage are critical to our nation, myself and millions like me. I urge the Bureau to act responsibly, stay the course and leave these questions as a part of all future ACS questionnaires.
I appreciate your help and your service to our nation.

1006 It has been suggested that the Census Bureau is considering removing the questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. This concerns me greatly, and I ask you not to eliminate those important questions.
Marriage is a vital relationship that binds a man and woman and allows a child to enjoy the benefit, right actually, of a mother and father. When marriage rates decline, children suffer and so do communities and, in turn, our nation. Statistics of the problems of children from fatherless families bear this out. We are reaping the results of some of the decline in marriage right now, and monitoring those trends through the use of the ACS and other means is vitally important for the health of our nation and its future generations. Certainly these questions in your survey are much more important than questions about plumbing, internet use and what type of computers we own!
Please retain the marriage questions that will help to track what I hope, for our nation's sake, will be an improving trend in this institution: questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23.
Surely you and others in our government, when stepping back and looking at what is really critically important for our nation's future, can see that the true strength of our country is formed by families and communities. The healthier the family, the healthier the communities and nation. The healthier the family (mom, dad and children), the higher the level of education, the higher the sense of security, the higher the income, the lower the crime rate, and so on. This is deeply important statistical information.
Thank you for considering this request.

1007 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1008 As the Dean of The Graduate School at North Carolina State University (NC State) in Raleigh, North Carolina, I appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on the American Community Survey (ACS) content Review Results. It is vital to the work that we do as eudcators and as Graduate Deans that Person Question 12 (Undergraduate Field of Study) be retained. The responses to this question provide vital and valuable information regarding the respondent's specific major and any bachelor's degrees the person with the highest degree in each household has earned.

NC State is a research intensive STEM institution preparing the current and next generation of engineers and scientists. Elimination of Person Question 12 would impact many national sample surveys that rely on the results of the ACS to construct a stratification sample design that most accurately reflects the true population - this is a key variable that allows researchers and policy makers to examine outcomes of postsecondary education with respect to fields of study.

As a STEM university we rely on national surveys such as NSCG - National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics' National Survey of College Graduates to develop national benchmarks for career outcomes of master's and docoral degree recipients by specific fields. If Person Question 12 is not retained, it would be impossible for any national sample surveys including the NSCG to reliably capture key data (potential field effects on postsecondary outcomes) witich would then impact and impede our ability to utilize this data for public purposes.

We know that postsecondary outcomes, including post-baccalaureate pursuit and workforce participation vary by discipline, thus retaining Person Question 12 is crucial for the graduate education community as well as for others. As Dean, I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question 12 in the ACS.

1009 I've been informed that the US Census Bureau is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. I believe that the institution of marriage is unique among all other relationships in a society and that failing to track trends relating to marriage will result in policies that fail to recognize the unique contribution that married couples make in benefitting society at large. As such, I am writing to express my sincere desire and hope that the US Census Bureau will continue to monitor the state of marriage in our country by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23 of the Census thereby allowing our elected leaders the information needed when considering various policy measures for our country.

1010 status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

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Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1013 I object to the proposed action of removing questions about marriage, divorce and widow hood from the census survey. This is very important information that needs to continue to be tracked. The family institution is very important to the long-term health and development of our country and to any civilization.

1014 Attached is a copy of the comments sent by the Administration for Community Living (ACL) regarding Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; The American Community Survey Content Review Results (79 FR 64743).
The ACL comments focus on the value of ACS information to ACL grantees and the extent to which ACL optimizes ACS data use through public dissemination of special tabulations.
[Text from Attachment...] Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the American Community Survey Content Review Results. The mission of the Administration for Community Living (ACL) is to maximize the independence, well-being, and health of older adults, people with disabilities, and their families and caregivers. These comments confirm that the American Community Survey (ACS) collects a critical set of demographic and socioeconomic information necessary for the performance of ACL's mission.

As specified in the ACL portion of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) response to the Census Bureau submitted in June 2014, ACL uses ACS information in support of work authorized by the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act and the Older Americans Act (as amended).

ACL annually purchases special tabulations of the ACS information at several geographic levels of aggregation, which focus on population estimates of those 60 and older by such characteristics as ability to speak English, educational attainment, employment characteristics, veteran status, and poverty status. These special tabulations are publicly disseminated through ACL's Aging Integrated Database (AGID) system (http://www.agid.acl.gov/Default.aspx).

Further, many state and local agencies administering ACL-funded programs rely on the ACS special tabulations each year to better target their program services and funding.

Given the extensive, practical usefulness of the ACS information—which is supported by the AGID website usage statistics—ACL has expanded the scope of the ACS special 2008-2012 tabulations prepared this year to include population estimates of those with disabilities for all age groups. Summary ACS information for persons with sensory, cognitive, and physical disabilities is now available on AGID at three different geographic levels of aggregation and includes the following types of tables:

- Sex by Age by Disability Status
- Age by Number of Disabilities
- Sex by Age by Hearing Difficulty
- Sex by Age by Vision Difficulty
- Sex by Age by Hearing and Vision Difficulties
- Disability Status by Age by Types of Health Insurance Coverage

1015 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1016 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1017 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status from future American Community Surveys. Marriage is uniquely different from other relationships and the recent trends in marriage show that it is in decline. If you stop asking those questions, you will no longer be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage and the breakup of the American family. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I respectfully request that you continue to include these questions

1018 I strongly object to the proposed elimination of questions regarding marriage, divorce, and widowhood from the annual ACS. We do not want to be the only country in the developed world that cannot generate annual age specific rates of marriage and divorce. This can only be seen as yet another attack by our government on the American family, and certainly an attack on the institution of marriage. Thank you for considering my opinion.

1019 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1020 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1021 I am deeply concerned that those who develop the Census are considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. It is meant to be a life-time commitment, and many people take it very seriously, as they should. However, recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. Please continue to include questions regarding marriage.

1022 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

What is the point? This will not save anyone any money, nor will it improve any efficiencies. It will only increase national ignorance. Stop it.

1023 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing the questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.
As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.
Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1024 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions. Thank you.

1025 We heard that the Census Bureau has proposed to eliminate questions about marriage, divorce, and widowhood in its Annual American Community Survey (ACS). We would like to give our input and say that we believe it is important to keep this survey active. Statistics produced from this survey are an important part of keeping a pulse on American marriages, including its effect on families and the culture in general. Please pass-on our input to anyone else who may be part of the potential decision on this survey.

1026 Please find attached my letter of comment regarding the proposed change to ACS question 12.
[Text from attachment…]As Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs at Marian University in Fond du Lac, WI, Marian University, I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and feedback on the American Community Survey (ACS) Content Review Results.
offers master programs in criminal justice, education, nursing, organizational leadership, and thanatology. Additionally, a doctorate of philosophy program is available with foci in curriculum and instruction, educational administration, and leadership. [Name of institution removed] enrolls more than 300 students in its graduate programs.

In my capacity as associate vice president for academic affairs I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question 12 (Undergraduate Field of Study), where respondents are asked to provide specific major(s) of any bachelor's degrees received by the person with the highest degree in each household.

Many national sample surveys rely on the results of the ACS to construct a stratification sample design that most accurately reflects the true population of interest, and "specific major(s) for a bachelor's degree" is a key variable that allows researchers and policy makers to examine outcomes of postsecondary education with respect to fields of study. This is crucial for the graduate education community because postsecondary outcomes, including post-baccalaureate pursuit and workforce participation vary by discipline.

Marian University has several foci in its Master of Arts in Education program. Information provided by national surveys assists us in determining if our program offerings are timely for the needs of the communities we serve and an important part of the information used comes from the Person Question 12 on the ACS.

The proposed elimination would make it impossible for any national sample surveys, including NSCG to reliably capture potential field effects on postsecondary outcomes, which would impact our ability to utilize these data for public purposes. To this end, as [peronally identifying information removed]I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question 12 in the ACS.

1027 We are concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As taxpaying citizens, we insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. We deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. We hope you will continue to include these questions.

1028 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1029 Just as U.S. marriage rates have reached their lowest level in a century the Census Bureau has proposed to eliminate questions about marriage, divorce and widowhood in its Annual American Community Survey (ACS). This must be avoided! If these questions are dropped, the United States will become the only country in the developed world that does not generate annual age-specific rates of marriage and divorce.

The ACS is the ONLY way to estimate marriage and divorce rates on local, state and national levels. The National Vital Statistics System does not collect key socioeconomic information, is missing divorce data for one-fifth (20%) of the population of the U.S., and provides no information at the county or city level.

This is clearly another step by the government to disassociate its policies from their impact on the American family and the institution of marriage.

Please do not stop collecting these statistics in the census data.

1030 It is my understanding that the census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. I am writing to urge you, please, not to remove these questions! The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I urge you to continue to see the wisdom in monitoring the state of marriage for people by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their Internet use, then certainly it can ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I hope that the census will continue to include these questions!

1031 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing the questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline, even though marriage and the children that issue from it are the foundation of society. Surely the commitment (measured by the public taking of vows and the signing of legal documents to that effect) is more important to measure than the type of internet usage and whether there is indoor plumbing. (Hint: less than 3% of American households DON'T have plumbing, and I have to wonder how many of those are like my environmentalist auntie, who prefers her composting toilet! Being in the sustainable building community,myself, many of us prefer to use the outdoors.) Surely being raised by the mother and father who procreated the chid is a better indicator of a child's stability that where they relieve themselves?

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1032 Please do not eliminate the 5 questions in the CPS and other surveys. It is vital for our field and for researchers across the country.

1033 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1034 Is the Census really considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys? Marriage is different from other relationships. Some believe that recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I request that you continue to monitor the state of marriage in America by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. This is important.

Removing these questions is symbolic of what many perceive as the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1035 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1036 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

On a personal note, my mother separated from my family when I was six years old. My parents divorced at a much later date. Both my parents engaged in long-term homosexual partnerships, but today, they could have legally married and divorced their partners. All these events had a profound affect on me. I have little doubt they affect other children growing up today and their wider communities.
Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1037 Please do not drop questions 21-23, related to marriage, from the census survey. Without data on marriage, social scientists will have a more difficult time examining trends in marriage and divorce and assessing the impact of those trends on the family and our society.

1038 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1039 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1040 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1041 Thank you for helping forward this email to the proper decision makers at the Department of Commerce. I write to share my concern that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC.
We need to understand marriage trends and learn ways to support the institution of marriage; marriage, family and the home are very important to our nation and to me. I urge the Bureau to leave these questions as a part of all future ACS questionnaires.
I appreciate your help and your service,

1042 We are concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As taxpaying citizens, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. We deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention.
We hope you will continue to include these questions.

1043 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1044 I have recently discovered there is a proposal to eliminate questions regarding marriage from the questionnaire. In order to understand the role marriage plays in our society it is important to know about our family structure.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

1045 I understand that you are about to make some changes in the questions you send out.

I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1046 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1047 Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this brief email to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. I am writing today to express my concern that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage is an important institution and in the last several years, we have seen this institution decline. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends. Other questions on the ARC relate to much less important issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC. Furthermore, the removal of these questions represents a marginalization of marriage. As an American citizen, I value marriage and I know many others who do as well. Marriage is the core of the family and as the institution of marriage deteriorates so will the institution of the family. Strong families are the key to a strong society. The benefits of understanding marriage trends and supporting the institution of marriage are important to our nation and to me. I urge the Bureau to leave these questions as a part of all future ACS questionnaires.
I appreciate your help and your service to our nation.

1048 It is my understanding that the census has asked Americans about marriage since 1850. It would be very short-sighted to eliminate marriage questions on the census.

1049 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1050 The American Community Survey (ACS) is a significant source of health insurance data which is fundamental to a great deal of learning and comparison at the state and local levels. It also gives a national overview on health insurance coverage, or the lack thereof, among subpopulations of interest. Among other important functions this provides insight into disparities in coverage based on demographic characteristics. The introduction of the Health Insurance Marketplace has already dramatically changed the way health insurance is purchased; however, the ACS health insurance series is not designed to pick up enrollment in the Marketplace. Tracking enrollment in the Marketplace is important given the resources invested to provide broad access to quality health insurance products. As the Census Bureau considers removing items from the Federal Register, we would urge the Bureau to add 'Marketplace' to the list of sources of coverage, and add additional questions on premiums and premium subsidies aimed at tracking the health insurance market.

1051 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1052 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing the questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships--it's a unique relationship and serves as the foundation for civil society since it attaches mothers and fathers to their children and to one another. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline, and this harms children. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.
As a taxpaying citizen, I must strongly urge you to continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, don't you agree that you can ask a few questions about change in marital status? Since marriage impacts children, I am deeply concerned that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions. Please contact me and I'll be delighted to discuss with you the impact that marriage has on children. I am the Director of Outreach for a small non profit whose mission is to educate people about the policy implications of marriage. Thank you for your time.

1053 I'm writing to request most adamantly that the marriage-related questions be preserved in the American Community Survey. Though access to this information, we've gained insight into what is truly happening in the country today, information that is important to policy makers and that we would not have without the survey questions.

It's hard to see a reason not to have the questions in the survey, and the benefit, I'm sure, far outweighs other concerns.

Please consider my request and act to retain this valuable part of the Census.

1054 Please do not remove the marriage questions from the ACS. Here are some common questions reseachers like me can address with this information:
Are Americans marrying more than divorcing?
• In any given year, there are more marriages than divorces in the U.S. In 2013, there were almost two marriages for every one divorce in the U.S.
How has the Great Recession influenced marriage and divorce?
• The marriage rate has declined and not returned to the pre-recession levels. Divorce has returned to pre-recession rates.
Do low income Americans experience differential marriage and divorce rates?
• Yes. The college educated have higher marriage rates and lower divorce rates than their more modestly educated counterparts. The ACS is the best and only source for statistics on the incidence of marriage and divorce across different economic as well as racial and ethnic subgroups.
Do men and women have similar remarriage levels?
• From the ACS, we know that nearly one in three Americans who married last year was remarrying. Men have almost a 100% higher remarriage rate than women. No other data provides estimates of remarriage by age, gender, or race/ethnicity.
Who are experiencing the greatest increases in divorce?
• Baby Boomers have experienced the highest increase in divorce rates with one in four divorces occurring to persons over age 50. The ACS is the best way to estimate these age patterns.
Debunking the seven-year itch
• Actually, it's a 12-year itch. Estimates from the ACS indicate roughly half of first marriages end 12 years after walking down the aisle.
Which states have the highest and lowest age at first marriage?
• Washington DC has the highest, and Idaho and Utah have among the lowest.
Do same-sex marriages end faster than different-sex marriages?
• The ACS will be the only way to estimate levels and trends in same-sex marriage and divorce.

1055 • Thank you for your work to gather information and hear from people like me on the changes to the ARC! I am writing today to request that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends. If the goal is to make the ARC shorter, then there are other questions on the ARC that relate to much less important issues.
•
• Marriage is the core of the family and as the institution of marriage deteriorates so will the institution of the family. Strong families are the key to a strong society. The benefits of understanding marriage trends and supporting the institution of marriage are important to our nation and to me. I urge the Bureau to leave these questions as a part of all future ACS questionnaires.
•
• I appreciate your help and your service to our nation.

1056 I am very concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is tightly woven with human thriving. It is different from other relationships. Many researchers claim that it is vitally connected to poverty, domestic violence, health and academic achievement. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Family structure is of major consequence and deserves to be studied.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government’s attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1057 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you stop asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions can be read as symbolic of a government attack on the institution of marriage. It is not wise nor realistic for the federal government to not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1058 I want to encourage you to keep marriage data in the ACS. It is vital that we have statistics on the state of the family in America. Removing such data is clearly another step by the government to disassociate its policies from their impact on the American family and the institution of marriage.

1059 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing the questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.
As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their internet use and transportation, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.
Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1060 Is the Census considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is the key relationship affecting our children. Recent marriage and divorce rates show that we have a serious problem. If your surveys do not include the right questions, we will not properly report on these troublesome new trends.

I ask you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. Failure to include these questions would be a serious mistake, in my view.

1061 I feel it is very important for genealogy purposes to keep the marriage questions in the census. It is very important for our descendants to know their ancestors.

1062 Just as U.S. marriage rates have reached their lowest level in a century the Census Bureau has proposed to eliminate questions about marriage, divorce and widowhood in its Annual American Community Survey (ACS). This must be avoided! If these questions are dropped, the United States will become the only country in the developed world that does not generate annual age-specific rates of marriage and divorce.

The ACS is the ONLY way to estimate marriage and divorce rates on local, state and national levels. The National Vital Statistics System does not collect key socioeconomic information, is missing divorce data for one-fifth (20%) of the population of the U.S., and provides no information at the county or city level.

This is clearly another step by the government to disassociate its policies from their impact on the American family and the institution of marriage.

1063 I am writing to respond to the above-referenced Federal Register request for comments about the American Community Survey (ACS) Content Review Results. Specifically, I would like to express concern about the proposed elimination of Question 12, which asks about undergraduate field of degree. As an economist and co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR), I believe that the elimination of this question would greatly damage the ability to understand the differential experiences of college graduates based on their field of degree, as no alternative sources for this information exist.

For example, CEPR recently published a report on the labor market outcomes of recent college graduates, with a special focus on black graduates (A College Degree is No Guarantee, http://www.cepr.net/documents/black-coll-grads-2014-05.pdf). In particular, we found that, even with a degree in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM), black recent college graduates still suffered from high levels of unemployment and underemployment.

This report followed the methodology of researchers at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York ("Are Recent College Graduates Finding Good Jobs?" (http://www.newyorkfed.org/research/current_issues/ci20-1.pdf), examining the labor-market outcomes of recent graduates in thirteen undergraduate major categories. These papers, and many others like them, would not have been possible without Question 12.

I urge the Office of Management and Budget and Census Bureau to seriously consider retaining the undergraduate field of study question in the ACS. Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

1064 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

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Removing these questions is symbolic of this administration's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

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Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1071 Please do not attack marriage. Please continue to include questions
21a-21c and 22 and 23.

1072 Marriage matters. I am told that the Census Bureau is planning to limit its questions about marriage. I recognize that marriage has become a controversial subject, but the father-mother-child model is timeless and society is rejecting it to its own peril.

1073 Please help keep marriage information.

1074 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

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Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1075 What Are You Thinking? Dropping the marriage categories will be an incredible set-back for marriage studies. The disadvantages to not having that vital information far outweigh any advantage to taking questions on marriage and divorce out of the community census questionnaires.
Please do not allow this to happen.

1076 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

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Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1078 Please do not let our government take the questions out of this survey that are related to marriage and divorce statistics. It seems like we want to eliminate marriage in the US. Statistics prove that kids are better off when their parents love one another. Even more so than when the parents love the child. Children are healthy and stronger in an environment where there are 2 parents.
I professionally know how difficult it is when a single parents must go it alone because of divorce. Thank you for reading this and considering keeping the questions in the survey.

1079 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1080 This email is directed toward objecting to the removal of marriage from the Annual American Community Survey (ACS) as this is another step by the government to disassociate its policies from the American family and the institution of marriage. I believe that marriage (between a man and woman) and the family are the backbone of America and that the attacks on them are the most serious attacks to America and will lead to America's destruction from within.

1081 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I am deeply concerned that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. All research data supports the conclusion that the institution of marriage is the greatest protection and help that our children have. The act of eliminating the marriage status questions in the census indicates to me that the federal government does not acknowledge this and does not care about the nation's children. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1082 Marriage is the basic social structure of all society. Leaving it off the census data sends a message that government is trying to manipulate trends rather record them.

If anything, government should be encouraging the traditional family as any and all studies prove the outcomes have a positive effect on society. If there is any science to be found in analyzing this data, it must not be manipulated.

1083 The census items regarding marriage and divorce, etc. must stay the same in order for us to track changes and effects on our society. It is also key to being able to project our welfare needs in the future. I can think of no valid reason from a sociological standpoint to alter these parts of the census. The social impact of marriage, divorce, etc. is too great to be used as a "politically correct" toy. Please do not change these census items.

1084 Please do NOT eliminate marriage, divorce, and widowhood questions in the ACS! These are critical questions to have at this level and the only way we can understand actual patterns of these critical life experiences for Americans. These are questions that provide meaningful information for our country—not just stats that end up in some dusty tome—but truly get used and shared widely.

Thank you so much for considering this request.

1085 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing the questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.
As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.
Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1086 I'm sure your email is being inundated about this issue, but I am compelled to add my voice to those who are requesting that you keep the marriage data collection in the Census' American Community Surveys (ACS). Just this past fall, my organization completed an in depth study on fatherless and marriage specific to our Commonwealth of Massachusetts. http://www.mafamily.org/report2014/ This report, which is being utilized by politicians and pastors alike, would simply not have been possible without the ACS – which we cited 40 times in the report. As I am sure you know, maintaining these questions on marriage as part of the ACS over time allows for the longitudinal study of important social and demographic changes. Please keep the marriage questions in the survey!

1087 Please continue to collect data on Marriage statistics. These data are vital to scholars and policy makers.

1088 It has come to my attention that the Census Bureau is considering eliminating questions about marriage, divorce and widowhood in the annual American Community Survey. I represent a whole congregation of families who intentionally minister to the people who fall into these categories. They need love, hope and faith which we try to bring in very tangible ways. Being able to learn of the decline or increase, and the demographics, of these affected families is essential. A lot information can be gleaned from your annual report that would no longer be available. Please continue providing this helpful information through your survey.

1089 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1090 I just learned that the Census Bureau may no longer collect information
on marriage, widowhood and divorce in it's Annual American Community Survey.
This is vital information that is needed in so many arenas, especially
in the social science area. Therefore, we hope this information will not be excluded.

1091 I am writing to express my concern and my opposition to the removal of the seven American Community Survey questions which are slated for removal from the questionnaire. 5 of the 7 questions slated for removal pertain to marriage or divorce. If these 5 questions are removed, the government will no longer be monitoring marriage trends and therefore will not be able to determine how marriage trends are linked or are correlated to the well-being of children and adults. I feel that this is a poor decision on the part of the Census Bureau. Marriage is the foundation of society and the economy. Marriage is also quite literally the source of society. Lawmakers rely on this data to create policies that strengthen the family and the economy; therefore this is extremely important data. Please do not remove the 5 marriage questions from the survey.

1092 I object to the elimination of questions about marriage, divorce, and widowhood in the Annual American Community Survey (ACS).

This is clearly another step by the government to disassociate its policies from their impact on the American family and the institute of marriage.

1093 No culture can survive without marriage and children.
I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

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Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1096 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline which is bad for everyone. Marriage matters - it is unique among relationships.

If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

Some facts we know only because someone asked the questions:

- Women are more likely to be murdered by their cohabiting boyfriends than by their husbands.
- Children are at significantly greater risk for fatal child abuse from their mother's cohabiting boyfriend, than from their biological parents married to each other.
- Second marriages are more likely to end in divorce than first marriages.
- Most divorces do not involve domestic violence.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23.

If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I oppose the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1097 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends and we'll never understand the root causes of dysfunction in our social fabric. Is this a case of not wanting to know the truth? Marriage – a commitment of social and biological relationships – is essential to marriage partners and to the children that issue from that relationship. And even a child knows that!!!!

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

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Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1100 I object to the removal of marriage from the ACS.
This information is critical in determining the health of the institution of family that this country was build upon.

1101 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1102 Please keep the question in the census. It is VIP data!!

1103 I am concerned that the census is considering removing question about the change in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quite asking the questions you will not be able to detect these trends.
As a tax paying citizen I ask that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you certainly can ask a few questions about change in marital status.
Removing these questions is symbolic of the governments attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the Federal government does not consider these question worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1104 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1105 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpayer, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, etc., you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status. These are important questions and the answers are just as important for a realistic view of the current culture.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I truly resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. Please continue to include these questions in the surveys.

1106 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1107 I am writing to urge your organization to continue to include questions about marriage, divorce and widowhood in its Annual American Community Survey (ACS). This information is valuable to our nation in order to appropriately meet the needs of each group. Thank you.

1108 I am writing to object to the removal of the marriage questions from the Annual American Community Survey. The data that is proposed to be cut is crucial to social scientists, counselors and others who are concerned with the institution of marriage in the United States. Without this vital information, we will lose the objective perspective that is so important to making good decisions – both politically and socially – about marriage and divorce in this country. We use this information almost daily in our work, and I know of many others who count on it as well. Please do not deprive us of this valuable resource.

1109 Please do not eliminate questions about marriage and divorce on your questionnaires! This is valuable information.

Thanks for your attention to this matter.

1110 I am writing to encourage the Department of Congress to *not* eliminate the marriage questions in the ACS. As a former academic Economist (a professor of Labor and Health economics), having a high quality, extensive set of data to investigate marriage trends is critical to many important socio-economic dynamics. For example, as a graduate student, I helped my advisors on the "economic return to marriage" , which was mostly based on CPS data … it was very hard to estimate the barriers to marriage caused by the tax system with the data in part due to data-problems … many of which would have been eliminated were the ACS available back then.

Because marriage is such an important issue in tax policy, in income distribution, and in many other dimensions of family policy, it is critical to have a reliable and detailed source for data, and the ACS is uniquely filling that role. Removing the questions would cause a massive setback to understanding some the key questions of the day, including poverty determinants, income inequality, and social mobility.

A similar argument can be made for the "field of degree" question … which has been a fantastic addition to the traditional studies that have looked at the return to education. It is invaluable to understand and measure the difference of 4 years of undergraduate education in mathematics vs English, for example, and especially with the recent announcement of the federal government's attempts to rate undergraduate institutions, it will become *more important* in the future to have a high quality source to example the return to undergraduate degrees.

In short, the "cost" of including the questions on the survey were already calculated to be quite low … it is the "benefits" calculation that was massively underestimated. Please retain the marriage questions and the field of degree question in the ACS survey.

1111 I learned recently that the Census Bureau intends to no longer ask questions related to marriage, divorce, remarriage, and other related demographic questions. These are huge predictors of poverty, success in life, as well as the need for government services. Recent statistics suggest that marriage is in decline, but trends change with time. There is few reliable ways to do national longitudinal studies to chart those trends if the Census does not ask questions 21a-c as well as questions 22 and 23.

I am a citizen who pays taxes, and I would think that if you keep track of people's occupations, what kind of Internet service they have, what is in their kitchen, and what kind of car they drive, then their marital status would be equally if not much more important.

In recent years government policy has not been friendly to the institution of marriage, and removing these marriage demographic questions only bolsters that conclusion. It is amazing and appalling to think that the federal government no longer considers marriage
statistics worth gathering. Please continue to include these questions in the survey. For those the government serves, particularly those in poverty, these statistics are important.

Thank you for your assurance that these questions will remain an integral part of Census Bureau data.

1112 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing the questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.
As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.
Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1113 strongly object to the removal of marriage from the ACS. Please retain the marital questions on the survey. Thank you.

1114 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1115 Please do not eliminate the questions regarding marriage, widowhood and divorce from the census bureau. The family unit is still the greatest entity we have as humans. It is important to have information and statistics regarding the institution of marriage. I am involved with Family and Consumer Sciences and many of these courses revolve around the dynamics of family and marital relationships .

1116 It has come to my attention that the questions regarding marriage, divorce and widowhood are slated to be removed from the Annual American Community Survey. As a taxpayer, and american citizen I would humbly request that this not be allowed to happen. Please carry this request on my behalf to whomever makes this decision. This is the only remaining gauge of local, state and national marriage and divorce rates. Please do not allow this to disappear. Please know that at least one citizen is paying attention to these statistics.

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asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.
As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.
Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1118 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1119 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the numbers are changing. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1120 I'm writing to register my objection to the removal of marriage info from the ACS. These data are crucial to understanding changes and trends in our society.

1121 This notice proposes removing marital history items on the American Community Survey (ACS). The Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 401(c)) requires the Board of Trustees to report annually on the actuarial status and financial operations of the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) and Disability Insurance (DI) Trust Funds. The Office of the Chief Actuary (OCACT) at the Social Security Administration is responsible for the modeling that produces the results in this report. Additionally, the population projections, which form the basis for these results, are used for the estimates in the President's Budgets and in the annual reports of the Board of Trustees on the actuarial status and financial operations of the Medicare program. An important aspect of this modeling is estimating future populations by marital status. Individuals who are or were married may be eligible to receive benefits on the record of their spouse or ex-spouse.

In order to project populations by marital status, the following items are needed:
1. Distributions of new marriages for historical years, by single year of age of spouse one crossed with single year of age of spouse two.
2. Tabulations of existing marriages in historical years, by single year of age of spouse one crossed with single year of age of spouse two.
3. Distributions of new divorces, by single year of age of spouse one crossed with single year of age of spouse two.
4. Remarriage rates by age, sex, and prior marital status.

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) stopped collecting detailed marriage and divorce data from the states in the late 1980s. Thus, data needed for projections by marital status is essentially nonexistent. It is possible to get detailed data from some states. However, many states charge fees and many states will not give the data out at all. Thus, there is no way to get complete detailed marriage and divorce data, which represents the whole country, without the ACS. Furthermore, it is very time consuming to compile state data for those states that agree to provide us with data because of different formats and age groupings of the data. States will not give the data by single year of age as is needed. Compiling data from various states would take months, requiring us to ask each state for the data, receive the data, validate the data, and compile the data together after accounting for different formats and age groups. This would take a tremendous amount of time. In addition, those states providing the data may not be representative of the United States as a whole.

The ACS helped greatly in filling in the lack of marriage and divorce data with the addition of the marital history questions in 2008. With the ACS, the OCACT was able to retrieve accurate data for total divorces, new marriage distributions (age of spouse one crossed with age of spouse two), and tabulations of existing marriage (age of spouse one crossed with age of spouse two). According to "Breaking Up is Hard to Count: The Rise of Divorce in the United States, 1980-2010" in Demography volume 51, "vital statistics and retrospective survey data underestimate recent marital instability." The ACS is the only data source that captures this instability because of more complete reporting and better quality of data. With the Supreme Court's June 2013 Windsor ruling allowing some same-sex couples to receive federal benefits, the need for additional detailed marriage and divorce data increased.

The OCACT currently uses many of the marital history questions marked for possible deletion, and plans to use the rest of them in future modeling enhancements. In addition, the OCACT requests adding one more question to the ACS dealing with marriage and divorce: "What is the current age of your current or last spouse?" This would allow us to match all spouses and ex-spouses by single year of age. Because not all spouses live together, we cannot get the ages of both spouses for all

1122 I OBJECT TO THE REMOVAL OF MARRIAGE FROM THE ACS.

1123 I write in behalf of my agency—the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)—to urge the retention of Personal Question No. 12 on the American Community Survey, which requests "the specific major(s) of any Bachelor's Degrees this person has received." The NEH was established in 1965 "to promote progress and scholarship in the humanities . . . in the United States." Advancing postsecondary educational attainment in the academic disciplines of the humanities—which include history, literature, philosophy, and language study, among others—is a chartered function of this agency.

At a minimal cost and response burden on the public, question 12 of the ACS provides a critically valuable source of information for policy makers on the relationship between postsecondary studies in particular subject areas and subsequent employment and earnings. In making the case for the value of the humanities, NEH finds it quite helpful to have empirical information that documents the connection between field of study and employment. Indeed, we use the results of this survey question to make a strong case that earning a humanities degree can and does have a substantial impact on the recipients' financial compensation, as well as career diversity, later in life. Question 12 of the ACS provides the best, and arguably the only, opportunity to document this connection.

1124 I object to the removal of marriage from the ACS.

1125 Please do not allow the Census Bureau to eliminate questions about marriage, divorce and widowhood in its Annual American Community Survey (ACS).
I've been told that the ACS is the ONLY way to estimate marriage and divorce rates on local, state and national levels. The National Vital Statistics System does not collect key socioeconomic information, is missing divorce data for one-fifth (20%) of the population of the U.S., and provides no information at the county or city level.

Thank you for taking the time and considering my request.

1126 I strongly object to the removal of marriage from the ACS.

1127 We highly object to the removal of marriage questions on the ACS. Thank you for hearing our voice and for your considerations.

1128 I object to the removal of marriage from the ACS

1129

I was surprised, disapointed and actually astonished to hear that the census bureau has proposed to eliminate questions about marriage, widowhood and divorce in its Annual American Community Survey (ACS).
The ACS is the only way to estimate divorce for the entire nation and local (county and city) marriage and divorce rates. The National Vital statistices System does not collect key socioeconomic information, is missing divorce data for 20% of the United States, and provides no information at the county or city level.

These kinds of information are absolutely essential. The five short questions give those of us who serve the millions of Americans who have been, are, or will be married and/or divorced and/or widowed some invaluable information and help.

If these questions are dropped the United States will become the only country in the developed world that does not generate annual age-specific rates of marriage and divorce.
the only country in the developed world that does not generate annual age-specific rates of marriage and divorce.
I and most other professional I know believe that this MUST be avoided.

Thank you for your attention to this concern.

1130 I am writing as a clinical psychologist who frequently works with couples in therapy to object to the removal of questions about marriage, divorce, and windowhood from the ACS. The information and statistics gathered from these critical questions on marriage is helpful not only to researchers and clinical scientists, but also to the individuals and couples we serve in practice. Please do not have these very important items removed.

1131 I am emailing you to let you know that I am objecting to the removal of marriage from the ACS!

1132 Please find attached Fielding Graduate University opposed comments to the proposed removal of question #12 from ACS. [Text of attachment...] As President at Fielding Graduate University in Santa Barbara, CA, I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and feedback on the American Community Survey (ACS) Content Review Results.
Fielding University is a graduate only institution that targets adult learners. The institution offers doctoral programs in Clinical Psychology, Media Psychology, Human Organizational Development and Education. Furthermore, they offer Master's programs in Media Psychology, Organizational Development and Education. Currently, the school enjoys about 1200 students.

In my capacity as President at Fielding Graduate University in Santa Barbara, CA, , I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question12 (Undergraduate Field of Study), where respondents are asked to provide specific major(s) of any bachelor's degrees received by the person with the highest degree in each household.

Many national sample surveys rely on the results of the ACS to construct a stratification sample design that most accurately reflects the true population of interest, and "specific major(s) for a bachelor's degree" is a key variable that allows researchers and policy makers to examine outcomes of postsecondary education with respect to fields of study. This is crucial for the graduate education community because postsecondary outcomes, including post-baccalaureate pursuit and workforce participation vary by discipline.

The proposed elimination would make it impossible for any national sample surveys, including NSCG to reliably capture potential field effects on postsecondary outcomes, which would impact our ability to utilize these data for public purposes. To this end, as President, I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question 12 in the ACS.

1133 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1134 As a social demographer actively using the ACS data on marriage and divorce, I am writing to urge that these questions be retained in the survey. If they are dropped, the United States will become the only country in the developed world that does not generate annual age-specific rates of marriage and divorce.

The ACS is the ONLY way to estimate divorce for the entire nation and local (county and city) marriage and divorce rates.

1135 I'm concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1136 I am writing to express my concern and my opposition to the removal of the seven American Community Survey questions which are slated for removal from the questionnaire. 5 of the 7 questions slated for removal pertain to marriage or divorce. If these 5 questions are removed, the government will no longer be monitoring marriage trends and therefore will not be able to determine how marriage trends are linked or are correlated to the well-being of children and adults. I feel that this is a poor decision on the part of the Census Bureau. Marriage is the foundation of society and the economy. Marriage is also quite literally the source of society. Lawmakers rely on this data to create policies that strengthen the family and the economy; therefore this is extremely important data. Please do not remove the 5 marriage questions from the survey.

Thank you for your consideration.

1137 Please do not remove questions regarding changes in marital status from the annual American Community Survey. To do so would be analogous to going to your doctor's office for your annual physical and your doctor gives you a questionnaire that asks you what kind of car you drive but does not ask if there have been any significant changes in your health. To make [what is supposed to be] a firm, lifelong commitment to another person is a vital act not only for the individuals but also for the society in which they live. It is, in fact, a key way that we form the very building blocks of our society. Marriages are the bricks and mortar, and the existence and health of the marriage bears directly on the health of its subsequent family and the bonding between families into larger communities. This is a vital "metric," as they say.

Thank you for any consideration you can give my request.

1138 Jennifer, please do NOT remove the questions that relate to marriage from the ACS....Specifically NOT questions about Marriage, Widowhood, and Divorce.

Thank you in advance for your consideration!

1139 I just heard and am concerned that you are considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is important to the foundation of our society and different from other relationships. It must be preserved and protected. I understand that recent trends show marriage is in decline. But if you stop asking the questions about marital status, it will further erode the importance of marriage and undermine the values on which this nation and civil society was founded.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If you have the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about changes in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's ongoing attacks on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider marriage and these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will reconsider your decision and continue to include these questions in all future surveys.

1140 I read that the U.S. Census Bureau is most likely going to remove marriage questions from the Census. Please don't do this. As a person who writes freelance articles, it is vital that journalists have this type of information. We need to know what the marriage and divorce rates in this country looks like from year to year, from decade to decade. Is it flat? Has it increased? Gone down? Any journalist who writes articles on marriage and divorce needs this information in order to write an accurate article.

Plus, social scientists, who study and follow marriage trends need the information. It seems vital for comparing our marriage and family rates to that of the rest of the world.

Whether a person is married or not are probably some of the least invasive questions on the Census. Most people are used to those types of questions, and don't find them offensive.

Again, please leave the marriage and divorce questions in the Census.

1141 I'm writing you to urge you to KEEP the marriage questions in the ACS. Why might someone whose work is on marriage in Africa and who lives in Canada care passionately about these questions? First, because I'm an American citizen and I believe it is vital for the US to remain a leader in research on families and their impact on men, women and children. Second, because without these data we cannot make important comparisons between the US, Canada, and Europe. Third, because I often work with data from Africa and I know first-hand that poor data on marriage cripples the ability of researchers and policy makers to understand critical demographic processes.

1142 I recently received an email noting that the Census Bureau will remove questions about marriage, widowhood, and divorce from its Annual Community Survey.

This would be a great and needless disservice to the American people. Although views and rates are changing, marriage is a significant part of the American identity, and we need this information as researchers, community builders, and the general public.

I strongly hope this can be avoided.

1143 I want to give my opinion about the potential cutting of marriage questions on the ACS and Census. Since I do genealogy research, it would not be advantageous for having the marriage questions eliminated.

So, I ask you to please keep the marriage questions in the ACS and Census.

1144 I'm writing to plead for the questions related to marriage, divorce, and widowhood in your survey. The ACS is the ONLY way to estimate divorce for the entire nation and local (county and city) marriage and divorce rates. The National Vital Statistics System does not collect key socioeconomic information, is missing divorce data for one-fifth (20%) of the population of the U.S., and provides no information at the county or city level. Please keep these critical questions.

1145 I was recently shocked to learn that your organization (Annual American Community Survey) is considering changing it's policy and no longer surveying and tracking data on marriage in America. Marriage is one of the main foundations in America that creates stable home environments, communities, and economic stability. The importance of not only tracking marriage information, but also supporting marriage is something that should be clear.

I urge you to ensure that marriage information continues to be surveyed and tracked.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

1146 Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the questions slated for removal from the American Community Survey, as outlined in Document 2014-25912 of the Federal Register. Chicago Jobs Council advocates for job seekers with barriers to employment and the organizations that directly serve them. By supporting frontline service providers, we work to ensure access to employment and career advancement for people living in poverty. On behalf of our members—over 100 organizations and individuals in and around Chicago—we ask that you do not eliminate the questions regarding undergraduate field of study and marital history.

We understand that the Census Bureau must carefully chose which questions to include and discontinue, and that time and resources limit the questions you ask. However, the elimination of these questions will leave advocates and service providers with questions that we cannot answer. Service providers and non-profits like our members rely on data from the US Census constantly. The data you collect from these questions provide the basis for invaluable research into the changing structure of American families, the differing benefits of a wide variety of career paths, the equity of opportunities in our communities, and many others.

In the face of increasing inequality, and levels of poverty that refuse to decline at the same rate our economy as a whole is recovering, we need more information about working families and where they gain skills for the workforce—not less. Eliminating these questions would reduce our ability as a country to evaluate how, where, and how well our workforce is gaining the skills and education it needs to succeed.

The current administration made several important commitments to workforce development in the new Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Among them are focuses on evaluation of training programs, and on the integration of services that provide skills development and job placement. It would be a shame to discontinue one of the census questions that tells us about skills attainment, just as WIOA prioritizes transparency and evaluation of educational opportunities for the American workforce.

Many agencies need good research into the skills and education of our workforce, and the structure of families in our communities. Please consider keeping these questions in the American Community Survey, which provides us with the best picture of the communities we serve.

1147 As a researcher, I believe the value of the questions on marriage and education cannot be understated in the realm of research and setting policy. No other variables have a larger impact on ourselves as individuals and our communities than family and education. As we enter an age of data, this becomes even more important and seeing that the impact of marriage and education has not diminished as a vital sign of our socio-economics. As a tax-paying citizen, I do understand that weighing the benefit of and cutting questions least useful is appealing due to shrinking budgets and and ever decreasing attention span. Despite this, the data on marriage and education are some of the most important insights into the fabric of our nation. Removing them would be extremely detrimental to research and setting policy to maintain America's high quality of life. I hope the U.S. Census Bureau will elect to keep the questions. Their uninterrupted continuity will not only help us, but future generations of Americans.

1148 Please retain Person Question No. 12—Undergraduate Field of Degree on the American Community Survey.

1149 I greatly encourage you to maintain Person Question 12, which obtains information about the individual's educational status, and links it to their future life trajectory. As an academic (Professor at Columbia University, New York) I can attest to the tremendous value of obtaining such information.

1150 The Progressive Policy Institute is pleased to submit the attached comment in response the U.S. Census Bureau's request for comments on the proposed changes to the American Community Survey (ACS). (FDA Docket No. 2014-25904)

We thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on this important issue, and we hope this helps the Census Bureau in its final decision.
[Text of attachment...] The Progressive Policy Institute (PPI) is submitting this comment in response to the U.S. Census Bureau's proposed changes to the American Community Survey (ACS). In particular, we strongly oppose the elimination of question number 12, on undergraduate field of degree. As such, this comment pertains to part (a) of the formal request, on "whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility."
We applaud the efforts of the Census Bureau in undertaking a detailed review of the American Community Survey. It is important to understand the economic justification of each question, as administering and compiling the ACS is a resource intensive process. A periodic review also enables the Bureau to better understand the changing needs of the survey's various stakeholders within the research and statistical agency community.
However, we are concerned with the proposal to eliminate the question on undergraduate field of study, "Person Question No. 12 – Undergraduate Field of Degree." The ability to track employment characteristics by field of study is extremely valuable in encouraging smart decision-making by prospective college students, higher education administrators, and government officials at the state and local level. Moreover, it is also critical to the larger conversation of postsecondary education reform in the data-driven economy.
In an era where the value of the college degree has never been under greater scrutiny, it is essential that researchers have access to quality data. The Progressive Policy Institute has and continues to extensively research topics related to this, such as the economic well-being of young college graduates, and the tremendous opportunities the data-driven economy is creating for computer and information science majors, particularly for minorities. Our research would directly benefit from access to even more data on outcomes by college major, which we believe keeping this question in the ACS could help provide.
The detailed information ACS currently provides on college graduate outcomes is also not readily available elsewhere. For example, the Department of Education's only survey linking postsecondary education to outcome, Baccalaureate and Beyond, is conducted just every four years, following new cohorts identified only every eight years. The Current Population Survey, with a much smaller statistical sample, is unable to provide accuracy at the granular level ideal for comprehensive analysis.
Importantly, we believe the true value of this question on the ACS has yet to be realized. That is because the ACS is a relatively new survey that is only beginning to provide enough data for time series analysis. Within just a few years, there will be enough ACS data to undertake a robust empirical evaluation of outcomes by field of study, having implications for higher education reform and postsecondary aid design. Yet this future value could not have been captured in the preceding ACS Content Review.

1151 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1152 I wanted to provide my serious concern about the dropping of the marriage questions which is being proposed. Many federal and state social programs are impacted by the marital status of an individual and thus I cannot see how it can be seen as unimportant to have the most up to date information possible when considering possible changes to these programs. If space or time is a concern maybe there would be a way to sum up the information in less questions such as asking about current marital status and whether this has changed since the last survey. Thank you for reviewing my comments.

1153 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing the questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1154 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends. Its decline should not be the reason for removing these questions.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status, which is much more important to the health of our country.

Removing these questions would be symbolic of a government's attack on the institution of marriage. The federal government must continue to consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1155 I am writing to express my concern about the proposed cuts to the ACS. The questions on marital history and undergraduate degree are crucial to social scientists' and policy makers' knowledge about family change and educational opportunities. As an educator and researcher, this will have a significant negative impact on how I can use these data in my classroom. For example, the ACS is the only source of high-quality national-level data for relatively small groups in the population, such as Asian Americans and same-sex couples. The students in my course on the sociology of families regularly express concern that much of the historical data that are presented include only whites, African Americans, and sometimes Latinos, leaving out important segments of the population. This is especially problematic here in Washington state where Asian Americans have a long history and presence; their absence from statistical reporting about family change alienates my students. Without these questions in the ACS, this bias will continue.

In addition, the questions on undergraduate degree provide important information on educational outcomes for students. Given the increased focus from the federal government on student outcomes after college, getting rid of these data is especially ill-timed.

Losing these questions on marital history and undergraduate degree from the ACS would be a significant loss to researchers and educators. I urge reconsideration of their removal from the survey.

1156 I am writing regarding the proposed elimination of ACS questions on marriage and education. I strongly oppose eliminating the ACS questions relating to individuals' martial history and their field of study in college as it will reduce the effectiveness of ACS data for time-series purposes.

Government-funded surveys like the American Community Survey are vital for understanding the economy and how it changes over time, so the loss of these questions from the ACS will negatively affect social science inquiry. Indeed, we need additional resources devoted to such surveys so we can better understand a world that is rapidly changing.

I strongly urge a reconsideration of the proposed elimination.

1157 In regard to "Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; The American Community Survey Content Review Results," I would like to comment on Question 12. This question is important, and legally required by the Congressional mandate for NSF to produce reports on the status of women, under-represented minorities, immigrants and disabled people in the scientific workforce.

This country and governments around the need to encourage their citizens to enter scientific fields to increase the world's health, environment, and energy prospects. As it is nicely put in the Nature article (http://www.nature.com/news/keep-asking-the-question-1.16566?WT.ec_id=NATURE-20141218), understanding career paths of scientists leads to better efforts to foster its workforce. This makes question 12 vital for the nation's well-being.

1158 I am writing to respond to the request for comments about the proposed elimination of questions related to marital history and undergraduate field of study. As a current PhD student in applied microeconomics, I feel strongly that the elimination of these questions would negatively impact academic researchers, particularly those researching family dynamics and higher education.

The marital history questions are crucial for my current research investigating the effects of same-sex parenting on children's progress through school, without which I would be unable to make my contribution to the literature. Specifically, I used the question recording the number of times married to control for the fact that children of same-sex couples often times come from previous heterosexual relationships and must live through parental break up. Experiences of parental break up have been shown to negatively impact educational outcomes and if not controlled for could very easily bias regression estimates obtained using applied econometric techniques. To further emphasize the importance of these questions for my research on same-sex parenting, most studies in this area weren't conducted using large-sample, nationally representative data and therefore lack statistical power. The ACS is the only large-sample, nationally representative data set for the United States that could be used to address this problem, and if the marital history questions were eliminated, I'd have no way to control for retroactive marital status changes.

The inability to conduct research due to a lack of sufficient data is one of the core problems every economist faces, and it's the very reason why the ACS is so valuable to anyone researching changes in family dynamics or higher education. If the questions pertaining to these subjects were to be eliminated from the survey, there would be no alternative source for detailed annual statistics on marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage for the United States, and there would be no data sources large enough to study small but crucial academic specializations. All of the five marital history questions and the college field of degree question are invaluable to research. Please reconsider their removal from the survey.

1159 I am writing in regard to the proposed elimination of questions on marriage and field of bachelor's degree for the American Community Survey (ACS). I would like to voice my opposition to the elimination of these questions.
For small populations in the United States, these data provide the only source of information that is nationally representative of the social and economic conditions. Much of my research focuses on American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians who are often omitted from national surveys and data collection efforts. Charting demographic and social changes in these populations is difficult with the existing ACS data, it would be further increased with the elimination of these highly important questions.
In my research (and that of other scholars and policymakers in these communities), marital status is an important indicator of social cohesion and stability. These measures are critical to understanding the overall health and well-being in these communities where income measures may not reflect the underlying vitality of the community.
Please find attached my written comment regarding the proposed elimination of ACS questions on marriage and education.
[Text from attachment...] Please let me know if you have any further questions or concerns regarding this. I am happy to talk further about this topic and the importance of retaining these questions in the ACS.

1160 In response to the Bureau's proposal to drop questions pertaining to marital status from future questionnaires, I submitting my own comments as a concerned American citizen. In my opinion, to drop these questions would be to remove from Congress the kind of information they need to encourage that relation different from all others, marriage.

The impact of stable marriages on spouses and on children is well known and documented by numerous sociological studies. For a sample, see the University of Virginia's National Marriage Project run by Dr. Wilcox. The government should have a vested interested in promoting stable marriages for the common good of the nation and the happiness of citizens, including children. To remove the questions mentioned in the proposal would be to blind the government to the facts on the ground regarding marriage, and thus blind Congress to the growing problem of marriage decline and instability in American society.

Thank you for receiving my comments on this pressing and important issue.

1161 BACKGROUND
As Dean of the Graduate School at Florida State University (FSU) in Tallahassee, FL, I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and feedback on the American Community Survey (ACS) Content Review Results.
FSU is recognized by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education as engaged in very high research activity, the highest status accorded to a doctoral-granting university. Graduate and professional studies are pursued by approximately 8,200 graduate, law, and medical students. FSU offers a wide range of doctoral, master's, specialist, joint, combined bachelor's/master's and professional degree programs, as well as certificate programs.
SUGGESTION
In my capacity as Dean, I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question 12 (Undergraduate Field of Study), where respondents are asked to provide specific major(s) of any bachelor's degrees received by the person with the highest degree in each household.
RATIONALE
Many national sample surveys rely on the results of the ACS to construct a stratification sample design that most accurately reflects the true population of interest. The "specific major(s) for a bachelor's degree" is a key variable that allows researchers and policy makers to examine outcomes of postsecondary education with respect to fields of study. This is crucial for the graduate education community because postsecondary outcomes, including post-baccalaureate pursuit and workforce participation vary by discipline.
For example, FSU uses the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics' National Survey of College Graduates (NSCG) to develop national benchmarks for career outcomes of master's and doctoral degree recipients by specific fields. [Name of institution removed] also relies on the Council of Graduate School's use of the NSCG to estimate the potential monetary cost and return on investment of pursuing advanced degrees, which is a key element of CGS's financial education website, gradsense.org and is utilized by
our prospective graduate students. Because NSCG is stratified by specific academic majors, FSU can
confidently benchmark earnings data by degree and field of study.
The proposed elimination would make it impossible for any national sample surveys, including
NSCG to reliably capture potential field effects on postsecondary outcomes, which would impact our
ability to utilize these data for public purposes. To this end, as Dean, I urge the Department of
Commerce to retain Person Question 12 in the ACS.

1162 I am trying to find out why the Census Bureau wants to drop the marriage questions from its questionnaire. However, the online documentation has broken links. The links to Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)) are broke. When I search the gop.gov site for this information it is not found.

Demographic data about marriage and family is important in structuring policy about social welfare programs. If they do this the government may have no idea how marriage is changing in America and how it is linked to the well-being of children and adults.

Source of broken links: https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2014/10/31/2014-25912/proposed-information-collection-comment-request-the-american-community-survey-content-review-results

1163 I would like to express concern and objection to the proposed removal of several questions inquiring about marriage. Given the changing conditions in our society regarding marriage, it seems important now more than ever before to collect as much information regarding marriage as possible. This will allow for greater analysis on the topic and help ensure public policy and programs are appropriately calibrated to meet the needs of society into the future. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

1164 The ACS represents an invaluable annual source of health insurance information at the national, state and local level. With its large sample size, it is also the source of information on insurance coverage, or lack of coverage, among subpopulations of interest, including disparities populations. The introduction of the Health Insurance Marketplace dramatically changed the way health insurance in purchased; however, the ACS health insurance series is not designed to pick up enrollment in the Marketplace. Tracking enrollment in the Marketplace is important given the resources invested to provide broad access to quality health insurance products. As the Census Bureau contemplates removing items outlined in the Federal Register, please consider adding "Marketplace" to the list of sources of coverage and adding additional questions on premiums and premium subsidies aimed at tracking the health insurance market.

1165 Please see attached for the Georgetown University Center for Children and Families' comments on The American Community Survey Content Review Results per 79 FR 64743. Thank for the opportunity to comment on this issue.

[Text from attachment…] Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the results of the American Community Survey (ACS) content review. The ACS has proven to be an extraordinarily valuable tool in distributing timely and detailed data about the US population. At the Georgetown Center for Children and Families (CCF), we routinely use health insurance data from the ACS in our research and analysis aimed at understanding and improving health coverage for America's children and families. We appreciate your attention to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected and have provided comments on the importance of collecting Health Insurance Marketplace data.

The American Community Survey (ACS) is an invaluable resource in our efforts to understand changes in the structure of health insurance coverage for families in the United States. In particular, public health insurance options for children and families are offered through a complicated mix of federal and state policy options and rules. In order to understand what is happening with respect to health coverage for vulnerable populations, it is imperative to be able to analyze comparable state-by-state longitudinal data. The ACS is essential to this task.

Georgetown CCF is actively engaged in informing and shaping policy discussions around child and family health coverage by providing timely policy analysis. We work with partners all across the country working to improve children's health. In order to do so, we routinely rely on ACS data on children's health coverage, including demographic characteristics of uninsured children and families, and, in particular, what type of coverage children are receiving. CCF issues annual reports on children's uninsurance rates by geographic location, socioeconomic status, race/ethnicity, and age based on ACS data.i

The passage of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) has led to substantial changes in national health coverage systems. Among other changes, a major new publicly funded source of health coverage is the availability of premium tax credits to purchase coverage in new Marketplaces. However, the ACS health insurance series is not designed to pick up enrollment in the Marketplace. In order to understand this new coverage landscape, data sources must be updated to reflect changes to the shifting health system and provide accurate and timely health statistics. This requires detailed data that accurately captures the sources of public and private coverage available to children and families. Without data at this level, we are less able to understand how children are

1166 We are writing on behalf of the Brookings Institution's Center on Children and Families to express our concerns about the proposed revisions to the American Community Survey (ACS). In particular, the removal of the five questions on marital history would negatively impact scholarship and policy about family formation. Access to quality data on marriage and divorce is vital for demographic research and we ask that you reconsider eliminating these survey questions.

If these questions on marital history are removed from the ACS, we lose important granularity in data on marriage and divorce rates. No other survey allows researchers to look at annual changes in relationship formation as accurately. National Center for Health Statistics stopped collecting data at a national level on marriage and divorce in 1996. As of the mid 2000s, six states – California, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Louisiana, and Minnesota – no longer report their numbers, meaning that estimates of national marriages rates are based on less than 80 percent of the country's population. Moreover, NCHS has not reported any statistics on marriage or divorce based on state reports since 2011. The other surveys that collect data on marriage, such as the National Survey of Family Growth or Survey of Income and Program Participation, do not collect data yearly and data issues with both (e.g., limited age sample, underreporting of divorce statistics, etc.) make them less ideal sources for this information. If the questions are dropped from the ACS, we will no longer have reliable annual counts of the number of marriages and divorces in the United States.

The five ACS marital history questions not only provide researchers with information on aggregate rates of marriage and divorce, but also with a large enough data set to look at rates within sub-groups. For our research specifically, these questions have allowed us to look at changes in marriage rates across both income groups and race. In smaller surveys, cutting the data into sub-groups – say, looking at marriage rates for Black female college graduates – runs up against small sample sizes.

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The landscape of family formation is changing rapidly with important implications for child and family well-being, economic inequality and mobility, and policy decisions at both the state and federal level. The proposed elimination of these questions on marriage hinders researchers' and policymakers' ability to document changing relationship choices of Americans and predict future trends in family formation. We urge you to reassess the decision to remove these questions.

1167 As I understand it, the Census Bureau has proposed to discontinue collecting marriage and divorce data in your American Community Survey. Speaking as the President of Marriage Savers, which has helped 230 cities reduce their divorce and cohabitation rate - this step by Census would be a huge mistake. Perhaps you do not know that six states no longer report their numbers of divorces to the National Center for Health Statistics: California, Minnesota, Indiana, Louisiana, Georgia and Hawaii. Therefore, NCHS incorrectly estimated there were only 850,000 divorces in 1998, when in fact there were about 1.1 million.

However, I was so pleased that the Census Bureau added questions on marriage and divorce to your American Community Survey (ACS) about 2008, which gave the first national data on divorces that is credible. As I understand it, the ACS is a huge survey of 3.5 million households who are asked 72 questions. Census is proposing dropping 7 of them to save money. As you know, pollsters like Gallup predict a Presidential race based on only 1,000 interviews. So the ACS has to be incredibly accurate, with 3.5 million people contacted. What it revealed was that the nation's number of divorces was 1.2 million a year, or 100,000 more than was estimated by extrapolating NCHS data of 3.6 divorces per 1,000 people. More important, we could see that there were an estimated 120,000 divorces in California, 41,000 in Georgia, etc. – states which are not collecting the data. How will anyone in those states plus MN, IN, LA and HI know what their state's divorce trends are, if Census stops gathering data?

Please see the memo written by Marriage Savers Board Member John Crouch, in which he makes the case that this data provides invaluable information about one's overall chances of divorcing, how long marriages last, the divorce rate for people of various ages, educational level, etc. Click to this link to read his two page analysis: http://divorcereform.us/urgent-census-bureau-to-stop-studying-marriage-and-divorce/

Marriage Savers
According to an independent study of the work of Marriage Savers by the Institute for Research and Evaluation, in our first 114 cities, where we helped churches create a Community Marriage Policy, divorce rates fell an average of 17.5% in seven years and cohabitation fell by one-third. The Institute estimated that from 1986 through 2001, these 114 cities saved between 31,000 to 50,000 marriages from divorce. With 13 more years in those original cities, and with twice as many cities with Community Marriage Policies at present (230), probably 100,000 marriages have been saved from divorce due to our work. Indeed, in nearly a tenth of our cities, the divorce rate plunged 50% or more such as Austin, Kansas City, KS, Salem, OR, Modesto, CA and El Paso. In fact the rate plunged 79.5% in El Paso, according to the Institute. Result: for the past four years, El Paso has had America's lowest crime rate.
(In 2010 this city of 665,000 people had only 5 murders while Washington DC, with 47,000 fewer people, had 132 murders that year.) Austin was America's 4th safest city. For more information, see the attached "Overview of Marriage Savers."

Marriage Matters, which is why it is crucial we have credible data on marriages and divorces in America.

If you disagree with my analysis, please write me to explain your reasoning.

1168 I would like to suggest that as long as the Census Bureau is surveying the American public, the following 5 questions should be retained in the questionnaire:

As per the solicitation for input from the public…

…as a citizen, I make my position known to the Census Bureau as follows: The institution of marriage is a pillar of our society & therefore if any question would be relevant for the government to ask, it would be a question related to the most foundational institution of our society. Noting that the fiscal consequence of family fragmentation in America is over $1,000,000,000,000 (one-trillion) every ten years, it would make sense for the government to be aware of the health of the marriage culture in our society & support it as the public good that it has been demonstrated to be.

1169 I support keeping Question 12 on what graduates studied should be kept as a census question.

1170 Dear Ms. Jessup. Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on the consideration of elimination of Question 12 of the American Community Survey or "field of degree" question by the U.S. Census Bureau. Please note Kutztown University's opposition to the proposed removal in the attached document.
[Text from attachment...] As Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies at Kutztown University of Pennsylvania in Kutztown, PA , I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and feedback on the American Community Survey (ACS) Content Review Results.

The goals of graduate study at Kutztown University are to (a.) prepare students to pursue increasingly independent scholarship and creative investigation in their disciplines, which may include further graduate study; (b.) enable students receiving graduate degrees to perform at more advanced levels of employment in their professions; and, (c.) better prepare students for a competitive and professional world market. We offer over twenty master's programs spanning an array of disciplines including art education, business administration, communication design, computer science, counseling, elementary and secondary education, English, instructional technology, library science, public administration, social work, and student affairs. In addition, Kutzown and Widener University participate in a collaborative agreement wherein qualified students who have successfully completed our M.Ed. Reading program are admitted into Widener's Ed.D. program in Reading/Language Arts. More recently-approved programs are the Professional Science Masters (PSM) in Computer Science and the Masters of Fine Arts in Communication Design (MFA). The PSM is affiliated with the Council of Graduate Schools and prepares students for positions in technology-specific industries or in the IT departments of various industries; in particular, project managers, database and network administrators, security managers, and directors of IT departments. The MFA in Communication Design is the first offered in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education and in the Lehigh Valley and Berks County. It is the terminal degree in the field and is required for employment in post-secondary education or to provide a competitive advantage for career advancement.

In my capacity as Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies, I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question 12 (Undergraduate Field of Study), where respondents are asked to provide specific major(s) of any bachelor's degrees received by the person with the highest degree in each household.

Many national sample surveys rely on the results of the ACS to construct a stratification sample design that most accurately reflects the true population of interest, and "specific major(s) for a bachelor's degree" is a key variable that allows researchers and policy makers to examine outcomes of postsecondary education with respect to fields of study. This is crucial for the graduate education community because postsecondary outcomes, including post-baccalaureate pursuit and workforce participation vary by discipline.

This is critical in the recruitment of students, design of new programs, understanding of local, regional, national, and international workforce needs, and assessment of Kutztown University's contributions to the higher education community and our students.

The proposed elimination would make it impossible for any national sample surveys, including NSCG to reliably capture potential field effects on postsecondary outcomes, which would impact our ability to utilize these data for public purposes. To this end, as Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies, I urge the

1171 Please see my attached comments regarding the removal of Question 12 of the American Community Survey (ACS)
[Text from attachment…] As [personally identifying information removed], I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and feedback on the American Community Survey (ACS) Content Review Results.

The Graduate School (TGS) administers 63 PhD programs and 38 Masters' programs, and has a total fall enrollment in 2014 of 3,980 students. In the 2014 U.S. News and World Report rankings, fifteen of our graduate programs were ranked in the top 25.

In my capacity as an institutional researcher I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question12 (Undergraduate Field of Study), where respondents are asked to provide specific major(s) of any bachelor's degrees received by the person with the highest degree in each household.

Many national sample surveys rely on the results of the ACS to construct a stratification sample design that most accurately reflects the true population of interest, and "specific major(s) for a bachelor's degree" is a key variable that allows researchers and policy makers to examine outcomes of postsecondary education with respect to fields of study. This is crucial for the graduate education community because postsecondary outcomes, including post-baccalaureate pursuit and workforce participation vary by discipline.

One of the three pillars of The Graduate School's Strategic Plan is Diversity. Data from the ACS is useful in monitoring the numbers and demographics of individuals with baccalaureate degrees, particularly in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) majors. With this information we can plan our recruiting efforts and assess the success of our programs.

The proposed elimination would make it impossible for any national sample surveys, which would impact our ability to utilize these data for assessment and strategic planning. To this end, as the Associate Director of Research and Analysis of The Graduate School I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question 12 in the ACS.

1172 It is widely recognized that science and engineering are key components to fostering growth of the US economy. Across the political spectrum individuals call for encouraging more people to study in the STEM fields of science, engineering and math and what we can do as a country to accomplish this goal. An understanding of characteristics of scientists and engineers is key to fostering and building this work force. Currently, a major source of information on the number of scientists and engineers the United States comes from question 12 on the ACS. This question allows us to measure in a straightforward way the numbers of individuals with degrees in these fields, where they live and where they work. Moreover, the question provides the basis for the sampling frame for the NSCG which is the gold standard for understanding the career paths of scientists and engineers over time. Without this question, it would be considerably more expensive and cumbersome to draw a sampling frame for this important survey since it would require first sampling by occupation rather than by degree. It would also mean that the sampling frame could not be updated with as much frequency. If our nation wants to remain competitive, it is essential that we have excellent information on the workforce that is most responsible for growth. I urge the US Census to retain question 12.
I speak from experience as a long term user of NCSES data, both as a researcher and as a panel member on numerous National Research Council Committees.

1173 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing the questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1174 Please continue to gather data on marriage in the US. I am an historian who values and uses this information when examining social changes in status of women.

1175 Please be advised that data collection about marriage and family, in all of its forms and durations, are VITAL to understanding our country's cultural shifts. Data regarding family structure, marital commitment and its successes or failure, is of the utmost importance to the understanding of our societal stability.

Therefore, please DO NOT remove questions about marriage, divorce, widowhood, remarriage, same-sex marriage, cohabitation, etc. from the ACS. We fund surveys for the very purposes that these questions answer.

Thank you so much for your attention to this request.

1176 I am writing to urge the Census Bureau to reconsider its recent decision to remove several questions about marriage and divorce from the American Community Survey (ACS). My understanding is that although the cost of asking these questions has been found to be low, the questions are slated for removal because the benefit of asking them has also been deemed to be low. I respectfully disagree with the latter conclusion. On the contrary, these questions provide unique insight on demographic trends that have very important implications for public policy on numerous fronts, and thus dropping them would effectively destroy the nation's ability to monitor or investigate trends and patterns in marriage and divorce, their causes, and their consequences.

As you may be aware, over the past twenty years there has been a sharp deterioration in the availability and quality of data on U.S. marriages and divorces. While it had previously been straightforward to find administrative data (often exact counts) on those transitions at the state level, or across major demographic groups, nearly all of those data series have been discontinued, and it has even become surprisingly difficult simply to estimate those statistics from the survey data that do remain available. Indeed, I am unaware of any surveys other than the ACS that are reliable for this purpose, a fact that makes the proposed changes especially harmful.

The elimination of these questions would also be troubling because patterns of marriage and divorce are central to the analysis of a wide range of public policy concerns. A partial list of important issues affected by those patterns includes

a. Major issues in public finance – including forecasts of outlays for Social Security (as some people may qualify for benefits through their spouse's earnings), revenues from the personal income tax and outlays for social insurance programs (both of which are mainly based on household income, rather than individual income), and the value of housing subsidies and food stamps.

b. The future population and labor force – Since married couples still have much higher birth rates than observably similar unmarried persons, trends in marriage and divorce play an important role in forecasts of future birth rates, and by extension, in forecasts of the future demand for education, the future supply of labor to the military and to the civilian labor force, and the nation's ability to absorb immigrant flows.

c. Fundamental questions of social policy -- How, if at all, do public policies (e.g., features of divorce law, marriage penalties in the tax code) affect marriage and divorce rates? Insofar as they do, what are their implications for poverty rates and other important outcomes? Such questions are inherently difficult to answer, but the task would be much harder and perhaps impossible if we did not have large, household-level surveys that included data on each of the relevant issues.

This final point highlights another important advantage of the ACS over other surveys that cover marriage and divorce: additional information about respondents that can be used to investigate the relative responsiveness of different persons to variation in policies. Other data sets that include information on marriage are either so small in size that it is difficult to assess behavioral responses to particular causes, or else greatly limited in terms of the individual/household-level information

1177 Please do NOT remove questions on marriage and family life from any survey or census. To do so discredits and dismisses the family as the foundation of civil society and represents one more way the government is trying to take away our freedoms and traditions.

1178 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends. Nor will future genealogists be able to learn more from future census.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1179 As you are most likely aware, U.S. marriage rates have reached their lowest level, and their is a push to eliminate questions about marriage, divorce and widowhood in the Annual American Community Survey (ACS). I would like to urge you to maintain these questions in the upcoming, as well as all future, surveys.

1180 I am writing to respond to the request for comments about the elimination of questions relating to marital history. In my opinion, these questions are vital, for both policy-related and social scientific reasons.

They are a valuable tool in understanding and anticipating the uptake of important social programs, chiefly Social Security, but also TANF and other household-based support programs.

The questions are also vital to understanding demographic --- that is to say, social, economic and health-related -- changes in the U.S population. . Marriage creates a legal obligation for mutual support and for the raising of children. Understood in this way, one can see that marriage is especially important in assuring the wellbeing of children and old people.

The elimination of these questions would severely damage our ability to understand ongoing changes in American society and to implement effective policy responses.

1181 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Many felt that the last U.S. Census was ill-constructed, asking about perceived "race," yet confusing "race" with language, while failing to ask for place of birth… the worst census in U.S. history!
Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

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Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention!
I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1182 I do object to the removal of marriage from the ACS.

Please do not take this information away.

1183 I do not want the marriage question removed from the census

1184 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

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1188 I am strong opposed to removing Questions 21a-c, 22, and 23 concerning marriage from the American Community Survey. As a professional librarian, I work with a variety of students and faculty researching marital issues and the data derived from these questions is crucial to informing their research on public policy issues in multiple disciplines. More importantly, being able to effectively document marital trends is a vital public policy issue. The anti-police unrest being initiated by mobs across the country for purported police brutality, is a direct result of the decline of traditional two-parent heterosexual marriage in many sectors of society; particularly in ethnic minority communities. Vast libraries of empirical data demonstrate that children who grow up without stable two-parent heterosexual families, particularly those without fathers, are far more likely to engage in criminal behavior, anti-social activity, and have poor educational performance records. Consequently, it is far more likely that these individuals will become dependent on government social assistance programs which are already strained to the breaking point by a surge in entitlement program spending dating back to the Johnson Administration's disastrous "Great Society" programs.

Preserving heterosexual marriage must be a vital public policy issue and it is imperative that sound data on marriage, such as that provided by the American Community Survey, be retained to inform public policymaking and academic debate on this subject.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1193 I am writing to implore the Department of Commerce to keep Person Question No. 12 in the American Community Survey. This question asks respondents to print their specific major (or majors) for earned bachelor's degrees.
The Council on Competitiveness (Council) is a forward-looking group of leaders working together to set an action agenda to drive U.S. competitiveness, while generating innovative public policy solutions for a more prosperous America. The Council depends on the field of degree question in the American Community Survey for several of its initiatives including the National Engineering Forum.
There is a debate roiling around the country on whether or not America is producing enough scientists and engineers to remain global leaders in the types of innovation that create national prosperity. In response, the Council and its partners have launched the National Engineering Forum – a platform for national and regional leaders from academia, industry, business, government, and media to develop actionable solutions to the challenges facing American engineering: the capacity of our technical talent to fill future jobs, our engineering workforce's capability to address 21st century challenges, and our competitiveness in a global economy. The engineering challenge of capacity, in particular, cannot be understood without benchmarking the type of degree students are earning each year in the United States.
The National Engineering Forum is just one example of how the Council uses this data. Science and engineering talent is arguably the most important driver of U.S. competitiveness and, thus, it is imperative that national leaders understand this resource as thoroughly as possible. This nation cannot set a strategic path if we do not know where we stand.
Once again, I urge you to keep the field of degree question in the American Community Survey.

1194 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

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1195 The attached document is in response to Federal Register Notice (Vol. 79, No. 211 / Friday, October 31, 2014) of Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; The American Community Survey Content Review.

We hope to persuade the Department of Commerce to retain the marital questions that it is proposing to delete. These questions are critical for developing our estimates that are required by law.
[Text of attachment...]This notice proposes removing marital history items on the American Community Survey (ACS). The Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 401(c)) requires the Board of Trustees to report annually on the actuarial status and financial operations of the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) and Disability Insurance (DI) Trust Funds. The Office of the Chief Actuary (OCACT) at the Social Security Administration is responsible for the modeling that produces the results in this report. Additionally, the population projections, which form the basis for these results, are used for the estimates in the President's Budgets and in the annual reports of the Board of Trustees on the actuarial status and financial operations of the Medicare program. An important aspect of this modeling is estimating future populations by marital status. Individuals who are or were married may be eligible to receive benefits on the record of their spouse or ex-spouse.

In order to project populations by marital status, the following items are needed:
1. Distributions of new marriages for historical years, by single year of age of spouse one crossed with single year of age of spouse two.
2. Tabulations of existing marriages in historical years, by single year of age of spouse one crossed with single year of age of spouse two.
3. Distributions of new divorces, by single year of age of spouse one crossed with single year of age of spouse two.
4. Remarriage rates by age, sex, and prior marital status.

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The OCACT currently uses many of the marital history questions marked for possible deletion, and plans to use the rest of them in future modeling enhancements.

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1203 The American Community Survey (ACS) is essential to the scientific community; it provides key information about educational attainment that paints a picture of our nation's pipeline of STEM leaders. To continue to serve our nation's scientists and engineers and to maintain our overall competitiveness, we need to protect this critical data. We urge the Census Bureau to preserve the ACS' "field of degree" question, providing important information about scientists and engineers in the U.S. workforce.

National, state, and local policymakers, the National Science Foundation (NSF) and other Federal agencies, researchers, and many others rely on the ACS' "Field of Degree" question (Question 12) to produce the nation's only source of comprehensive information about the U.S. science and engineering workforce. Specifically, the ACS "Field of Degree" question enables NSF's National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) to identify scientists and engineers, a rare segment of the U.S. population. Elimination of this question will reduce the quality and utility of data essential to fulfilling NCSES' mandate to "...collect, acquire, analyze, report, and disseminate statistical data related to the science and engineering enterprise in the United States." Among the specific impacts, elimination of this question will adversely affect the quality and availability of data for the National Science Board's Science and Engineering Indicators report and the Women, Minorities, and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering report, both mandated by Congress.

The American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE) believes that retaining Question 12 on the ACS will ensure our nation continues to have available the highest quality data on the scientific workforce through the most efficient and cost effective means possible. Colleges, universities, and businesses may use this information to bridge gaps between the educational attainment of potential workers and the educational requirements of potential employers. Researchers use this information to investigate changes in educational attainment over time. In sum, the ACS "Field of Degree" question is invaluable and serves to support the scientific enterprise and we urge you to maintain its presence on the survey.

The American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineers (AIMBE), founded in Washington, D.C. in 1991, is the consistent, authoritative voice and advocate for medical and biological engineering's value to society. We are a non-profit organization of the top 2 percent of the most elite medical and biological engineers responsible for medical innovation and discovery.

1204 Attached, please find the response of the Southeast Michigan Census Council to the Federal Register request for comment on the ACS Content Review.
[Text from attachment…] I will comment separately on each of the three items proposed for deletion from the American Community Survey.

H6 - Business or Medical Office on Property

This item is a remnant of the decennial census question which was formerly used, along with other items, to determine if an owner-occupied housing unit should be included in the universe for value calculation. Under current standards, the respondent's estimate of housing value is tabulated for all housing units.

We strongly object to the current blanket value calculation applied to all owner-occupied units. In particular, we think it is inappropriate to include multi-unit structures in which one unit is owner-occupied and the others are rented, as these buildings clearly have a different value basis than do single-family homes. We understand, and agree with, the decision to include condominiums–where the value is based on a single unit–in the tabulation, but not multiple-unit structures with mixed tenure situations, and not farms of more than 10 acres. We urge the Census Bureau to revisit this decision and evaluate its impact, particularly in northern and midwestern central cities with a large number of mixed-tenure structures.

We are concerned that there are no tabulations of H6, so that its usefulness cannot even be tested. We requested such a tabulation, at the national level, but have yet to receive it. Potentially, the item could be very useful for imputing business startups and other kinds of self-employment which may be more important in the current labor market.

P12 - Undergraduate Field of Degree

We disagree the recommendation to delete this item. Several issues feed in:

• The item provides the basis for a sampling frame for National Science Foundation surveys, as well as base data for analysis of STEM training. Without it, NSF will have to conduct special surveys.

• The item is new. It just emerged in the 5-year ACS tabulation. Data users have not yet had time to evaluate the ways in which it can be useful. In particular, they may be helpful in economic development applications, providing information on the workforce available to companies considering locating in a particular area.

• Research comparing field of degree with employment status, occupation, industry, and earnings can shed important light on the relationship between majoring in a particular

1205 I have several comments and suggestions about the proposal to remove seven questions from the American Community Survey questionnaire.

•□□□□□□□□□□First, I support this suggestion from the University of Minnesota / Robert Wood Johnson Foundation State Health Access Data Assistance Center (SHADAC):
"The ACS represents an invaluable annual source of health insurance information at the national, state and local level. With its large sample size, it is also the source of information on insurance coverage, or lack of coverage, among subpopulations of interest, including disparities populations. The introduction of the Health Insurance Marketplace dramatically changed the way health insurance is purchased; however, the ACS health insurance series is not designed to pick up enrollment in the Marketplace. Tracking enrollment in the Marketplace is important given the resources invested to provide broad access to quality health insurance products. As the Census Bureau contemplates removing items outlined in the Federal Register, please consider adding 'Marketplace' to the list of sources of coverage and adding additional questions on premiums and premium subsidies aimed at tracking the health insurance market."

•□□□□□□□□□□As suggested by SHADAC, here are some additional questions that could be asked around the availability and accessibility of health care coverage:

- o Cost of coverage
- o Out-of-pocket expense – actual $ amount
- o Out-of-pocket expense – as % of income
- o Number of times having used health care services
- o Number of times having used pharmacy services
- o Distance to nearest hospital, clinic, pharmacy, etc.
- o Travel time to nearest health care facility

•□□□□□□□□□□'Low utility' is not the same as no utility. Even if of comparatively less value than other questions, it might be better to continue collecting the data than to discontinue it. Particularly if the questions are not replaced with others designed to collect higher-value data. It would be worth considering what might be disrupted or impaired if the collection of certain data was discontinued.

•□□□□□□□□□□I think Housing Question #6, Business / Medical Office on Property, might be redesigned to ask instead the distance from home to the nearest health care provider. This would be a re-purposing from assessing property value to instead assessing access to health care services. Also, the redesigned question

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[Text of attachment...]This notice proposes removing marital history items on the American Community Survey (ACS). The Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 401(c)) requires the Board of Trustees to report annually on the actuarial status and financial operations of the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) and Disability Insurance (DI) Trust Funds. The Office of the Chief Actuary (OCACT) at the Social Security Administration is responsible for the modeling that produces the results in this report. Additionally, the population projections, which form the basis for these results, are used for the estimates in the President's Budgets and in the annual reports of the Board of Trustees on the actuarial status and financial operations of the Medicare program. An important aspect of this modeling is estimating future populations by marital status. Individuals who are or were married may be eligible to receive benefits on the record of their spouse or ex-spouse.

In order to project populations by marital status, the following items are needed:
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1208 Hello, Ms. Jessup -- I just wanted to state that I'm in favor of retaining the seven questions listed here: https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2014/10/31/2014-25912/proposed-information-collection-comment-request-the-american-community-survey-content-review-results

as I feel they aren't too burdensome to answer and could potentially be useful for public policy. (However, I would say that the first, dealing with a business on the property, does sound a bit useless.)

1209 This is a brief note to asking you to continue to ask about marital status in the U.S. census. This information is vital to our work regarding the development of safe, stable families for children. Fortunately, I live in California were same sex marriages are recognized and this is not an issue for us. In the long run all relationships will be come recognized. It would be short sighted to remove this category now. It would be like not including marriages with different racial backgrounds. Please continue to collect this vital statistic as messy as it is. Thank you.

1210 This email is a plea for you to save the marriage and education question on the chopping block for the ACS.

These questions allow researchers to track demographic shifts in ways that would be lost without them.

Save the questions!

1211 I wish to strongly endorse the position of the Population Association of America and other organizations that it is vital to retain questions about marriage and undergraduate field of study in the American Community Survey.

As a researcher in labor and demographic economics, the former director of the Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology at the University of Washington and current associate director of the Broom Center for Demography at UC Santa Barbara, I have had ample opportunity to see an extraordinary amount of valuable research utilizing these data series in the ACS. The five questions on marital history and single question on undergraduate field of study make a unique contribution to our knowledge of the life histories of a broad sample of Americans—there are no good substitutes in other data sources for the information they provide.

In current research with Robert Pollak, we examine the diverging family experiences of Americans at the top and bottom of the income distribution. This project explores the implications of this divergence for the intergenerational transmission of poverty and relies heavily on ACS marital history data. I am beginning another project that analyzes the opposing gender gaps in college completion and income—why do women acquire more education but still earn less than men—and field of study choices will continue to play a pivotal role in explaining this phenomenon.

The elimination of these ACS questions will inhibit the design of evidence-based and effective public policy that relies on rigorous social science research. I support my colleagues in urging that they be retained.

1212 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1213 Please keep marriage and divorce questions in the ACS.

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1215 As Vice Provost for Graduate Studies at the University of Pittsburgh in Pittsburgh, PA, I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and feedback on the American Community Survey (ACS) Content Review Results.
Graduate study is prominent at the University of Pittsburgh. Our University offers 236 master's and doctoral degrees across 14 schools. Typically, we have about 10,000 enrolled full-time and
part-time graduate students.
In my capacity as Vice Provost, I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question12 (Undergraduate Field of Study), where respondents are asked to provide specific major(s) of any bachelor's degrees received by the person with the highest
degree in each household. Many national sample surveys rely on the results of the ACS to construct a stratification sample design that most accurately reflects the true population of interest, and "specific major(s) for a bachelor's degree" is a key variable that allows researchers and policy makers to examine outcomes of postsecondary education with respect to fields of study. This is crucial for the graduate education community because postsecondary outcomes, including post-baccalaureate pursuit and workforce participation vary by discipline.
Not having this question in the census would make benchmarking and understanding the educational make-up of communities very difficult. On my campus, I am very interested in tracking the placement of both humanities and STEM undergraduates. Data are needed to ensure that we understand the placement rates for students in these disciplines.The proposed elimination would make it impossible for any national sample surveys, including NSCG to reliably capture potential field effects on postsecondary outcomes, which would impact our ability to utilize these data for public purposes. To this end, as Vice Provost for Graduate Studies, I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question12 in the ACS.

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1218 Divorce stats are crucial to understanding community behavior and children's needs.

Please don't remove stats from your forms.

Please don't help the erosion of family and the need for our family's to be unified under God.

1219 [Text of attachment...]This notice proposes removing marital history items on the American Community Survey (ACS). The Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 401(c)) requires the Board of Trustees to report annually on the actuarial status and financial operations of the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) and Disability Insurance (DI) Trust Funds. The Office of the Chief Actuary (OCACT) at the Social Security Administration is responsible for the modeling that produces the results in this report. Additionally, the population projections, which form the basis for these results, are used for the estimates in the President's Budgets and in the annual reports of the Board of Trustees on the actuarial status and financial operations of the Medicare program. An important aspect of this modeling is estimating future populations by marital status. Individuals who are or were married may be eligible to receive benefits on the record of their spouse or ex-spouse.

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2. Tabulations of existing marriages in historical years, by single year of age of spouse one crossed with single year of age of spouse two.
3. Distributions of new divorces, by single year of age of spouse one crossed with single year of age of spouse two.
4. Remarriage rates by age, sex, and prior marital status.

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) stopped collecting detailed marriage and divorce data from the states in the late 1980s. Thus, data needed for projections by marital status is essentially nonexistent. It is possible to get detailed data from some states. However, many states charge fees and many states will not give the data out at all. Thus, there is no way to get complete detailed marriage and divorce data, which represents the whole country, without the ACS. Furthermore, it is very time consuming to compile state data for those states that agree to provide us with data because of different formats and age groupings of the data. States will not give the data by single year of age as is needed. Compiling data from various states would take months, requiring us to ask each state for the data, receive the data, validate the data, and compile the data together after accounting for different formats and age groups. This would take a tremendous amount of time. In addition, those states providing the data may not be representative of the United States as a whole.

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The OCACT currently uses many of the marital history questions marked for possible deletion, and plans to use the rest of them in future modeling enhancements. In addition, the OCACT requests adding one more question to the ACS dealing with marriage and divorce: "What is the current age of your current or last spouse?"

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1221 I have been informed that there is a proposal to remove questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys – questions 21a-21c, 22, and 23. I am strongly opposed to this proposal.

Marriage is a foundational institution upon which the health of our society depends. As the institution of marriage has declined, a host of societal and economic problems has increased. President Barack Obama, in his 2008 Father's Day address, cited alarming statistics about the disadvantages of children growing up without a father actively involved in the home.

We must continue to monitor statistics related to marriage. I strongly encourage you to leave all questions related to marriage status in the survey.

1222 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

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1224 I strongly object to ending field of study items on the Survey. I am a professional policy analysts and this would render it nearly useless for people interested in science policy.

1225 Do not remove the marriage / divorce from the ACS.

1226 To whom it may concern:
I object to the removal of marriage in the ACS!

1227 I object to the removal of marriage from the ACS!
The ACS is the ONLY way to estimate marriage and divorce rates on local, state and national levels. The National Vital Statistics System does not collect key socioeconomic information, is missing divorce data for one-fifth (20%) of the population of the U.S., and provides no information at the county or city level.

This is clearly another step by the government to disassociate its policies from their impact on the American family and the institution of marriage.

Please do everything in your power to reinstate.

1228 Please add me to the people who wish to see marriage questions to remain on the ACS.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

1229 As a principal user of the American Community Survey (ACS) at the Social Security Administration (SSA), I wanted to make sure I sent a response to the federal register notice. We rely on the ACS to provide marriage and divorce data in order to produce population estimates for the annual Social Security reports of the Board of Trustees. Our Social Security benefit structure requires that the population be broken out by age, sex, and marital status. Thus, this information is critical to our financial estimates. The attached document goes into further detail. [Text of attachment...]This notice proposes removing marital history items on the American Community Survey (ACS). The Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 401(c)) requires the Board of Trustees to report annually on the actuarial status and financial operations of the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) and Disability Insurance (DI) Trust Funds. The Office of the Chief Actuary (OCACT) at the Social Security Administration is responsible for the modeling that produces the results in this report. Additionally, the population projections, which form the basis for these results, are used for the estimates in the President's Budgets and in the annual reports of the Board of Trustees on the actuarial status and financial operations of the Medicare program. An important aspect of this modeling is estimating future populations by marital status. Individuals who are or were married may be eligible to receive benefits on the record of their spouse or ex-spouse.

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As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1231 I am writing to express my opposition/concern regarding the information that the Census is considering removing the questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. It is the foundation of our culture and we need to be able to detect trends, information, etc.
As a taxpaying citizen, I believe that if the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.
Removing these questions is the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions which are vital to the strengthening of our society.

1232 I am writing regarding the proposed removal of several questions from the American Community Survey (ACS). On behalf of the more than 10,000 members of the American Physiological Society (APS) I urge you to reconsider the proposed elimination of "Person Question No. 12—Undergraduate Field of Degree" because it provides critical information about the state of the scientific workforce in America. Eliminating this question would severely hinder the work of the National Science Foundation's National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) and various efforts to ensure that the U.S. has the scientific workforce it needs.

The current and future health of the nation's economy is dependent upon an educated, talented and innovative scientific workforce. In order to support the development of this workforce, policymakers need quality comprehensive data about how many Americans are obtaining scientific degrees. We would also note that the National Science Board (NSB), which provides independent advice to the President and Congress on science and engineering policy matters including education, has raised serious concerns about whether the NCSES will be able to carry out its Congressionally-mandated mission in the absence of this critical data. As a scholarly society, the APS offers a number of programs designed to increase the participation of under-represented minorities and persons with disabilities in the scientific workforce. (The National Institutes of Health has recognized the importance of increasing diversity in the workforce and has made this a strategic priority.) The APS relies on the National Science Foundation's Women, Minorities, and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering report for strategic planning and to design programs to reach these populations. Eliminating the undergraduate field of degree question would make it more difficult to design effective programs of this kind. For this reason also we urge you to reconsider eliminating the undergraduate field of degree question.

The APS is a professional society dedicated to fostering research and education as well as the dissemination of scientific knowledge concerning how the organs and systems of the body work. The Society was founded in 1887 and now has more than 10,000 member physiologists. Our members conduct federally-supported research at colleges, universities, medical schools, and other public and private research institutions across the U.S.

1233 I am responding to the proposal to remove several questions from the American Community Survey.

Firstly, I strongly urge the Census and Congress to continue to collect information on the field of study for post-secondary degree holders and whether or not people are married.

Secondly, the process to identify costs and benefits of given questions should take a more rigorous approach that includes whether or not the information is used by the taxpayers and others in things like academic research publications, media reports, and various white papers and policy briefs. Such bibliometrics would show whether or not these questions are being used by the general public, which is more important than their use by government agencies in assessing their value to the United States. Without detailed information from the census, it is impossible for the public to hold government accountable in its stated efforts to improve the general welfare of the American people.

On the field of Bachelor's degree, this questions has been enormously valuable to social scientists, philanthropists, policy makers, and educators. I have used it in countless reports and presentations to help establish the need to graduate more students in high-demand fields like computer science and engineering and to establish patterns of racial and ethnic disparities in attainment of these high-value skills. I have also used it in various academic and social science reports to assess the value of college curricula.

Without this question, there is scant information from other public data—or any source—about the specific skills of American workers, much less at small levels of geography. Yet, it is becoming increasing clear that demand for specific skills in science and technical fields and other subjects is high and growing. The number of annual graduates in these fields from American colleges is available from the Department of Education, but there is no other measure—except for the American Community Survey—of the stock of people and workers with these skills. Field of study is an incredibly valuable piece of information in assessing labor market mismatch and the value of a given college curriculum. In fact, this question should be given to anyone with a post-secondary degree and should be directed towards the highest degree level or even all degrees. It is also vitally important to know how many people have associate's degrees in fields like nursing, computer science, and engineering technologies. NSF surveys of doctoral degree holders may be sufficient to avoid this question in the Census data, but the NSF survey cannot allow researchers to know with any geographic detail where these skilled workers actually live and work.

On marriage, there is a large social science literature—see Isabell Sawhill and Sarah McLanahan, for example—establishing that children born to married couples are more likely to earn higher salaries as adults, attain higher levels of education, and otherwise achieve social success. It would be a great shame if these data became unavailable at the level of the census tract, city, county, and other low levels of geography.

Thank you for considering these comments.

1234 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and how they heat their house, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

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As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.
Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1241 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1242 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I must insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.
Sincerely,

1243 Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this brief email to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. I am writing today to express my concern that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage is an important institution and in the last several years, we have seen this institution decline. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends. Other questions on the ARC relate to much less important issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC.

Furthermore, the removal of these questions represents a marginalization of marriage. As an American citizen, I value marriage and I know many others who do as well. Marriage is the core of the family and as the institution of marriage deteriorates so will the institution of the family. Strong families are the key to a strong society. The benefits of understanding marriage trends and supporting the institution of marriage are important to our nation and to me. I urge the Bureau to leave these questions as a part of all future ACS questionnaires.

I appreciate your help and your service to our nation.

1244 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1245 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1246 As a Realtor who serves families, I am concerned that the Census is considering removing the questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships, being foundational to our culture and society. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends. How then can we strengthen our culture?
As an active citizen who pays taxes and votes, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their race and their ancestry, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status. After all, marriage is an active institution in all races and forms our ancestry.
Removing these questions detach our focus on the institution of marriage. I'm concerned by the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I insist you reconsider, and hope you will continue to include these questions.

1247 I am hoping to let you know that I feel marital status is an important question to keep on a census. Over the course of history, it has been very beneficial to use the census' for genealogical purposes and to identify family members and their roles in that household. Without these questions, we will be hard pressed to know who exactly is in the household in what capacity.

I find it less important to know things like size of house or number of bedrooms, if there is internet or not than to know about the actual people themselves, their ties to each other and their education and career choices.

1248 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government’s attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1249 I am writing to protest the proposed dropping of marriage and divorce related questions from the American Community Survey. I respectfully ask that you leave the existing questions in all future ACS surveys.

As you know, there are many of us in the research profession who rely heavily upon the Census Bureau to provide information that helps us serve our constituencies and advance the health of American society. Because marriage is one of the most critical building blocks of our nation, having a regular and reliable source of information about marriage and divorce and their correlates is critical. The sampling process and sample size of the ACS gives the resulting data a level of credibility that is not achievable by by national surveys that use smaller sample sizes, sometimes dubious sampling procedures, increasing diminished response rates, and varied question wording. The ACS data has become a reliable source of dependable information for many of us who appreciate what the Census Bureau does and count on the availability of critical pieces of data from its surveys.

Abandoning the marriage/divorce questions will require many of us to seek replacements for the Census Bureau data – which we know from experience will be a futile search. Even if we were to identify alternative sources of such information we would have to start an entirely new body of tracking data that will be less reliable, less frequent, and more costly to each of us individually. The Census Bureau research is providing an invaluable service to all of us who rely upon that data for developing our sampling frames, for assessing the validity of survey samples, for analyzing accurate statistics about marriage and divorce, and for correlating marriage and divorce data with other factors measured in ACS research.

I have been conducting national and statewide research studies for more than 30 years and constantly publish and teach based upon such research. The information provided by the Census Bureau is invaluable in framing, supplementing, and correcting my own and other research that exists. I am sympathetic to the need to cut costs – we all face those choices in our research on a regular basis – but hope you will be able to identify an alternative to eliminating the marriage and divorce questions.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to provide the highest quality data possible.

1250 I am very concerned that the Census is considering removing the questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. If the Census agency removes questions relating to marriage, which is unique among all human relationships, there will be no way to detect changing trends in this important relationship and institution.
As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status!
Removing these questions is symbolic of the government’s attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply concerned that the federal government does not consider these questions important. Please continue to include these questions!

1251 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government’s attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1252 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government’s attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1253 I am concerned that the Census Bureau is considering removing questions about changes in marital status from future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships, particularly heterosexual marriage, as it impacts the raising and educating of the next generation. Recent trends show that marriage as an institution is in decline. If we quit asking the questions, we will not be able to monitor or validate such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I request that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23 of the Census questionnaire. People's current marital status is too important to not track via data collection.

It would seem that in some quarters, the current thinking is that marital status is irrelevant to whether or not children can be raised in a healthy environment. If we assume for a moment that this is correct, doesn't it make sense to collect data to actually prove that this is true, rather than not collecting the data? I hope the Census Bureau will continue to include these questions.

1254 It troubles me to hear that your agency may soon drop the questions concerning marriage and divorce from your questionnaires. If this is done the United States will become the only country in the developed world that does not generate annual age-specific rates of marriage and divorce. This would be a detriment to our society as the importance and necessity of marriage would no longer be visible. Please don't stop collecting this vital information that we may continue to learn how important marriage is for our society.

1255 I am submitting a comment concerning the proposed revisions to the ACS survey. You should retain question 12 in the survey and list philosophy as a separate discipline distinct from religious studies. These two disciplines are very different and the careers available to each discipline are different.

1256 I am writing to request that the below question NOT be removed from the American Community Survey. It is a critical question for researching the impact of one's major on ultimate occupation.

"Person Question No. 12—Undergraduate Field of Degree—This question focuses on this person's Bachelor's Degree. Please print below the specific major(s) of any Bachelor's Degrees this person has received."

1257 Please find attached a comment from the American Geosciences Institute on
the proposed changes to the American Community Survey. If you have any
questions, please feel free to contact me.
[Text from attachment…] On behalf of the American Geosciences Institute (AGI), a federation of 50 geoscience societies, I am writing to request that Person Question No. 12 - Undergraduate Field of Degree continue to be incorporated into future American Community Survey questionnaires.
Though Question 12 has been classified as a low-benefit, low-cost question overall for the ACS, we believe that for the agencies in the science community and their external partners, this question is the critical cornerstone to understand the technical workforce in the United States, and thus is a high-benefit question. One of the long-standing roles of AGI has been the measurement, monitoring, and promotion of a robust domestic geoscience workforce in support of the economic and security needs of the United States. AGI accomplishes this task in coordination with federal agencies, especially the National Science Foundation, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, along with other scientific societies, and members of our community. Not only do our federal partners rely on the results of the ACS, but so do all of our non-governmental partners such as universities, societies, and industry, as it provides a critical whole-population insight and facilitates the ability for us to understand the relationship in the labor market between various science, technology, engineering, and mathematics disciplines. All of these disciplines form an ecosystem in support of economic development in the U.S., and often trends that affect one science field reverberate across all of the fields.
Understanding the dynamic of the geoscience workforce, and its relationship to and distribution within, the entire U.S. population allows AGI to inform college and university programs, employers, and science agencies about key dynamics in human capital to allow for them to appropriately plan their programs and activities. The loss of a key delimiter of our community in such a critical national data collection effort will greatly impede our mission and will likely lead to either suboptimal actions by the science community in human capital investment or the shifting of the cost of collecting the required data to our federal data partners, such as the National Science Foundation.
I encourage the review subcommittee to retain Question 12 in its current form, especially as it is classified as a low-cost question, but we feel the impact is substantial to science agencies and their partners in ensuring the utility of this critical source of national data.

1258 As a long-time educational researcher and evaluator in the Washington, DC area, and as a member of the American Educational Research Association (AERA), I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and feedback on the American Community Survey (ACS) Content Review Results.

I have conducted research and performed evaluations for more than two decades on matters concerning higher education. This includes my current role as director of research and policy analysis at the Council of Graduate Schools.

In my capacity as an educational researcher and evaluator, I urge the U.S. Department of Commerce to retain Person Question12 (Undergraduate Field of Study), where respondents are asked to provide specific major(s) of any bachelor's degrees received by the person with the highest degree in each household.

A number of national sample surveys rely on the results of the ACS to construct a stratification sample design that most accurately reflects the true population of interest, and "specific major(s) for a bachelor's degree" is a key variable that allows researchers and policy makers to examine outcomes of postsecondary education with respect to fields of study. This is crucial for the graduate education community because postsecondary outcomes, including post-baccalaureate pursuit and workforce participation vary by discipline.

For example, the Women, Minorities, and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering report, which is mandated by the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (Public Law 96-516) and depends upon question 12. Similarly, the Council of Graduate Schools uses data from the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics' National Survey of College Graduates (NSCG) to populate an online resource to promote financial education of graduate students. Without question 12, this resource would be considerably less useful.

The proposed elimination of question 12 would make it impossible for national sample surveys, including NSCG, to reliably capture potential field effects on postsecondary outcomes, which would impact my ability to utilize these data for public purposes. To this end, as I urge the Department of Commerce to retain the question.

1259 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1260 I'm writing to show concern about the removal of questions (20, 21a-c, 22, 23) from the ARC. I'd like to request that they remain on the form. I have used that census data on many occasions. I also value marriage and it seems that the deletion of those items shows lack of value for marriage.
I hope you will pass this info to the appropriate parties, and that those items will remain on our census.
Thanks for your work on all this!

1261 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1262 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing the questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.
As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their home heating fuel and number of cars, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.
Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1263 Please see the attached letter.
[Text from attachment…] Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the notice of proposed changes to the American Community Survey (ACS). The notice identifies seven questions for possible removal from the ACS based on the results of the 2014 Content Review. We support removing those questions. We also encourage the Department to consider using some of the newly available slots to add several more questions about health insurance. The ACS represents an invaluable annual source of health insurance
information at the national, state and local level. With its large sample size, it is also the source of information on insurance coverage, or lack of coverage, among subpopulations of interest, including disparities populations. The introduction of the Health Insurance Marketplace dramatically changed the way health insurance is purchased; however, the ACS health insurance series is not designed to pick up enrollment in the Marketplace. Tracking enrollment in the Marketplace over an ongoing
period is important given the current dynamic nature of the health insurance market and the resources invested to provide broad access to quality health insurance products.
As the Census Bureau contemplates removing items outlined in the Federal Register, please consider adding 'Marketplace' to the list of sources of coverage and adding additional questions on premiums, premium subsidies, and utilization and adequacy of cost-shaving related to Marketplace products and consumers.
This would help us at the Virginia Health Care Foundation greatly as we use the Census and ACS data each year to develop the most up-to-date Profile of Virginia's Uninsured.
Thank you for your consideration.

1264 I, as with many others am outraged that you are considering is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Normal marriage, as you may be aware, is entirely different from other shack up and dysfunctional sexual and cohabitational relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, it will be impossible to detect such destructive trends and take steps to promote healthy genuine marriage.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is more than symbolic of the government’s current attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the notion that you, or or others in the current corrupt activist federal government doe not consider these questions valid and worthy of attention. I insist that you will continue to include these questions on the survey and stop tinkering with a procedure that has always been understood to be a necessary barometer of the health of marital relationships and families of this nation.

1265 The Florida Legislature's Office of Economic and Demographic Research {EDR) has comments regarding the American Community Survey Content Review Results notice published in the Federal Register, Volume 79, Number 211, on Friday, October 31, 2014. The notice addressed seven questions that are slated for removal from the questionnaire, but the question of particular interest and concern to our office is "Person Question No. 12 - Undergraduate Field of Degree".
EDR uses responses to "Person Question No. 12 - Undergraduate Field of Degree" to evaluate the State's labor market, estimate its educational training needs, and support the development of appropriate policy measures to address critical labor market and education issues. The State of Florida assesses and takes a particular interest in ensuring that Florida's trained workforce can meet the needs and demands of business and also serve the needs of its citizens. In order to accomplish this, Florida must have a thorough understanding of the educational attainment of its residents, in addition to knowing the number of graduates in order to ensure that the demand for jobs can be met.
In order to accurately identify areas of need-which are inclusive of occupations and industries where the supply of workers falls short of the demand by business-the State of Florida must have access to pertinent data to support its formal decision-making processes. Part of this arsenal of data is the undergraduate field of degree. Of primary importance, the use of this data facilitates a discrete assessment when a shortage is determined to exist in a specific occupation or area of study. This assessment addresses issues such as: 1) the number of workers who are not currently employed in their field of study, or 2) the number of residents who are not currently in the labor force, but may qualify for identified occupation or area based on their field of study; both of which may be enticed back into that area in order to fill the labor shortage.
Essentially, in order to fully assess the shortage in a given occupation, Florida must understand the educational attainment of its labor force, both employed and unemployed, along with its demographic
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characteristics. This can only be accomplished by using the American Community Survey, Person Questions 11 and 12 in tandem. Person Question 11 identifies the level of educational attainment, whereas Person Question 12 identifies the field of study for undergraduate degrees. For example, if Florida identified nursing as a shortage occupation, it would be beneficial to understand the number of current residents who do not work in the nursing field, but who have been awarded nursing degrees.

1266 As Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of The Graduate School at the University of Connecticut in Storrs, CT, I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the American Community Survey (ACS) Content Review Results. The Graduate School of the University of Connecticut enrolls more than 6500 masters and doctoral students more than 100 subject areas, and we award more than 1800 masters and doctoral degrees every year. In addition to the traditional M.A., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees, we offer both Professional Science Masters degrees and a variety of professionally-directed masters and doctoral degrees, e.g., Master of Business Administration, Master of Engineering, Doctor of Nursing Practice, Doctor of Audiology, and Doctor of Education.
In my capacity as Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of The Graduate School I urge you to retain Person Question 12 (Undergraduate Field of Study), where respondents are asked to provide specific major(s) of any bachelor's degrees received by the person with the highest degree in each household.
Many national sample surveys rely on the results of the ACS to construct a stratification sample design that accurately reflects the population of interest, and "specific major(s) for a bachelor's degree" is a key variable that allows scholars and policy makers to examine outcomes of postsecondary education with respect to fields of study. This is crucial for the graduate education community, because postsecondary outcomes, including post-baccalaureate education and workforce participation vary by discipline. For
example, we use data from the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics' National Survey of College Graduates (NSCG) to gain insight into national trends in career outcomes of graduate degree recipients by specific fields. These data also help us to understand demographic trends among students receiving bachelor's degree that we can compare with trends among our own graduate students.
Eliminating Person Question 12, as proposed, would make it very difficult if not impossible for any national sample surveys, including NCSG, to capture effects of undergraduate major on postsecondary outcomes. I urge you to retain Person Question 12 in the ACS.

1267 I am writing you today as the State Demographer for the State of Michigan. I serve in my capacity to assist the state's leaders and citizens in understanding the population dynamics of Michigan. I feel that it is incumbent upon me in my position to write and argue strongly against the proposed action described in the Federal Register on October 31, 2014. Specifically, the removal of questions regarding the field of study for Bachelor's degrees and a number of questions regarding marital status/history would diminish the ability to perform several analyses that are extremely valuable to Michigan.
I understand the need for the ACS to be cost effective and to reduce the burden to respondents, but I would argue that these questions are clear and the cost for collection is relatively low. That cost seems even lower when a consideration is made of the benefit derived from these questions.
Regarding the undergraduate field of study question (12):
Elimination of this question will hamper researchers in education and workforce development. The importance of understanding what talent a state and local area possesses is critical in retaining and attracting business and industry. The data produced by this question adds a great deal to the ability of states and researchers to identify the educational characteristics of relatively small areas and populations. Elimination of this question would leave a major gap in the ability of a state to understand its workforce.
Regarding the marital status/history questions (21a-c, 22, and 23):
There is simply not another data source for nationally representative data sufficient to produce reliable estimates for small population subgroups. These questions have great value in determining and forecasting need in a variety of programs including Social Security and state health and human services programs. While many of these data are available to states, there will not be a mechanism to make comparisons across state lines if these questions are removed. In addition, these questions are important for social researchers when looking at how generational marriage patterns are changing.
Without these data each state will be unable to see if the changes it is experiencing are being felt
nationally.
It is my sincere hope that you will consider retaining these questions in the American Community
Survey.
Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

1268 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing the questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status. Without such continuous data, it will be very difficult for states and social scientists to accurately assess the impact of government policies impacting the family, past and future, in order to correct course where necessary.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1269 The American Community Survey (ACS) represents an invaluable annual source of health insurance information at the national, state and local level. With its large sample size, it is also the source of information on insurance coverage, or lack of coverage, among key subpopulations of interest, including racial/ethnic minorities. The introduction of the Health Insurance Marketplace under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) dramatically changed the way health insurance is purchased in the United States; however, the ACS health insurance series is not designed to pick up enrollment in the Marketplace. Tracking enrollment in the Marketplace is important given the resources invested to provide broad access to quality health insurance products. As the Census Bureau contemplates removing items outlined in the Federal Register, please consider adding 'Marketplace' to the list of sources of coverage and adding additional questions on premiums and premium subsidies aimed at tracking the health insurance market. By eliminating some of the secondary questions on education, housing, or prior marital history it would be possible to provide invaluable information on an important current health coverage issue.

1270 The American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed changes to the American Community Survey. We
are especially concerned with the recommended elimination of question number 12, relating to a person's undergraduate field of study, and urge the retention of this question. The AIBS is a nonprofit scientific association dedicated to advancing biological research and education for the welfare of society. AIBS works to ensure that the public, legislators, funders, and the community of biologists have access to and use information that will guide them in making informed decisions about matters that require biological
knowledge. Founded in 1947 as a part of the National Academy of Sciences, AIBS became an independent, member governed organization in the 1950s. Today, AIBS has more than 140 member scientific organizations and institutions.
The information collected in question number 12 is essential for understanding the scientific and technical workforce of the United States. The National Science Foundation (NSF) is reliant upon this data to prepare its Science and Engineering
Indicators report, as well as other analyses that inform policymakers about trends in the
labor market. Moreover, the inclusion of this question in the American Community
Survey is a cost effect means of collecting this information. NSF would spend
considerably more money to conduct a stand-alone survey to obtain this data.
Please retain the question on undergraduate field of study in the American Community

1271 I am responding to this issue as a private citizen, not as a representative of the federal government agency in which I happen to work.

I have worked for many years on economic growth, trying to understand all I can about U.S. economic growth and any ways of possibly trying to improve U.S. economic growth.

One of the key connections in growth is the connection between human capital or labor quality and technological change or productivity growth.

In this connection, the American Community Survey question on what subjects college students studied and majored in is valuable information on the link between human capital and productivity. I do not believe one can obtainthis information anywhere else, on a basis which ties this variable together with soo much more critical information on other relevant variables.

Please keep this series in the American Community Survey.

1272 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you stop asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends, which drive decisions and resources.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage and the increase in entitlements. I find it problematic that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions going forward!

1273 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1274 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I strongly encourage you to continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1275 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

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1277 Any government survey should have questions about marriage that have always been asked.

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1280 I have been informed that there is a proposal to remove questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys – questions 21a-21c, 22, and 23. I am strongly opposed to this proposal.

Marriage is a foundational institution upon which the health of our society depends. As the institution of marriage has declined, a host of societal and economic problems has increased. President Barack Obama, in his 2008 Father's Day address, cited alarming statistics about the disadvantages of children growing up without a father actively involved in the home.

We must continue to monitor statistics related to marriage. I strongly encourage you to leave all questions related to marriage status in the survey.

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As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1285 I have heard that the Census Bureau is considering removing the questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. This concerns me greatly, and I ask you not to drop those important questions.
Marriage is a vital relationship that binds a man and woman and allows a child to enjoy the benefit, right actually, of a mother and father. When marriage rates decline, children suffer and so do communities and, in turn, our nation. Statistics of fatherlessness bear this out. We are reaping the results of some of the decline in marriage right now, and monitoring those trends through the use of the ACS and other means is vitally important for the health of our nation and its future generations. Certainly these questions in your survey are much more important than questions about plumbing, internet use and what type of computers we own! Please retain the marriage questions that will help to track what I hope will be an improving trend in this institution: questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. Surely you and others in our government, when stepping back and looking at what is really critically important for our nation's future, can see that our country is formed by families and communities. The healthier the family, the healthier the communities and nation. The healthier the family (mom, dad and children), the higher the level of education, the higher the sense of security, the higher the income, the lower the crime rate, and so on. This is deeply important statistical information.
Thank you for considering this request.

1286 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.
As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.
Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1287 I have heard that the U.S. government is considering removing questions about marriage and the changes happening to it from the future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. It is trying to be redefined and this is a serious mistake as the bedrock of any society is the strength of it's homes. Recent trends in marriage show that the institution of marriage is in decline. We as a society need to know what is happening to this institution given to us and if questions about it are removed from the American Community Surveys we won't be able to detect if it is improving or declining.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about the change in marital status.

I view this slight of hand by our government as symbolic of it's disregard for Biblical marriage that has stood the test of time and produced children raised by a father and mother and is the hearts cry of every child. Our society seems fixated on pleasing adults and taking little regard for the well being of the coming generations and what is best for them. I deeply resent the idea the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. Please keep these questions in our Census.

1288 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about the number of cars in their household and the type of fuel to heat their home, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1289 [Text of attachment...] As the Department of Commerce considers changes to the American Community Survey, the Education and Labor Taskforce of the Congressional Black Caucus writes to urge you to retain the "Undergraduate Field of Degree" question (Question 12) on the American Community Survey. A workforce that is both highly-educated and diverse strengthens our economy by promoting innovation in business and industry, increasing worker earnings available to purchase goods and services, and supplying government revenue to support national interests. Unfortunately, people of color and women remain significantly underrepresented in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields. In 2010, only 4.6% of U.S. science and engineering jobs were held by African Americans and only 5.2% by Hispanics.1 In 2008, 10.3% of the total U.S. population were in the Professional, Scientific, Management and Administrative Services industry; however, only 7.7% of Cambodians, 6.8% of Hmongs, and 5.2% of Laotians actually held these types of jobs. Further, women represent only little more than one quarter of our science and engineering jobs. 2 The "Field of Degree" question serves as a fundamental tool in understanding the diversity in STEM fields and whether public policies to decrease this underrepresentation are working over time. The National Science Foundation as well as higher education stakeholders use these estimates to inform how science and engineering graduates fare in the job market. Indeed, approximately 25 of the 40 tables in the employment section of the Women, Minorities, and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering report authored by the National Science Foundation rely on the "Field of Degree" question. These tables provide important information about employment in field, earnings, and full-time employment by gender, race/ethnicity, age, and occupation. For example, from this report we know that, although Black males and females are 6% of the resident population in the U. S. each, they are only 3% and 2% of the scientists and engineers working in science and engineering occupations, respectively.3 Similarly, although Hispanic males and females are each 8% of the U.S. resident population, they are only 4% and 2% of the scientists and engineers working in science and engineering occupations.4 Interestingly, although about 50% of African American and Latino men and women earning STEM degrees work in non-STEM occupations, African American and Latino men are much more likely to work directly in STEM occupations rather than their female counterparts, who are more likely to work in STEM-related occupations. Specifically, 24% of African American employed scientists and engineers who are men and 27% of Latino employed scientists and engineers who are men work in STEM occupations, whereas only 15% of African merican women and 11 % of Latina women earning STEM Bachelor's degrees work in these fields. The "Field of Degree" question further informs earnings and level of employment. These data indicate that the median annual salary of white scientists and engineers employed full-time is $72,000 compared to $60,000 for African Americans, $60,000 for Latinos, $64,000 for Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and $59,000 for American Indian/Alaska Natives.5 The patterns identified by these data indicate that more targeted policies are needed to improve diversity in science and engineering and to ensure equal economic opportunity among scientists. Further, without the "Field of Degree" question, we will have no information on the number of science and engineer degree earners who attended community colleges. Given that community colleges educate more Latino and African Americans students than four-year institutions, understanding the role community colleges play in STEM degrees is significant for understanding and promoting diversity in STEM fields. The increased participation of groups that are underrepresented in the STEM fields is essential to supplying the American economy with the expertise our nation needs to remain the world's most
innovative and prosperous nation. The "Field of Degree" question on the American Community Survey is an essential indicator of diversity in the STEM workforce that informs federal policy and institutional decision making. The information provided by this question helps policymakers invest limited federal resources to expand the skilled labor force, improve innovation, and enhance America's global competitiveness. We urge you to maintain the "Field of Degree" question.
1 National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (20 14). Science and Engineering Indicators 2014. Washington, DC: National Science Foundation. www.

1290 Please find attached a letter from Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX), Ranking Member of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, in response to the Comment Request for the American Community Survey Content Review Results. A hard copy of this letter has also been placed in the mail. [Text of attachment...] The purpose of this letter is to urge you to retain the "Undergraduate field of degree" question (Question 12) on the American Community Survey (ACS). Our nation's prosperity, security, and competitiveness is strongly dependent on our ability to recruit, educate, and train a workforce with 21st century science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) skills. In crafting national policies to support and encourage the development and maintenance of a STEM workforce to meet our nation's needs, Members of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee rely heavily on the data and analyses enabled by the response to Question 12. So do policymakers at all levels, as well as researchers and the institutions of higher education that educate our students.
When Congress created the National Science Foundation in 1950, we charged the Foundation with providing a "central clearinghouse for the collection, interpretation, and analysis of data on scientific and engineering resources ... " In the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010, the Science, Space, and Technology Committee codified this mission through the establishment of the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES). Among the specific requirements we assigned to NCSES was collecting, analyzing, reporting, and disseminating statistical data on the science and engineering workforce. Likewise, the Science and Engineering Opportunities Act of 1980 requires NSF to provide Congress with "an accounting and comparison, by sex, race, and ethnic group and by discipline, of the participation of women and men in scientific and engineering positions .. ; [and] ... an assessment ... of the proportion of women and minorities studying scientific and engineering fields."
The "Field of degree" question on the ACS has been essential to NCSES 's ability to caITy out its congressionally mandated responsibilities, and consequently it has been essential to Congress, and especially to my Committee to effectively carry out our own oversight and legislative responsibilities. I have been informed by NCSES that they have commissioned several repmis to explore all other options for collecting this information and that all such reports have concluded that there are no practical, viable alternatives. I further understand that ifNCSES were forced to collect these data in an alternate fashion, the cost in taxpayer dollars would likely rnn in the tens of millions of dollars and would

1291 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government’s attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.
Marriage of a Man and Woman to begin a family is the basic institution of self reliance. The destruction of Marriage between a Man and Woman begins the poverty cycle and the reliance upon a ‘government’ to supply basic necessities and remove individual freedoms.

1292 I have heard that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. This is not a good idea because marriage is foundational for our society. With the recent debate and court decisions regarding the definition of marriage, it is essential that we collect the data over many years to monitor the effects of public policy on the health of this important institution.

As a taxpaying citizen, I ask that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. I hope you will continue to include these questions in the Census.

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As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

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Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1295 Please continue to collect data on marital status in the US Census community surveys.

No one will be able to study whether (and how) marriage affects the community if we throw away the data set. I understand that recent trends show marriage on the decline, but if we stop collecting data, we will not know (in a quantitative, measurable way) how that trend plays out. If the Census removes the marriage questions because it is assumed that marital status is the same in all vital respects as overall relationship status, then that would be to assume what should instead be proven by means of such data sets - a fatal flaw in reasoning.

As a taxpaying citizen and someone affected by decisions based in Census data, I request that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. I would suggest that marital status of the head(s) of household has at least as much effect on the household and wider community as what type of internet and plumbing a household has. (Based on the preliminary data we already have, that would seem to be the case.)
I hope you will continue to include these questions. Thank you.

1296 In your role to create and conduct the coming U.S. Census, you are responsible for collecting information critical to formation of public policy. Such policy can either ensure...or ignore...the financial and personal well-being of our children and grandchildren. Alerted to your removal of questions about marital status, I must strongly object.

Demographic information collected by questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23 are of immense importance to policy makers. I strongly request that these questions be restored to the next census conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Born in 1951, as a teacher, mother and career administrator, I have witnessed the impact of marriage...and the decline of marriage...on families, children, and culture, as well as the economic stresses resulting from the broken family structures that rely on marriage.

Policy decisions in the next decade must address family formation and stability as the bedrock of American economics and culture. With a national debt rising by the trillions, your census must do everything possible to inform our national leaders about trends in marriage and ways to support healthy marriage. Entitlement programs will never ensure the security and well-being of our children.

1297 I am in full support of the attached letter. Citizens should make these decisions, not some disconnected bureaucrat in Washington. I'm tired of footing the bill for a worldview not of my choosing.

I am concerned that the Census is considering removing the questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.
As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.
Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1298 Please find attached my letter requesting that the "field of degree' question on the American Community Survey be retained. Thank you!
[Text from attachment…]I am writing to request that the Census Bureau and Commerce Department keep the question of field of degree in the American Community Survey. This data is essential to maintain the National Science Foundation's ability to provide mandated information on the health of science and engineering in the United States. The Science and Engineering Indicators report personnel data are one of the most important indicators of the ability of the United States to maintain its leadership in research and development and to be economically competitive in a global environment. Moreover, the field-of-degree data are important in and of themselves to better understand if we are producing adequate levels of scientists and engineers in various essential fields such as computer science, engineering, and the life sciences. These data also are the basis for additional surveys for which the National Science Foundation is responsible. Dropping this question would seriously damage the ability of NSF to provide the quality and availability of S&E personnel data which are used at the national, international, state and regional levels to assess the adequacy of our research and education policies and programs. Removing the field of degree question would also adversely affect another Congressionally mandated report: Women, Minorities and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering. These data are used to assess the equity and adequacy of access to education and employment in science and engineering fields by women and persons with disabilities and are therefore essential to policy decisions and legal determinations.
As an Executive Director of the University of Arizona - Southwest Institute for Research on Women (SIROW) at the University of Arizona, this data is of utmost importance to our institute and our research.

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Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

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As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1302 Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this brief email to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. I am writing today to express my concern that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage is an important institution and in the last several years, we have seen this institution decline. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends. Other questions on the ARC relate to much less important issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC. Furthermore, the removal of these questions represents a marginalization of marriage. As an American citizen, I value marriage and I know many others who do as well. Marriage is the core of the family and as the institution of marriage deteriorates so will the institution of the family. Strong families are the key to a strong society. The benefits of understanding marriage trends and supporting the institution of marriage are important to our nation and to me. I urge the Bureau to leave these questions as a part of all future ACS questionnaires.

1303 Please find attached a compact letter expressing the position of the CIC at Cayey about the proposed elimination of some questions in the ACS.

Please acknowledge receipt of this correspondence.
[Text from attachment…] As the director of the single Census Information Center in Puerto Rico, I would like to express our opinion on the proposed elimination of five questions in the ACS. In our jurisdiction, the ACS is the only database for questions regarding the field of bachelor's degree of the population and for the marriage-divorce dynamics.
The Puerto Rico Department of Health only counts the number of marriages and divorces in general, but we cannot use that data for knowing how many times a person has been married or match his/her socioeconomic status. Questions 21a, 21b, 21c, and 22 are very important for scholars, students, and professionals in diverse discipline such as social work or law.
On the other hand, question 12 is the only reference in Puerto Rico for researchers that would like to know the most common field in bachelor's degree. To mention just one example, universities need this information to plan their academic offering. Other database such as the Puerto Rico Department of Labor only counts the occupations and type of degree (e.g., number of associate's or bachelor's degrees) but not the field of study. The Puerto Rico Department of Education only has data for the students graduating each year, but does not have an estimate for the whole population.
Therefore, we are strictly opposed to the removal of questions 12, 21a, 21b, 21c, and 22 from the ACS questionnaire.

1304 Please find the attached letter in response to the proposed changes to the American Community Survey listed in the October 31 announcement.
[Text from attachment...] I am writing in response to the October 31 Federal Register notice requesting comments on the results of the American Community Survey content review. The American Community Survey (ACS) is an invaluable source of information on the demographic, economic and social well-being of the American population. As such, changes to the content of the survey have widespread implications. I am most concerned that the proposal to eliminate the ACS marriage history questions will limit the extent to which we can accurately estimate trends and changes in family formation and dissolution. This information is also needed to better interpret changes in children's living arrangements and well-being. The ACS is currently the only source for nationally representative time series data on marriage. Removing these items will significantly impact research and limit policymakers' ability to accurately design and implement necessary programs for children and families overall.
Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

1305 The proposal to eliminate questions about marriage, widowhood and divorce from the Annual Community Survey does not make sense to me. This is important data that provides a wealth of information about the status of family/marriage in our country. I am not directly involved in research that depends on that information from the survey; however, as a marketing and communications professional, I am well aware of the interest and demand for research of this kind. I would hate to see our ability to conduct valuable research undermined by this action.

Please reconsider the proposal to eliminate these questions and keep them as a viable means of valuable research for our country.

1306 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing the questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.
As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their ancestry and their type of computer, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.
Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1307 I was so very disappointed to hear that the ACS is thinking about cutting these questions:

In the past 12 months did this person get—Married?
In the past 12 months did this person get—Widowed
In the past 12 months did this person get—Divorced?
Times Married—How many times has this person been married?
In what year did this person last get married?

I hope ACS will reconsider. I am a scholar (Harvard PhD), author, and blogger and I have been writing about single life for well over a decade. I publish in academic journals, I write books, and I also write for, and am often quoted in, the press. (Here is my website: http://belladepaulo.com/.) The topics of marriage and single life are all over the media and everyday conversations. They are part of policy discussions and our laws. These are deeply significant issues for which we need reliable data. The ACS has been providing it. That should not stop.

1308 To whom it may concern:
I object to the removal of marriage in the ACS!

1309 On behalf of the Census Scientific Advisory Committee (CSAC), I am pleased to submit the Committee's response to the FRN on The ACS Content Review Results.

Please let me know if we can provide any additional information.

With every good wish.
[Text from attachment...] We are writing as members of the federally mandated Census Scientific Advisory Committee (CSAC), which gives advice to the Census Bureau on scientific matters. This is in response to the Federal Notice published October 31, 2014: Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; The American Community Survey Content Review Results.
As is noted in the Federal Notice, the American Community Survey (ACS) is the substitute for the long form of the United States Census. The ACS is used by a variety of government bodies at all geographic levels. It is also used for researchers to gain timely insight into the behavior of the United States population, which includes providing data analysis that is useful to the United States government.
This comment questions the general methodology used to choose items for suggested deletion, specifically critiques the deletion of three questions, and suggests the inclusion of one additional item.
The Methodology Behind the Recommendations for Elimination of Items
Despite repeated offers from CSAC to advise the Census Bureau on the ACS Content Review, we were not consulted. CSAC members only learned about the results of the Content Review and about the Content Review methodology from a Census webinar on October 14, 2014, after the review was complete.
Although we still have few details, we learned that the Content Review was based on a cost-benefit analysis. The cost of each question was assessed based on cognitive burden, sensitivity, complaints, median seconds to answer, and response rate. The benefits were defined as uses of the data by federal agencies, especially for the analysis of small geographic areas. It was noted by CSAC members on the Webinar that this was a very limited view of usefulness of items. Although the criteria were presented as objectively determined, they were not subjected to peer review, as far as we can ascertain. The definition of benefits was particularly narrow and ignored many uses of ACS items both by federal agencies and by the broader research community.
CSAC believes that the methods used to develop summary measures of costs and benefits were arbitrary and inadequate. A five-member advisory committee assessed each ACS item. For each ACS question, each advisory committee member assigned a score on each criterion (6 costs criteria and 13 benefits criteria). Some sort of summarization was done to arrive at an overall cost index and an overall benefit index for that question. It was unclear how the 6 cost criteria and the 13 benefits criteria were chosen, and it was unclear how the cost index or the benefits index were calculated.
The values of the cost and benefits indices for each ACS question were plotted on a graph, with costs on the horizontal axis and benefits on the vertical axis. A "Quadrant Analysis" was done, and the questions that fell in the lower right quadrant (low perceived benefit and high perceived cost) were to be set aside for removal. There were, however, no questions that had both low benefit and high cost. Accordingly, the Content Review recommended removing seven questions that fell into the lower left quadrant (low benefit and low cost).

1310 It has come to my knowledge that several questions concerning marriage and also a question concerning undergraduate field of degree are suggested to be removed from the ACS. As a researcher I strongly argue against such proposal. To be able to know marital history is very valuable information compared to only knowing the marital status, per se. Also the question on undergraduate field is a very valuable information. The survey contains detailed questions on incomes which can be highly interesting to study in combination with knowing undergraduate field. More detailed information is a very important advantage. Simply the level, or years, of education are often too crude information on human capital. I hope that these questions can remain as a part of ACS.

1311 Jennifer i am writing to let you know i fully object to the removal of martial status from the statistics collected by ACS. We must care about marriages and family statistics to stay in touch as a nation. Please do not remove these questions.

1312 I just read the above article at AWIS regarding identifying the field of degree for graduates. It is absolutely necessary to continue to look at that category so that we can observe progress and statistics. When you look at the article in its entirety it's still an issue of what the face of discrimination looks like and how the behaviors of discrimination manifest themselves. We still have to question whether in the 21st Century we take ideas, credit due, and other accolades from minorities and accredit them to others with hopes no one is offended. Are we past those behaviors? I don't know, but if not, then we still have much work to do in advancing minorities and STEM and even understanding the professions and demographics as a whole.

Here's a cross-sectional irony of success. The history of music for African Americans had very similar plights that STEM have. There use to be a time when a songwriter and performer could not have their face on a record and was covered by someone else. Can we see any of those tendencies exist amongst minorities and women (especially African American women) in STEM by the number of graduates and lack of reflection and representation in federal, public, private and corporate sectors? It's worth evaluating given the conversation regarding Question 12 and The American Community Survey Content Review Results.

My experience in music and science can validate the need to continue to not only monitor progress but advance progress in STEM. There is still great adversity experienced by minorities and women.

1313 Attached are the comments from The Ohio State University regarding Question 12 of the American Community Survey.
[Text froma ttachment…]In my capacity as Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Dean of the Graduate School, I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question 12 (undergraduate field of study) in the
American Community Survey. This question asks respondents to provide the specific major(s) of any bachelor's degrees received by the person with the highest degree in each household.
Many national sample surveys rely on the results of the ACS to construct a stratification sample design that accurately reflects the true population of interest. "Specific major(s) for a bachelor's
degree" is a key variable that allows researchers and policy makers to examine outcomes of postsecondary education with respect to fields of study. This is crucial for the graduate education
community because postsecondary outcomes, including post-baccalaureate pursuit and workforce participation vary by discipline.
I know that this question yields results that are very important for researchers at Ohio State. I consulted with colleagues and faculty in our Office of Institutional Research and Department of
economics, and they report that the field of degree question is very valuable for understanding the employment and wages of STEM workers. The ACS is also a go-to dataset for much research in labor
economics, and it would be a tremendous loss to lose the data supplied by this question.
Regarding graduate education at Ohio State, I rely upon national research conducted by the Council of Graduate Schools to support the development and assessment of graduate degree programs and
ancillary services. CGS employs the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics' National Survey of College Graduates (NSCG) to develop national benchmarks for career outcomes of master's
and doctoral degree recipients by specific fields.
The proposed elimination would make it impossible for any national sample surveys, including the NSCG, to reliably capture potential field effects on postsecondary outcomes. This would significantly
restrict our ability to use these data to support research that shows the effect and outcomes of in postsecondary education, including at the graduate level.
I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question 12 in the ACS.

1314 Undergraduate field of study is a critical question on the ACS. It is not only important to academics but also to policy makers. The ACS is used to weigh other surveys coming from other agencies such as the BLS, NCES, and NEA. This question is critical to the STEM debate as well as the immigration debate regarding high skilled immigrants.

1315 Dear Ms. Jessup: At a time in which cultural shifts in the composition of families have never been greater the elimination of the these questions could not be more misguided.
1. In the past 12 months did this person get—Married?
2. In the past 12 months did this person get—Widowed
3. In the past 12 months did this person get—Divorced?
4. Times Married—How many times has this person been married?
5. In what year did this person last get married?
I have attached the letter of Steve Ruggles of the University of Minnesota Population Center which explain, better than I could, why this information is critical to all professionals who work with families.

1316 I am writing to respond to the request for comments about the elimination of questions relating to marital history. I feel strongly that these questions are essential components of the nation's statistical infrastructure. Their elimination would severely damage our ability to understand ongoing changes in American society and to implement effective policy responses.
To understand the importance of the marital history questions, it is important to understand why they were introduced. Since the nineteenth century, statistics on marriage and divorce were derived from the vital registration system. These data were originally compiled by the Census Bureau, which published detailed reports about marriages and divorces each year. After World War II the responsibility for marriage and divorce statistics was shifted to a new agency, now known as the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). The main job of NCHS is to collect and analyze data on health. Marriage and divorce statistics were never central to the NCHS mission, and after 1990 the statistics on these topics began to deteriorate. In 1995, the agency concluded that the detailed statistics were no longer reliable, and decided to discontinue the program. The agency continued to collect a raw count of the number of marriages and divorces from each state. By 2005, six states representing 20% of the population had dropped out of the program, and with little funding the quality of reporting continued to decline. NCHS has reported no data whatsoever based on marriage and divorce records since 2011.
The deterioration of statistics on marriage and divorce created real problems for both planning agencies and for research in family demography. Enough data were available to know that we were in a period of unprecedented change, but not enough to understand the drivers of change or to project future trends. Two small surveys collected data on marriage and divorce—the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG) and the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), but they had other limitations. Both surveys ask respondents to report their entire marital
histories, which leads to recall biases. Neither survey provides data on an annual basis. The NSFG only covers people of childbearing age, and the sample size is so small that the confidence intervals are too large for most applications. The SIPP was never intended for this purpose, and it greatly understates divorce rates; in the most recent SIPP data, almost half of the divorced respondents failed to report the date of their divorce, greatly compromising the quality of the estimates. The poor quality of the data is doubtless in part because the SIPP requires respondents to report not only their own entire marital history, but also the complete marital histories of everyone else in their household.
In 2004, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) decided to pursue an alternative strategy to provide reliable, timely, and cost-effective data that would meet the needs of Federal agencies. DHHS requested that the Census Bureau investigate the feasibility of adding a set of questions to the American Community Survey (ACS) to address the problem. The ACS is the flagship survey of the American statistical system. The survey is very large, covering almost 3% of the population each year. This large size offered the opportunity for a new strategy for the measurement of marriage and divorce. Instead of asking for complete marital histories like the NSFG and the SIPP, the ACS could be limited to asking about marriages or divorces within the past year, greatly reducing the impact of recall bias. Moreover, by focusing on events within the past year, these questions can reveal current demographic behavior and provide a direct substitute for the vital statistics data.
The Census Bureau designed a set of five questions that together provide powerful tools for the study of marriage and divorce. In addition to the questions asking whether each person was married or divorced in the past year, there is a question on widowhood in the last year, date of last marriage, and number of times married. The latter three questions are needed for interpretation of the questions on marriage and divorce within the past year. They allow calculation of age-specific and duration-specific rates of marriage, divorce, and widowhood, which are the raw materials for population projections. These data allow analysts to build a statistical

1317 Please continue to solicit information about marriage status with the national census undertakings. I believe marriage is a foundational institution in society, and is the basic unit of family. Its presence or absence is absolutely critical to outcomes for children in all aspects of life.

I also believe that marriage benefits women and children primarily, and we need to know how people are living in regards to marriage status to understand problems in society today.

I am a teacher and a volunteer counselor for women in crisis pregnancies, and as such I often see the results when a marriage culture is undermined or eliminated.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

1318 Please do NOT eliminate questions about marriage, divorce and widowhood in the Annual American Community Survey!
Sent from my iPhone

1319 I URGE you not to eliminate questions about marriage, divorce and widowhood in its Annual American Community Survey (ACS).

1320 Please do not eliminate questions about marriage, divorce and widowhood in its Annual American Community Survey (ACS).

1321 Please do not remove marriage and divorce questions from the ACS!

1322 I am very concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.
Sincerely,

1323 Attached please find comments related to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2014 content review of the information collected on the American Community Survey, as outlined in document number 2014-25912 in the Federal Register (79 FR 64743, pages 64743-64745). Please consider this email as our request to include the attached document in the public comments related to the content review.

Our comments relate to Person Question 12. The attached document provides insight on how the information obtained from that question is necessary to help college students and their families make wise student loan borrowing decisions – something we are passionate about at Iowa Student Loan.

In addition to the attached document, we are sending the identical letter via USPS.

Thank you for the consideration of our comments.
[Text froma ttachment...] This letter is in response to the Census Bureau's notice regarding the American Community Survey Content Review Results on October 31, 2014. We would like to make your office aware that one of the questions slated for removal from the American Community Survey serves a valuable purpose and to advocate for its continued inclusion in the survey.
Person Question 12 asks survey respondents to provide the specific college major of household members who have a bachelor's degree. The information collected through this question and made available through the Census Bureau's Public Use Microdata Sample File is essential in helping student borrowers understand the reasonable limits of student loan borrowing based on their intended or actual majors.
The continued high level of student borrowing for college is a topic of much concern for policymakers, education authorities, and college students and their families. With student loan debt increasing annually and outstanding balances topping $1 trillion, many experts in higher education tout the importance of providing students and families with useful information at the time they make their student loan borrowing decisions. As a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping students obtain the resources they need to succeed in postsecondary education, Iowa Student Loan® and other organizations are working to help students and their families understand reasonable borrowing limits and ways to reduce their need to borrow.
To this end, Iowa Student Loan has developed two online resources that allow students to explore maximum recommended debt levels, expected starting salaries and availability of specific jobs within their career fields, all based on their intended major. Both tools rely on the information obtained from the American Community Survey. One of these, Student Loan Game PlanSM, is included as a required step in our private student loan applications. Applicants are asked to enter their intended loan amount

1324 Dear officials at the U.S. Census Bureau and Department of Commerce:
I am writing to express my concern about the removal of the question concerning Bachelor's degree major from the ACS after just five years.
The ACS is already well respected and comprehensive surveys that include education level and major are hard enough to come by as is. A number of recent reports (Brookings, AACU, Federal Reserve) have used the data and more are forthcoming as awareness of the data element increase.
As the department has categorized the question as a "low-cost" or low-burden question, it seems short-sighted to eliminate it when the benefits to researchers are just starting to bear fruit.

1325 The letter is quite good.

I looked at the ACS questionnaire, and wondered why some of the other questions were not considered. I also wondered how they has been slotted as high and low wrt benefit/cost.

[redacted] has asked us to make our comments on the ACS Content Review, by the end of this month. I hope that this feedback will have some impact.

1326 As Vice Provost for Academic Affairs at Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, Illinois, I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and feedback on the American Community Survey (ACS) Content
Review Results. Background Illinois Institute of Technology is a private, technology-focused, research university offering undergraduate and graduate degrees in engineering, science, architecture, business, design, human
sciences, applied technology, and law.
Comment In my capacity as Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question 12 (Undergraduate Field of Study), where respondents are asked to provide specific major(s) of
any bachelor's degrees received by the person with the highest degree in each household.
Rationale Many national sample surveys rely on the results of the ACS to construct a stratification sample design that most accurately reflects the true population of interest, and "specific major(s) for a bachelor's
degree" is a key variable that allows researchers and policy makers to examine outcomes of postsecondary education with respect to fields of study. This is crucial for the graduate education community because postsecondary outcomes, including post-baccalaureate pursuit and workforce participation vary by discipline.
CGS Employs the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics' National Survey of College Graduates (NSCG) to develop national benchmarks for career outcomes of master's and doctoral degree recipients by specific fields.
The proposed elimination would make it impossible for any national sample surveys, including NSCG to reliably capture potential field effects on postsecondary outcomes, which would impact our ability to utilize these data for public purposes. To this end, as Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question 12 in the ACS.

1327 I'm writing to respond to the request for comments about the elimination of questions relating to Bachelor's field of study in ACS. ACS is used as a sample frame for a major education dataset: National Survey of College Graduates (NSCG). The efficiency, attractiveness, and costs of the various designs for the NSCG depend on the form of the field of study question. As an education researcher, I am concerned that eliminating the questions relating to field of study will greatly harm the quality of NSCG. I hope that this proposed decision can be reconsidered.

1328 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1329 As an academic and practitioner in the area of family science, I urge your agency to retain the marriage questions in the American Community Survey. I am also interviewed frequently by journalists about the demography of marriage and divorce, and would be seriously handicapped (as would the general public) without access to this invaluable data.

1330 The U.S. Census Bureau is in the process of removing questions about marriage from its surveys. According to the Washington Examiner:
"Members of Congress and agencies rely on demographic data to shape policy. Marriage has been declining, and the presence of single mothers is among the largest factors in the growth of entitlement programs.
But the government soon may have no idea how marriage is changing in America and how it is linked to the well-being of children and adults. The American Community Survey is sent yearly to a small fraction of Americans and goes into more detail than the once-every-ten-years Census, which sticks to basics and to which all Americans must respond."
Removing questions about marriage from the Census is a small step. However, marriage matters. A tremendous amount of social science research shows that "marriage" really is more than a piece of paper. If we quit asking people questions about marriage, divorce, remarriage and the like, all s*xual coupling will be blurred together under the heading of "intimate partners" or "roommates."
I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.
Why, might you wonder, am I so interested in the questions in the Census Bureau, There are Three reasons.
First, I want to call to your attention this fact: the Sexual Revolution has been victimizing people for 50 years or so. How is this possible? By suppressing the harms caused by sexual license. Each person believes their own personal story is unique, and that any sadness, loneliness, loss or grief they experience is unique to them, and perhaps even, their own fault. Connecting the dots between the pain and the Sexual Revolution would be the beginning of the end of this destructive ideology.
Second and closely related: failing to ask the right questions can be a method of suppressing information. Conversely, asking the right questions is crucial to getting the right answers.
I do not really know the intentions of the individuals in the Census Bureau who are contemplating the removal of questions about change in marital status.
I can tell you these facts:
• Women are more likely to be murdered by their cohabiting boyfriends than by their husbands.
• Children are at significantly greater risk for fatal child abuse from their mother's cohabiting boyfriend, than from their biological parents married to each other.
• Second marriages are more likely to end in divorce than first marriages.
• Most divorces do not involve domestic violence.
We only know this information because someone asked the questions. And typically the "someone" who asked, was NOT the government. Researchers quite often

1331 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1332 I have learned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. That is very distressing to me, since I am a scholar and have many reasons to use that data in my scholarship, as do many other scholars and organizations. It is essential for us to have an accurate count of how many people in the US are married, since the trends concerning marriage reveal much about the health of a culture and the needs of a culture, particularly the children. We can often detect reasons for some problems when we know the state of marriage and when we know the reasons, we can find more suitable ways to help those affected by changes in marriage trends.
As a scholar and taxpaying citizen, I strongly urge that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. I can hardly think of a more important question to ask! (Other than the number of children!)
In the interest of giving the best service possible to the American people, especially children, I implore you to continue to ask questions about marriage status

1333 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I strongly believe we must continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. It is disturbing that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I must request that you will continue to include these questions.

1334 Marriage is the building block for a stable society. It is vital we continue to track changes in how people manage relationships. Please keep marital status in census.

1335 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

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As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1337 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends. As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status. Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1338 Attached is a signed copy of a letter containing the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials' (AASHTO) comments on The American Community Survey Content Review Results, published in the Federal Register on October 31, 2014. I have also included the text of the letter below for your convenience.
[Text of attachment...] The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) is pleased to provide comments on The American Community Survey Content Review Results, published in the Federal Register on October 31, 2014. AASHTO represents all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico and serves as a liaison between state departments of transportation and the federal government.

The Census Transportation Planning Products (CTPP) Program was established by AASHTO as a technical service program that supports both the State DOTs and the Metropolitan Planning Organizations by providing data derived from the American Community Survey (ACS) that supports the transportation planning and programming process. AASHTO is thankful that the content review process revealed the ongoing value of the Journey to Work and travel related questions on the ACS. The transportation data yielded from the Journey to Work questions are an essential input to long range transportation planning, travel forecasting, and myriad other tasks required of the many transportation planners at the federal, state and local level. In addition, AASHTO further supports any expansion of sample size being considered for collection of the ACS.

1339 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1340 I am concerned that the U. S. Census Bureau is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1341 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1342 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends. As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status. Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1343 I am concerned that the Censes is considering removing questions about changes in marital status and future American community surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a tax paying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21 83 21 see in questions 22 and 23. If the sun this has the time and the resources asked people about their plumbing and their Internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government attack on the Institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1344 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1345 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1346

I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends. The other information you gather will be void of most meaning if the very structure of our society is ignored. Stable man-woman marriage gives strength to a civilization and should be supported not ignored. Dropping the related questions gives the impression that committed marriage is of no value.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1347 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status. Furthermore, such information is important to social science research.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1348 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. Recent trends show the institution of marriage is in decline. If you quit asking questions you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and 22 and 23. Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I hope you will continue to ask these questions.

1349 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1350 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1351 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1352 I heard that the Census may remove the questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Tracking these changes is important in understanding the state of our relationships. Please continue to keep track of marriage by continuing to ask the following questions:
21a
21b
21c
22
23
Thank you for listening.

1353 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1354 I agree wholeheartedly with staff from SHADAC that ACS retention of health insurance information, and adding "Marketplace" enrollment and related questions, are very important resources for public health policy. I have copied their specific request below:

The ACS represents an invaluable annual source of health insurance information at the national, state and local level. With its large sample size, it is also the source of information on insurance coverage, or lack of coverage, among subpopulations of interest, including disparities populations. The introduction of the Health Insurance Marketplace dramatically changed the way health insurance is purchased; however, the ACS health insurance series is not designed to pick up enrollment in the Marketplace. Tracking enrollment in the Marketplace is important given the resources invested to provide broad access to quality health insurance products. As the Census Bureau contemplates removing items outlined in the Federal Register, please consider adding 'Marketplace' to the list of sources of coverage and adding additional questions on premiums and premium subsidies aimed at tracking the health insurance market.
Thank you for your consideration.

1355 I am displeased to learn about the removal of questions concerning marriage from the Census.
Many of us have a high regard for marriage and believe information concerning marriage is extremely important in regards to understanding a portion of our U.S. population.
I urge you not to take the step of removing marriage questions from our Census.

1356 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends. As history will prove, as the traditional institution of marriage declines, so goes the decline of the United States of America.

As a taxpaying citizen, I do not want to see the decline of this great nation and I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1357 Attached please find comments from the American Dental Association Health Policy Institute regarding the American Community Survey Content Review notice in the Federal Register dated October 31, 2014.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment.
[Text of attachment...] On behalf of the American Dental Association Health Policy Institute (HPI), we appreciate the opportunity to provide comment on the American Community Survey (ACS). HPI is engaged in ongoing analysis of critical issues in the dental care system, with the mission to inform strategic decision making among policy makers at the state and federal level, particularly as it relates to underserved populations.
In the last two years, we have published numerous studies relating to dental insurance coverage. Our research can be found here: www.ada.org/hpi. A key finding is that dental insurance coverage is declining for adults which is generating increased financial barriers to care, driving up emergency room use, and preventing many low-income adults from obtaining needed dental care. The Affordable Care Act has the potential to expand dental insurance coverage through both the health insurance marketplaces and through Medicaid.
Unfortunately, there are no reliable sources of data on dental insurance coverage at the sub-state level. The ACS, in our view, is the best instrument through which to collect these data. Having time-series data on dental insurance coverage via the ACS would allow a better understanding of the impact of alternative policy approaches taken by states to expanding dental insurance coverage, particularly for the poor. A host of other high-impact analyses would also be possible. Thus, including a question on dental insurance would be beneficial to stakeholders involved in improving oral health programs across the country.
We suggest the following addition to capture this data:
Adding a Dental Insurance Question:
Is this person CURRENTLY covered by any of the following types of dental insurance or dental coverage plans? Mark “Yes” or “No” for EACH type of coverage in items a-h.
a. Dental insurance through a current or former employer or union (of this person or another family member)
Page 2
b. Dental insurance purchased directly from an insurance company (by this person or another family member)
c. Medicare, for people 65 and older, or people with certain disabilities (specifically, a Medicare Advantage plan)
d. Medicaid, Medical Assistance, or any kind of government-assistance plan for those with low incomes or a disability
e. TRICARE or other military health care
f. VA (including those who have ever used or enrolled for VA health care)
g. Indian Health Service
h. Any other type of health insurance or health coverage plan – Specify
We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the survey

1358 The ACS is the premier source of information on the characteristics of the US population. Data in particular areas have been lacking and this is where the ACS has been extremely beneficial. Our knowledge and research in areas especially in higher education and of the STEM workforce have increased because of the ACS inclusion of the field of degree question. The elimination of the question on field of degree would leave with no data sources large enough to study these small but crucial academic areas and specializations. The field-of-degree question was introduced following recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences, after an extensive program of field testing and evaluation. The primary reason for the addition was to enable the ACS to serve as the sample frame for the surveys conducted by the National Science Foundation (NSF) for the Scientists and Engineers Statistical Data System. The availability of the ACS question has reduced costs and improved quality for NSF’s survey program. The ACS is the only survey suitable to provide the sample frame for the NSF surveys on the STEM workforce. The field-of-degree question is also one that higher education uses especially in context of analyzing the degree to work. Data in higher education is lacking and elimination of this question would limit the already limiting data sources in higher education. I hope that you would reconsider the removal of this question.

1359 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government’s attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1360 Bring back children ever born!!!!!!!

1361 Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this brief email to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. I am writing today to express my concern that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage is an important institution and in the last several years we have seen this institution decline. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends. Other questions on the ARC relate to much less important issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC.

Furthermore, the removal of these questions represents a marginalization of marriage. As an American citizen, I value marriage and I know many others who do as well. Marriage is the core of the family, and as the institution of marriage deteriorates so will the institution of the family. Strong families are the key to a strong society. The benefits of understanding marriage trends and supporting the institution of marriage are important to our nation and to me. I urge the Bureau to leave these questions as a part of all future ACS questionnaires.

I appreciate your help and your service to our nation.

1362 Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this brief email to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. I am writing today to express my concern that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage is an important institution and in the last several years we have seen this institution decline. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends. Other questions on the ARC relate to much less important issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC.

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1364 Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this brief email to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. I am writing today to express my concern that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage is an important institution and in the last several years we have seen this institution decline. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends. Other questions on the ARC relate to much less important issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC.

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I appreciate your help and your service to our nation.

1365 Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this brief email to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. I am writing today to express my concern that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage is an important institution and in the last several years we have seen this institution decline. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends. Other questions on the ARC relate to much less important issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC.

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I appreciate your help and your service to our nation.

1366 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status, right?

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions. Why would interest in my plumbing and internet use supersede a question on marital status?

1367 I am an attorney in Illinois, and am writing to comment on the Census' plan to remove questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys.

It is important to continue to ask about this important societal institution. Marriage is not like other relationships, as the same sex marriage debate demonstrates.

As you know, marriage in general is in decline, and we would not even know that, unless the question is asked.

As a lawyer and taxpayer, I recommend that we as a country continue to monitor the state of marriage in the U.S. by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23.

The Census asks a lot of mundane questions that don't have much impact on important societal trends, so it seems reasonable to me that marriage is a much more important question that there is time/room to ask about.

Further, to not ask a question about marriage is a further indication of our government's attitude to the institution of marriage, which is not reflective of that of everyday Americans.

Please continue to include marriage as a subject of inquiry in the Census.

1368 Please find attached (in PDF format) correspondence from[redacted] in connection with the above referenced matter. The attached document is a total of 7 scanned pages.
[Text of attachment...] I represent the Fellowship of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, which consists of over 1,600 of the premier family law attorneys in the United States. Not only do we represent people when they are most vulnerable during divorce and child custody proceedings but we work closely with the mental health and domestic violence researchers and advocates to assist us in serving the best interest and needs of the children. It is with some alarm that we learned only this week that the U.S. Census Bureau has proposed eliminating all questions on marriage and
divorce from the American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS gathers a great deal of information about the individual life experiences and characteristics of a very large sample of the population. This is where we obtain information about the correlations between marriage and divorce and other factors, such as the recent studies on how education, and age at marriage, affects the chances of divorce. This is also where we obtain divorce rates for particular groups and generations, measurements of the lengths of marriages, divorce rates for second and third marriages, and projections of the lifetime chances of divorce. Recent publications such as the Marriage Market by the Marriage Markets by June Carbonne, http: //www.amazon.com/Marriage-Markets-lnequality-RemakingAmerican/ dp/0199916586 would not be written without such information.
U.S. marriage rates have reached their lowest level in a century; rates of divorce remain high and we now have the advent of same-sex marriage. For the Census Bureau to propose elimination of questions about marriage, widowhood, and divorce in its Annual American Community Survey (ACS) is short sighted and without rational basis. The importance of this information to demographers, sociologists, and other professionals who study marriage and divorce is thoroughly discussed in the attached letter to you dated December 9, 2014 from Steven Ruggles, an expert in this area. If these questions are dropped, the United States will become the only country in the developed world that does not generate annual age-specific rates of marriage and divorce.
On behalf of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, I respectfully request that the marriage and divorce questions not be eliminated from the statistical

1369 I am the Archivist for the above Society and have a few comments on the changes proposed for future Federal Census. I also serve on the Publishing Committee for the reprinting and publishing of out of print books important to our area.

Both areas, the marital history (questions #21a-c, 22, and 23); and field of undergraduate degree question (question #12) are very important identifiers for tracing family members and verification of their relationship to survivors. Before you can reprint or publish an out of print book a complete search must be done to assure there are no survivors holding ISBN right to the publication. In these searches knowing the information on marriages is an important help in eliminating those with same names and often-similar ages. The ability to compare an individual to prior Census is the method used to track moves in residence, number of children, education information etc.

I realize this information is not released for 72 years and the problem will not be mine but we are currently working with the 1920, 1930 and 1940 census to track survivors for 3 of the books we want to reprint. Other very important information is the birthplace of the individual's parents and their language of origin. All of this data is used, not to identify the person or know their personal history but to sort them from the many folks with the same names and ages. I suppose it would also be useful if writing a bio on an individual.

1370 Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this brief email to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. I wish to request that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage is an important institution. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends. Other questions on the ARC relate to much less important issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC.

Furthermore, the removal of these questions represents a marginalization of marriage. As an American citizen, I value marriage. Marriage is the core of the family, and as the institution of marriage deteriorates so will the institution of the family. Strong families are the key to a strong society. The benefits of understanding marriage trends and supporting the institution of marriage are important to our nation. I urge the Bureau to leave these questions as a part of all future ACS questionnaires.

I appreciate your help and your service to our nation.

1371 I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal by the Census Bureau to end collection of data on marriage and divorce.

As the former Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Administration for Children and Families, DHHS, I was, along with AS Dr. Wade Horn, responsible for launching the first federal campaign to help strengthen healthy marriage. The current Obama Administration is continuing to support and administer a $150 million a year healthy marriage grant making effort out of TANF funding from the Office of Family Assistance. This grant program was launched in 2006 and continues till this day. In addition, a number of the agencies inside ACF run their own healthy marriage and relationship grant programs among their specific populations including HeadStart, Native Americans, and Refugees.

ACF/HHS and the other agencies will not be able to make rational funding decisions about programs to fund if they do not have access to up to date information about the state of marriage, divorce, co-habitation, form the US Census Bureau.

In addition, a number of states governments are using excess TANF (welfare) funding to fund marriage and relationship strengthening programs including Utah, Ohio, Colorado, Georgia, Oklahoma, Alabama, Arizona among others. These states depend on the Census Bureau data about marriage and divorce in order to make rational decisions about allocation of scarce resources.

The US will be the only nation in the industrialized world that does not collect this vital information if the proposal is enacted.

Please do not end collection of vital data on marriage and divorce.

1372 I am concerned that the Census is covertly considering the removal of questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.
As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.
Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1373 My son [redacted] died on December 5th, 2014. He was a victim of divorce. For over 6 years he battled through train-wreck of our societies inability to manage divorce in a constructive way.

Ethan isn't the only death related to divorce in the United States, the exact number of deaths linked to divorce is not known. Without a basis for the data and information our society will simply continue on this path without the ability to gather data, understand patterns, identify risk, and remediate a system ripe for reform.

Along with others, I began a foundation earlier this month for the sole purpose of championing change to protect children, families and our society from the disastrous effects of bad polies, laws and tracking. We as a country need to do more. At stake are our children's achievement and the generations that follow.

We can change a bad system into a better systems, protect the emotional and physical health of those that must endure through a broken system when they are at arguably the weakest point in their lives.

We need the data and information the government collects and makes available to be more robust, not less.

I can be reached at [redacted] if you have question.

1374 Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this brief email to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. I am writing today to express my concern that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage is an important institution and in the last several years we have seen this institution decline. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends. Other questions on the ARC relate to much less important issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC.

Furthermore, the removal of these questions represents a marginalization of marriage. As an American citizen, I value marriage and I know many others who do as well. Marriage is the core of the family, and as the institution of marriage deteriorates so will the institution of the family. Strong families are the key to a strong society. The benefits of understanding marriage trends and supporting the institution of marriage are important to our nation and to me. I urge the Bureau to leave these questions as a part of all future ACS questionnaires.

1375 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing the questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.
As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.
Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1376 Please keep question 12 on the annual US Census Bureau questionnaire. Question 12 provides valuable and reliable information to the scientific community and allows those in the community to observe long term trends in what students study in college. This not only provides data for research on its own, but it allows scientists to spot deficiencies in the American science, engineering, mathematics, and technology fields/workforce early on. This early warning allows us to preempt these shortages instead of having to react to them. Thank you for your time and attention.

1377 I write to express my support for the inclusion of marital history and undergraduate degree field questions in relation to the American Community Survey.

While the definition of "family" continues to evolve in the U.S., the recording and analyzation of official marriage and divorce rates should be considered valued information rather than irrelevant. In addition, the undergraduate degree field question produces not only interesting stats, but useful ones as well. As college education costs continue to rise, it is crucial to understand the lifelong economic benefits available to an individual based on the decision of one's major.

When considering the past, present and future trends of the people living in the U.S., we need more information regarding people's lives and livelihoods, not less.

Thank you for your consideration, and all the best for the new year.

1378 Please don't allow the removal of marriage from the AC. This gives vital information especially for family history.

1379 I am emailing to ask you to forward this email to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. I write to express my concern and ask that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage is an important institution and in the last several years we have seen this institution decline, which goes on to affect children's competency, economic stability, enforces negative educational trends, and so on. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends. Other questions on the ARC relate to other sundry (and arguably less important) issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC.

Furthermore, the removal of these questions represents a marginalization of marriage. As an American citizen, and as one who is married, I value marriage and I know many others who do as well. Marriage is the core of the family, and as the institution of marriage deteriorates so will the institution of the family. Strong families are the key to our society. The benefits of understanding marriage trends and supporting the institution of marriage are important to our nation and to me. I urge the Bureau to leave these questions as a part of all future ACS questionnaires.

Thank you, Ms. Jessup, for all that you do on our behalf. I'm sure we don't know the half of it but we are grateful for you.

1380 As a marriage and family therapist (over 50% of my clients are couples in distress), I implore you continue to ask the Marriage, Widowhood, and Divorce questions that have been proposed to be eliminated.

I don't have to remind you of the frequent use of marriage statistics in research and in articles. To take this away seems like a step backwards.

1381 As Assistant Dean and Associate Director of Research and Graduate Education for the College of Agriucture at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and feedback on the American Community Survey (ACS) Content Review Results. I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question 12 (Undergraduate Field of Study), where respondents are asked to provide specific major(s) of any bachelor's degrees received by the person with the highest degree in each household.

Many national sample surveys rely on the results of the ACS to construct a stratification sample design that most accurately reflects the true population of interest, and "specific major(s) for a bachelor's degree" is a key variable that allows researchers and policy makers to examine outcomes of postsecondary education with respect to fields of study. This is crucial for the graduate education community because postsecondary outcomes, including post baccalaureate pursuit and workforce participation vary by discipline.

It is easy to understand why one might wonder why knowledge of undergraduate field of study is of importance to the graduate education community, and how the absence of such information might impact the ability of educators to fulfill their responsibilities. I can think of two responses to such inquiries:

First, the results of question 12 are used to construct a sample for other national surveys that directly inform graduate education. Without question 12, the National Survey of College Graduates could only describe postsecondary outcomes (such as employment decisions and salary) in aggregate, not by field of study.

Second, there are numerous online reports and resources, such as gradsense.org, that rely on these national data to help prospective students learn about the employment outcomes that may stem from a graduate degree. Without question 12, this and other resources would be far less informative.

Question 12 is like the base of a pyramid; if removed, everything above it falls apart, and we welcome any efforts to help prevent that from happening. The proposed elimination would make it impossible for any national sample surveys, including NSCG to reliably capture potential field effects on postsecondary outcomes, which would impact our ability to utilize these data for public purposes. To this end, I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question 12 in the ACS.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue and the potential impact on graduate education for the citizens of our nation.

1382 Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this brief email to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. I am writing today to express my concern that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage is an important institution and in the last several years we have seen this institution decline. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends. Other questions on the ARC relate to much less important issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC. Furthermore, the removal of these questions represents a marginalization of marriage. As an American citizen, I value marriage and I know many others who do as well. Marriage is the core of the family, and as the institution of marriage deteriorates so will the institution of the family. Strong families are the key to a strong society. The benefits of understanding marriage trends and supporting the institution of marriage are important to our nation and to me. I urge the Bureau to leave these questions as a part of all future ACS questionnaires.
I appreciate your help and your service to our nation.

1383 Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this brief email to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. I am writing today to express my concern that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage is an important institution and in the last several years we have seen this institution decline. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends. Other questions on the ARC relate to much less important issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC.

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I appreciate your help and your service to our nation.

1384 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

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1386 By now, you may have received numerous comments and pleas to keep the marriage and divorce survey items on the annually conducted ACS.

I'd like to add my own scientific perspective to the evidentiary accumulation. As a researcher at Oklahoma State University, I had teams of undergraduate and graduate students hand check marital and divorce record accuracy through our county courts across the state. The actual data entered from the court clerks was always at least 3% different than the hand counts, and some months in some counties was up to 30 or even 40% off.

As family scientists, we need better tools to analyze various social problems and to be without the marriage and divorce options on your surveys would be like operating without our hands or legs. Marriage and divorce are vital contextual components to our rapidly changing society and we need these data now, more than ever, in order to respond to shifting demographics.

1387 Why the marriage question is important?
It gives us the condition of the minds and souls of the Immigrants in this country. Without the bible the definition of marriage (one man & one women) where are we heading as a country? Go back in history and review what happened to the countries that deviated from Gods definition of marriage, they are a dash or small reference in the history books. This country is domed to follow the same cycle if we lets our courts give in to the lust of the flesh.

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1389 As a Professor, as well as Associate VP for Research at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and feedback on the American Community Survey (ACS) Content Review Results. I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question 12 (Undergraduate Field of Study), where respondents are asked to provide specific major(s) of any bachelor's degrees received by the person with the highest degree in each household.

Many national sample surveys rely on the results of the ACS to construct a stratification sample design that most accurately reflects the true population of interest, and "specific major(s) for a bachelor's degree" is a key variable that allows researchers and policy makers to examine outcomes of postsecondary education with respect to fields of study. This is crucial for the graduate education community because postsecondary outcomes, including post baccalaureate pursuit and workforce participation vary by discipline. In other words, we need to have national data on the impact of graduate education areas on economics.

It is easy to understand why one might wonder why knowledge of undergraduate field of study is of importance to the graduate education community, and how the absence of such information might impact the ability of educators to fulfill their responsibilities. I can think of two responses to such inquiries:

First, the results of question 12 are used to construct a sample for other national surveys that directly inform graduate education. Without question 12, the National Survey of College Graduates could only describe postsecondary outcomes (such as employment decisions and salary) in aggregate, not by field of study.

Second, there are numerous online reports and resources, such as gradsense.org, that rely on these national data to help prospective students learn about the employment outcomes that may stem from a graduate degree. Without question 12, this and other resources would be far less informative.

Question 12 is like the base of a pyramid; if removed, everything above it falls apart, and we welcome any efforts to help prevent that from happening. The proposed elimination would make it impossible for any national sample surveys, including NSCG to reliably capture potential field effects on postsecondary outcomes, which would impact our ability to utilize these data for public purposes. To this end, I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question 12 in the ACS.

1390 We respectfully object to the removal of marriage from the ACS.

1391 I am a co-director and senior fellow in the Urban Institute's Health Policy Center whose current research focuses on assessing how the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is affecting health insurance coverage. I am writing in response to a recent Federal Register notice about the American Community Survey (ACS) to express my strong support for adding questions to the American Community Survey (ACS) to reflect coverage through the new health insurance marketplaces.

The ACS represents an invaluable annual source of health insurance information at the national, state and local level. With its large sample size, it is also a vital source of information on insurance coverage type or lack of coverage among subpopulations of interest defined by race/ethnicity, country of origin, primary language, etc. Because of its advantages over other surveys, we have relied on the ACS for many important analyses including:
• Assessments of participation in Medicaid and CHIP among eligible children and adults (http://www.urban.org/uploadedpdf/412901-%20Medicaid-CHIP-Participation-Rates-Among-Children-An-Update.pdf, http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412719-Medicaid-CHIP-Participation-Among-Children-and-Parents.pdf, http://inq.sagepub.com/content/49/3/231.full.pdf+html), which are widely used (http://www.insurekidsnow.gov/professionals/reports/index.html;
• Projections of the coverage impacts of the ACA at the national and state level for racial and ethnic groups, including Native Americans, Latino groups by country of origin, and Asian subgroups (http://www.urban.org/uploadedpdf/2000046-Racial-Ethnic-Differences-in-Uninsurance-Rates-under-the-ACA.pdf);
• Projections of the coverage and fiscal impacts of the ACA on cities (http://www.urban.org/uploadedpdf/413162-The-ACA-and-Americas-Cities-Fewer-Uninsured-and-More-Federal-Dollars.pdf);
• Estimates of the number and composition of uninsured adults with incomes below the federal poverty level who do not qualify for financial assistance under the ACA (http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412630-opting-in-medicaid.pdf).

The introduction of the Health Insurance Marketplace dramatically changed the way health insurance is obtained and other surveys, including the Current Population Survey and the National Health Interview Survey, were revised to reflect the new health insurance options available under the ACA. However, the ACS health insurance series was not revised and as a consequence, it is not designed to pick up Marketplace enrollment. Tracking coverage through Marketplace plans is important given the resources invested to provide broad access to affordable, comprehensive health insurance coverage. As the Census Bureau contemplates removing ACS items related to marriage, housing and education as outlined in the Federal Register, please consider adding 'Marketplace' to the list of sources of coverage and adding additional questions regarding premiums and premium subsidies aimed at tracking the health insurance market.
Thank you for your consideration,

1392 I'm writing you to urge retention of the questions related to marriage and divorce in the ACS. Without this key data, we will be unable to tell how Americans are forming their families.

This is important because family formation matters especially to children. We need this information to ascertain how our preventative and intervention work is progressing.

As a scientifically selected representative sampling, the ACS is both more useful and manageable in size, than the tens of millions of forms that have been collected but never compiled by states. The ACS is already in place, and the government admits that these questions are "low cost".

The ACS is this country's most socially useful, and admittedly low-cost, collection of marriage and divorce statistics.

Please do not forego these five deceptively simple but important questions.

1393 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1394 Along with every single demographer known to me, I want to add my voice to those who are requesting that the Census Bureau not drop the ACS questions on marital status. I am in complete agreement with the arguments against your proposed deletion that have been put forward by Dr. Steven Ruggles, President of the Population Association of America, as described below:

These five questions were added the ACS in 2008 at the request of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) after an extensive period of testing and analysis. The need was clear. As described by Kennedy and Ruggles (2014), the federal program to collect detailed marriage and divorce statistics from vital records was discontinued in 1996, owing to budget cuts and a deterioration in data quality. Without annual breakdowns of marriage and divorce rates by age, sex, and race, population projections were compromised. The five marital history questions were designed to replace the statistics formerly generated from vital records.

In 2008, the Census Bureau explained why the questions are needed for Federal purposes:

Measures of marital transitions will allow the ACS to provide estimates of marriage and divorce rates, as well as flows into and out of marriage. Information about rates, flows, and duration are critical for more refined analyses of eligibility for program services and benefits and of behavioral changes resulting from federal policies and programs. Besides the ACS, no other data sources exist that can provide the level of detail necessary to plan for and evaluate the effects of federal policies and programs related to marriage.

The justification went on to list dozens of specific policies and programs that required information provided by the new questions [Census Bureau Justification Document].

Why does the Census Bureau want to drop these questions?

The Census Bureau conducted a cost-benefit analysis of all the questions on the ACS, with the goal of simplifying the questionnaire. As shown in this PowerPoint, the marriage questions were deemed to have low cost, but also low benefit. The marriage questions were classified as low benefit because they are not being used by federal agencies for analyses of geographic units below the level of states, such as counties or census tracts (slide 15).

This is highly ironic: the key marriage history questions can't be used for small-area analysis! They ask about the number of events (marriage, divorce, widowhood) within the past year. This means the number of responses is comparatively small; for example, last year only 34 women in Delaware reported a divorce in the annual ACS microdata file. Because the measurement strategy requires a very large sample, single-year sub-state analysis is simply not feasible for these questions. It therefore doesn't make sense to judge the value of the questions on their use for sub-state analysis.

What are the consequences of removing these questions?

1395 Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this brief email to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. I am writing today to express my concern that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage is an important institution and in the last several years we have seen this institution decline. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends. Other questions on the ARC relate to much less important issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC.

Furthermore, the removal of these questions represents a marginalization of marriage. As an American citizen, I value marriage and I know many others who do as well. Marriage is the core of the family, and as the institution of marriage deteriorates so will the institution of the family. Strong families are the key to a strong society. The benefits of understanding marriage trends and supporting the institution of marriage are important to our nation and to me. I urge the Bureau to leave these questions as a part of all future ACS questionnaires.

I appreciate your help and your service to our nation.

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I appreciate your help and your service to our nation.

1397 I am a graduate student in studying Sociology at Bowling Green State University, specifically concentrating on family and demography. I am writing to ask that the ACS reconsider their elimination of questions concerning marriage, widowhood, and divorce. These questions are important for facilitating family and marriage research. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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I appreciate your help and your service to our nation.

1399 The University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) Graduate School appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the American Community Survey (ACS) Content Review Results. The UNR Graduate School urges the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question12 (Undergraduate Field of Degree), in which respondents are requested to provide specific major(s) of any bachelor's degrees received by the person with the highest degree in each household.

As pointed out to you by the Council of Graduate Schools, "Many national sample surveys rely on the results of the ACS to construct a stratification sample design that most accurately reflects the true population of interest, and "specific major(s) for a bachelor's degree" is a key variable that allows researchers and policy makers to examine outcomes of postsecondary education with respect to fields of study. This is crucial for the graduate education community because postsecondary outcomes, including post-baccalaureate pursuit and workforce participation vary by discipline."

The Undergraduate Field of Degree question has been a key instrument for the Census Bureau and National Science Foundation to conduct surveys of scientists and engineers for several decades. The proposed elimination of Question 12 would therefore diminish the efficacy of national sample surveys to assess the outcome of postsecondary education and I urge you to retain Pearson Question 12 in the ACS.

1400 It has just come to my attention that the Census is considering the possibility of removing any questions regarding marriage in future surveys. I know that I speak for many voices when I say that such data is very important when looking at trends in something considered by what large volumes of research deems an important stabilizing force in families. I, as a taxpaying citizen, hope that such changes will not be made in future surveys. I believe the questions under consideration are 21C, 22, and 23. The removal of these questions can and will be viewed as a governmental attack on the institute of marriage that has proven to provide for family stability in each successful case. It is my hope that you will continue to collect this very important data.

Thank you in advance, and for reading.

1401 Your notice in the Federal Register classified the ACS questions on marriage and divorce as low-cost, but "low value". On the contrary, they are of very high value to our society, to the public, the press, students, researchers, legislators and parts of the executive branch.

Social and public usefulness of these statistics

I have been a family-law attorney for 19 years, and for almost as long I have operated a divorce statistics web site. In its current form it is called the Divorce Statistics and Studies Blog, at http://familylaw.typepad.com/stats. From doing that work, I have been able to observe that the public, the media, students, academic researchers, and state and federal policymakers all have a widespread, lasting interest in marriage and divorce, and in current statistics on them of a kind which only the American Community Survey provides. Anyone writing an article, research paper, or presentation on marriage or divorce wants to use statistics in it. Any legislator proposing a bill related to either topic wants accurate, current statistics to frame his or her argument. Although I put a great many statistics and studies on the blog, I frequently get calls, e-mails and letters asking for more statistics.

The public rightly considers marriage and divorce to be extremely important subjects, and people overwhelmingly assume that the government keeps detailed, up-to-the-minute statistics on them, far more than is the case even now. People have been hearing about divorce statistics for many decades now, and most people I deal with simply could not comprehend that the government was no longer keeping them. If I told them that, they would keep looking, use outdated numbers, or just make something up that they thought was what they heard somewhere.

Governmental uses

The ACS-based statistics are also very useful to parts of the federal government. Two examples:

- The Department of Defense and the various branches of the military keep very detailed statistics on divorce and marital status, but those would be much less useful without your corresponding numbers on the general population for comparison purposes. The military has realized in recent years that it needs to take much better care of families, and statistics are essential for measuring progress.
- The Department of Health and Human Services provides many services to families that have experienced divorce or unwed childbearing, including many services related to child support, and specifically funds fatherhood, marriageability, marriage skills-building, and divorce-prevention programs as part of the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program. The department and its grant recipients need statistics in order to understand the populations they work with and the need for particular programs.

Why ACS statistics are crucial

Most private and academic studies of marriage and divorce are based on information from the ACS and its predecessors. The Census Bureau has also produced very

1402 The ACS web application is not user friendly, partially because some information cannot be changed once it is entered. For example, I wanted to remove someone I added who lives in our home part of the time. When I got into the survey I realized previously adding that individual was incorrect, but I could not remove the name. Also, after submission there is no way to view the answers submitted. Did the same provider develop this web app as the one who developed the one for the Affordable Care Act? With all the money poured into the government by taxpayers, my expectation is higher than the shabbily written and developed applications I have seen in recent times. I have worked in the Information Technology for a number of years, and if I would have ever produced such a poor product, I would have been fired.

1403 I am writing to urge the continued use of the American Community Survey (ACS) questions. It is essential for family law researchers to have data regarding marriage and the role of marriage in our society.

1404 An e-mail action alert from IPUMS Principal Investigator Mr. Steve Ruggles prompted me to remember my attempt to find relevant population statistics like that collected and made available through the IPUMS data system. Greetings otherwise, and my best wishes to you for a Happy New Years.
I have a basic understanding of the matter with survey items on marriage, divorce, and post secondary education being removed from the survey and Federal Register after reading a courtesy copy of Mr. Ruggles e-mail letter to you. It does seem that perceived shortcomings with the current survey identified in the cost benefit analysis referenced in the letter were made without collaboration from key expertise in any of the organizations Mr. Ruggles is affiliated with. With that in mind, results from an effort to improve the survey seem dubious.
Please reconsider the matter and invite affiliated groups like those Mr. Ruggles is involved with to participate with the improvement effort.

1405 I am concerned that questions about marriage may be removed from future census questionnaires.Marriage is very important to a culture, and it is apparent that it is in decline. Children who grow up in single parent households typically live in poverty, are more susceptible to drug use, and may end up in jail. Marriage is important data to have. If you quit tracking the data, how will anyone know what the stats are? Why are other issues important enough to ask questions about on the census, like Internet use, but marriage is not? Married couples raising children are the best indicators of success for children. On a number of levels that interests me, but especially as a tax payer I would like this information. Please keep the marriage questions in all future census forms. Thank you.

1406 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1407 As Associate Dean of Academic Affairs & Diversity in the College of Technology at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and feedback on the American Community Survey (ACS) Content Review Results. I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question 12 (Undergraduate Field of Study), where respondents are asked to provide specific major(s) of any bachelor's degrees received by the person with the highest degree in each household.

Many national sample surveys rely on the results of the ACS to construct a stratification sample design that most accurately reflects the true population of interest, and "specific major(s) for a bachelor's degree" is a key variable that allows researchers and policy makers to examine outcomes of postsecondary education with respect to fields of study. This is crucial for the graduate education community because postsecondary outcomes, including post baccalaureate pursuit and workforce participation vary by discipline.

It is easy to understand why one might wonder why knowledge of undergraduate field of study is of importance to the graduate education community, and how the absence of such information might impact the ability of educators to fulfill their responsibilities. I can think of two responses to such inquiries:

First, the results of question 12 are used to construct a sample for other national surveys that directly inform graduate education. Without question 12, the National Survey of College Graduates could only describe postsecondary outcomes (such as employment decisions and salary) in aggregate, not by field of study.

Second, there are numerous online reports and resources, such as gradsense.org, that rely on these national data to help prospective students learn about the employment outcomes that may stem from a graduate degree. Without question 12, this and other resources would be far less informative.

Question 12 is like the base of a pyramid; if removed, everything above it falls apart, and we welcome any efforts to help prevent that from happening. The proposed elimination would make it impossible for any national sample surveys, including NSCG to reliably capture potential field effects on postsecondary outcomes, which would impact our ability to utilize these data for public purposes. To this end, I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question 12 in the ACS.

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Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1413 I just completed this "Survey" that was sent to my home to the best of my ability without calling my accountant or lawyer. Even thinking that I would need to consult with either of them to fill out this of Orwellian Form is an affront to our Constitution and the Freedoms Granted within.

After the abuses inside the IRS, we are supposed to trust this type of information to be held in privacy?

We are forced to answer questions about the race of each individual, language spoken, education level, citizenship & ancestry, medical conditions, as well as physical, emotional and mental state of each person living in the house. If we don't, there is a $5000 maximum penalty and possible jail time, is that the real American Way?

Why don't you ask the kids in school to fill out a simplified form as well to check on the parents and ask them about any guns in the hose as well?

I would say to you who are there to serve the people to think of the people when planning for the people.

1414 I would like to respond to the request for public input concerning the removal of certain questions pertaining to marriage for the census record. I am opposed to the removal of those questions, for the purpose of doing family research. I am a family history research person and I have found such questions very helpful (such as how many marriages or how many children has a woman given birth to) in placing together family members. I believe such information is essential in placing together families and knowing if any family members are missing.

1415 I am an attorney, author and co-chair and co-founder of the Coalition for Divorce Reform, a non-partisan volunteer organization (I am a lifelong Democrat) of divorce reform leaders, marriage educators, attorneys, scholars and concerned citizens. We are dedicated to supporting efforts to reduce unnecessary divorce and promote healthy marriages.

I write to encourage the Census Bureau to reconsider its proposed deletion of essential questions about marriage and divorce from its yearly American Community Survey (ACS), and in response to the call for comments by the Department of Commerce announced in the Federal Register on October 31, 2014, https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2014/10/31/2014-25912/proposed-information-collection-comment-request-the-american-community-survey-content-review-results.

Marriage rates in the U.S. have plummeted to an all-time low, while divorce rates remain at nearly twice their pre no-fault divorce levels. This four and a half decades long trend toward family fragmentation has produced a bumper crop of American families worse off in nearly every way than their predecessors with children continuing to suffer the worst. http://www.nationalaffairs.com/publications/detail/the-evolution-of-divorce

Research demonstrates that marriage is the "gold standard" when it comes to child outcomes, yet every year one million children lose the protection that experts agree marriage affords. Evidence shows that children from broken homes are more likely to experience poverty, teen pregnancy, alcohol and drug addiction, depression, reduced educational attainment, decreased longevity and on and on. Children who grow up in intact families, however, are more likely to achieve higher levels of education, in turns increasing their odds of marrying, having higher incomes and thus continuing a cycle of wealth and health for their own children. At the same time, lower-income Americans are rapidly retreating from marriage, signaling a reverse cycle for themselves and their children. Add to that the ever-widening gap of income inequality in the U.S. at a time when research also demonstrates a strong association between marriage and wealth-building. http://www.aei.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/IFS-ForRicherForPoorer-Final_Web.pdf And African-American families? They are in far worse shape. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/beverly-willett/why-black-marriage-day_b_1366573.html

The Census Bureau's elimination of questions concerning marriage and divorce from the ACS would strike a further blow to American families. Indeed, the Census Bureau only added these very same questions to the ACS several years ago in direct response to the lack of sufficient data collection on marriage and divorce. Since then, the public's answers to these questions, drawn from randomly selected samples, have provided vital information to researchers studying marriage and divorce. The data are essential not only for identifying trends, but developing policies geared toward strengthening families at a time when family fragmentation is at its worst.

Indeed, researchers at the University of Minnesota recently used such data for an important study which demonstrated a substantial increase in the divorce rate, noting in their report the use of data from the ACS as more reliable than other data publicly available, data the Census Bureau now proposes to eliminate. http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13524-013-0270-9

1416 I understand there is a proposal to remove Marriage Questions from the Census and ACS surveys. I am very involved in genealogy research and would like to express my strong opinion that the Marriage Questions NOT be removed from these surveys & the Census.

As President of the East Texas Genealogical Society, I am sure that our 200+ members feel the same way as well as members of all genealogical societies across the United States.

Thank you for your consideration.

1417 Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this email to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. I am writing today to express my concern that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage has traditionally been a cornerstone societal institution and in the last several years we have seen this institution decline and change in many aspects. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, be it both traditional or same-sex marriage, we will not be able to track many future societal trends. Therefore because of this importance, the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC. If anything, these scope and detail of such questions should be expanded and studied further.

Furthermore, the removal of these questions represents a marginalization of marriage. As an American citizen, I value marriage and I know many others who do as well. Marriage is the core of the family, and as the institution of marriage deteriorates so will the institution of the family. Strong families are the key to a strong society. The benefits of understanding marriage trends and supporting the institution of marriage are important to our nation and to me. I urge the Bureau to leave these questions as a part of all future ACS questionnaires.

Thank you very much for your time and I appreciate your help and your service to our great nation!

1418 I hope your family has enjoyed a great time off in celebrating the holidays. Thank you for your assistance in forwarding my comments to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. I am writing today to express my concern that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage is an important institution and in the last several years and we have seen this institution decline. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends. Other questions on the ARC relate to much less important issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC.

Furthermore, the removal of these questions represents a marginalization of marriage. As an American citizen, I value marriage and I know many others who do as well. Marriage is the core of the family, and as the institution of marriage deteriorates so will the institution of the family. Strong families are the key to a strong society. The benefits of understanding marriage trends and supporting the institution of marriage are important to our nation and to me. I urge the Bureau to leave these questions as a part of all future ACS questionnaires.

I appreciate your help and your service to our nation.

1419 I suspect you've been inundated with such pleas, but I will add another. It's so pivotal to retain marriage questions on the ACS. I can't imagine navigating the social scientific study of so many things in the ACS without quality data on our relationships. I hope it's retained.

1420 Ms. Jessup - Please find attached Young Invincibles' comments signed by over a dozen researchers and advocates on the proposed removal of question no.12 from the American Community Survey.
Thank you for your time and consideration
[Text of attachmnet...]Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the content review results of the American
Community Survey (ACS) and the proposed removal of questions. We appreciate the Department of Commerce's efforts to reduce burden on survey respondents by weighing
the benefits and costs of questions included in the survey. The ACS is an important instrument for measuring the economic and social conditions in this country, and
soliciting public input on changes is appropriate and necessary.
However, we have concerns over the Department's assessment of Question No. 12 asking respondents to "print below the specific major(s) of any BACHELOR'S DEGREES this
person has received." We cannot agree that Question No. 12 qualifies as a "low benefit" question. We strongly urge the Department to commit to retaining this question in all
future editions of the ACS.
Question No. 12 allows researchers to explore two primary issues: 1. Relationships between college major and other economic outcomes, including labor
force participation, earnings, and industry of employment. 2. Trends in the demographic composition and popularity of college majors, particularly
to inform economic development and workforce investment strategies, as well as postsecondary education policies.
Students, families, advocates, the research community at large, and colleges and universities themselves already face many challenges stemming from the lack of available data linking education and workforce outcomes. Removing this question from a crucial annual survey will only exacerbate those challenges. It is particularly detrimental
at a time when earning postsecondary credentials has been clearly linked to individual and public economic benefits.1
This comment will elaborate on the importance of exploring these two issues. It will describe how research using Question No. 12 helps individuals make informed decisions
about higher education and how to pay for it. It will also detail the importance of continued research using Question No. 12 to lessen disparities in higher education access
and completion.
Outcomes associated with different college majors With students taking on record levels of student debt, and with hundreds of billions of
federal and state dollars being spent each year on higher education, it is imperative that we explore basic relationships between students' choice of major and other outcomes
such as employment rate, income, industry and occupation. In surveys, focus groups, and convenings around the country, college students cite career opportunities as a major

1421 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1422 As Assistant Dean for Purdue Extended Campus at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and feedback on the American Community Survey (ACS) Content Review Results. I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question 12 (Undergraduate Field of Study), where respondents are asked to provide specific major(s) of any bachelor's degrees received by the person with the highest degree in each household.

Many national sample surveys rely on the results of the ACS to construct a stratification sample design that most accurately reflects the true population of interest, and "specific major(s) for a bachelor's degree" is a key variable that allows researchers and policy makers to examine outcomes of postsecondary education with respect to fields of study. This is crucial for the graduate education community because postsecondary outcomes, including post baccalaureate pursuit and workforce participation vary by discipline.

It is easy to understand why one might wonder why knowledge of undergraduate field of study is of importance to the graduate education community, and how the absence of such information might impact the ability of educators to fulfill their responsibilities. I can think of two responses to such inquiries:

First, the results of question 12 are used to construct a sample for other national surveys that directly inform graduate education. Without question 12, the National Survey of College Graduates could only describe postsecondary outcomes (such as employment decisions and salary) in aggregate, not by field of study.

Second, there are numerous online reports and resources, such as gradsense.org, that rely on these national data to help prospective students learn about the employment outcomes that may stem from a graduate degree. Without question 12, this and other resources would be far less informative.

Question 12 is like the base of a pyramid; if removed, everything above it falls apart, and we welcome any efforts to help prevent that from happening. The proposed elimination would make it impossible for any national sample surveys, including NSCG to reliably capture potential field effects on postsecondary outcomes, which would impact our ability to utilize these data for public purposes. To this end, I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question 12 in the ACS.

1423 I am against removing Marriage from the Census. Marriage is an important part of our society and culture. We need to know how marriage is effecting our culture. It is a bad idea to remove Marriage from our Census report.

1424 This comment addresses the proposed removal from the American Community Survey of "Person Question No. 12—Undergraduate Field of Degree—This question focuses on this person's Bachelor's Degree. Please print below the specific major(s) of any Bachelor's Degrees this person has received. " I oppose the proposed removal of this question.

The data about persons in terms of their major Bachelor's Degree field(s) contribute extremely valuable information relative to such issues as the supply of and labor force participation of persons with Bachelor's Degrees. At the Presidential level, questions are frequently raised about the adequacy of the supply of persons with Bachelor's Degrees in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). To give but one example, the President's Council of Advisers on Science and Technology (PCAST) on February 7, 2012 released a major report Engage to Excel: Producing One Million Additional College Graduates with Degrees in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. Similar concerns have been expressed in past decades.

The PCAST Executive Report begins with the following statement: "Economic projections point to a need for approximately 1 million more STEM professionals than the U.S. will produce at the current rate over the next decade if the country is to retain its historical preeminence in science and technology. To meet this goal, the United States will need to increase the number of students who receive undergraduate STEM degrees by about 34% annually over current rates."

Projections of shortages of persons by field of degree or field of employment have a long history in the United States and often are headline grabbing news. It is my impression, however, that we pay much less attention to what actually happens, and this situation may reflect the paucity of data on outcomes.

The U. S. Department of Education and other organizations collect and provide data from surveys of United States institutions of higher education about the domestic supply of persons with particular degree fields. One should note, however, that these domestic data are likely to miss the large numbers of persons with Bachelor's Degrees from foreign institutions of higher education who become employed in the United States.

The unique contribution of the American Community Survey "Person Question No. 12--Undergraduate Field of Degree" is that it provides policy makers with information about what happens to persons with Bachelor's Degrees in various degree fields and from both domestic and foreign institutions of higher education. For example, are such persons working in jobs related to the field(s) of their Bachelor's Degrees? The demands of the economy for persons with different educational qualifications and skill sets changes over time, particularly as technological innovation changes the nature of work itself.

The American Community Survey can provide an extremely important labor market information to PCAST and other high level bodies, particularly given the demonstrated ability of United States employers to fill vacancies with nonresidents when sufficient residents with desired credentials and experience are not available. The American Community Survey meets the needs of the many users at state and regional levels. Such data are used by Regional Councils of Governments for local planning purposes. In addition, the American Community Survey provides an essential link to the surveys of the National Science Foundation's National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES).

1425 As Dean of Graduate Studies at Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri, I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and feedback on the American Community Survey (ACS) Content Review Results.
As the public liberal arts and sciences university for the state of Missouri, and following the mission established under directive of the state legislature, Truman is proud to offer Master's level graduate programs that serve the needs of citizens in the state and beyond. Those programs range from those that prepare highly needed professionals such as school counselors and practitioners in the mental health fields to those that enable individuals to continue their advanced education in various academic areas.
In my capacity as Dean of Graduate Studies I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question12 (Undergraduate Field of Study), where respondents are asked to provide specific major(s) of any bachelor's degrees received by the person with the highest degree in each household.
Many national sample surveys rely on the results of the ACS to construct a stratification sample design that most accurately reflects the true population of interest, and "specific major(s) for a bachelor's degree" is a key variable that allows researchers and policy makers to examine outcomes of postsecondary education with respect to fields of study. This is crucial for the graduate education community because postsecondary outcomes, including post-baccalaureate pursuit and workforce participation vary by discipline.
Let me share an example of how the lack of this type of data would have an impact at Truman: as the university seeks to fulfill its mission as a public institution, we are very intentional in exploring the feasibility of new programs that may be desirable to meet the needs of the state. As stewards of public funds, we must implement initiatives that are economically viable, and that serve the aspirations of the citizens of Missouri. The information derived from Person Question 12 provides a foundation on which to make such determinations.
The proposed elimination would make it impossible for any national sample surveys, including the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics' National Survey of College Graduates to reliably capture potential field effects on postsecondary outcomes, which would impact our ability to utilize these data for public purposes. To this end, as Dean of Graduate Studies I urge the

1426 Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this brief email to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. I am writing this morning to express my concern that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage is an important institution and in the last several years we have seen this institution decline. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends. Other questions on the ARC relate to much less important issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC.

Furthermore, the removal of these questions represents a marginalization of marriage. As an American citizen, I value marriage and I know many others who do as well. Marriage is the core of the family, and as the institution of marriage deteriorates so will the institution of the family. Strong families are the key to a strong society. The benefits of understanding marriage trends and supporting the institution of marriage are important to our nation and to me. I urge the Bureau to leave these questions as a part of all future ACS questionnaires.

I appreciate your help and your service to our nation.

1427 Absolutely NOT!!! A true marriage between a man and a woman is Blessed by God and it should stay that way. Plus, am sure many of the Historical and Genealogical organizations still require a marriage license as part of the proof to Become a member and that is a good thing.

What is this world coming to?

1428 I am a co-director and senior fellow in the Urban Institute's Health Policy Center whose current research focuses on assessing how the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is affecting health insurance coverage. I am writing in response to a recent Federal Register notice about the American Community Survey (ACS) to express my strong support for replacing some of all of the 7 questions related to housing, education and marriage that the 2014 Content Review identified with questions that will better reflect coverage obtained through the new health insurance marketplaces.

The ACS represents an invaluable annual source of health insurance information at the national, state and local level. With its large sample size, it is also the source of information on insurance coverage, or lack of coverage, among subpopulations of interest, including disparities populations. The introduction of the Health Insurance Marketplace dramatically changed the way health insurance is purchased in the United States; however, the ACS health insurance series is not designed to pick up enrollment in the Marketplace. Tracking enrollment in the Marketplace is important given the resources invested to provide broad access to quality health insurance products. As the Census Bureau contemplates removing items outlined in the Federal Register, please consider adding 'Marketplace' to the list of sources of coverage and adding additional questions on premiums and premium subsidies aimed at tracking the health insurance market.
My support for removing some or all of the 7 questions on housing, education and marriage (especially, the 2 on housing and education) should not be viewed as an effort to diminish the ACS. Instead, I see it as an opportunity to improve the ACS by adding essential questions about health insurance coverage obtained through the Health Insurance Marketplaces. This information is not yet included in the ACS. Although the Federal Register notice makes no mention of adding new questions, I recognize that adding new questions to the ACS is likely dependent upon the removal of others. So, the current comment period presents an opportunity to voice support for adding health insurance questions related to the Health Insurance Marketplace. Adding questions on the Marketplace would substantially expand the value of the ACS for tracking health insurance issues.
Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

1429 Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this brief email to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. I am writing today to express my concern that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage is an important institution and in the last several years we have seen this institution decline. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends. Other questions on the ARC relate to much less important issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC.

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I appreciate your help and your service to our nation.

1430 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1431 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1432 My wife and ask that you keep the marriage related questions in the form. It would be wrong of you to remove them

1433 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

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Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1434 As associate dean for discovery and faculty development in the College of Education at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and feedback on the American Community Survey (ACS) Content Review Results. I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question 12 (Undergraduate Field of Study), where respondents are asked to provide specific major(s) of any bachelor's degrees received by the person with the highest degree in each household.

Many national sample surveys rely on the results of the ACS to construct a stratification sample design that most accurately reflects the true population of interest, and "specific major(s) for a bachelor's degree" is a key variable that allows researchers and policy makers to examine outcomes of postsecondary education with respect to fields of study. This is crucial for the graduate education community because postsecondary outcomes, including post baccalaureate pursuit and workforce participation vary by discipline.

It is easy to understand why one might wonder why knowledge of undergraduate field of study is of importance to the graduate education community, and how the absence of such information might impact the ability of educators to fulfill their responsibilities. I can think of two responses to such inquiries:

First, the results of question 12 are used to construct a sample for other national surveys that directly inform graduate education. Without question 12, the National Survey of College Graduates (NSCG) could only describe postsecondary outcomes (such as employment decisions and salary) in aggregate, not by field of study.

Second, there are numerous online reports and resources, such as gradsense.org, that rely on these national data to help prospective students learn about the employment outcomes that may stem from a graduate degree. Without question 12, this and other resources would be far less informative.

Question 12 is like the base of a pyramid; if removed, everything above it falls apart, and we welcome any efforts to help prevent that from happening. The proposed elimination would make it impossible for any national sample surveys, including NSCG to reliably capture potential field effects on postsecondary outcomes, which would impact our ability to utilize these data for public purposes. To this end, I urge the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question 12 in the ACS.

1435 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1436 I am writing in response to the possible removal of the marital status and the undergraduate field of study questions from the ACS, Proposed Information Collection: Comment Request: The American Community Survey Content Review Results Vol. 79, No. 211/October 31, 2014/pp.64743-45. I will finish my PhD in Health and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Colorado Denver this spring, and although my research career has only begun, marriage and education questions have been invaluable to my work. In my dissertation, I examined reproductive health behavior timing, including age at first birth, which is significantly associated with marital status and educational outcomes. Just for this one are of study, the loss of these questions would make it more difficult to understand timing of reproductive health behavior which is crucial to decreasing teen and unplanned pregnancy, increasing educational attainment and improving health of women, children, and families.

Besides the broad social implications that marriage and education have on individuals and our U.S. society, both are key predictors of health. Our country is in the midst of health care reform while still battling cancer, obesity, heart disease and their costly consequences. In order to continue evidence based research allowing us to connect social behavior and health and make recommendations to programing, policy and clinical practice, we cannot eliminate questions on marital status or education. The U.S. continues to be a leader in research in the world despite funding barriers. If the government begins to decrease the quantity and quality of available data it will be actively damaging the breadth and validity of future research. As a researcher just embarking on her career, I would be very disheartened and my future research stifled, if the ACS were to lose key predictors of social and behavioral determinants of health. I join the many researchers who have already urged you to keep marital status and education questions in the ACS. Thank you for your consideration.

1437 Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this brief email to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. I am writing today to express my concern that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage is an important institution and in the last several years we have seen this institution decline. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends. Other questions on the ARC relate to much less important issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC.

Furthermore, the removal of these questions represents a marginalization of marriage. As an American citizen, I value marriage and I know many others who do as well. Marriage is the core of the family, and as the institution of marriage deteriorates so will the institution of the family. Strong families are the key to a strong society. The benefits of understanding marriage trends and supporting the institution of marriage are important to our nation and to me. I urge the Bureau to leave these questions as a part of all future ACS questionnaires.

I appreciate your help and your service to our nation.

1438 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government’s attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1439 We are concerned that the Census may remove questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If we quit asking the questions, we will not be able to detect those trends.

As taxpaying citizens, we insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, we can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status. What is there to hide?

Is removing these questions symbolic of a government attack on the institution of marriage? We deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. We hope you will continue to include these questions.

1440 I am a researcher involved in investigating the determinants of Americans' consumption of art, and I teach undergraduate business majors and minors as well. I was very concerned to hear recently that you are considering dropping from the American Community Survey (US Census Bureau survey) the question as follows:

“Person Question No. 12—Undergraduate Field of Degree—This question focuses on this person's Bachelor's Degree. Please print below the specific major(s) of any Bachelor's Degrees this person has received.”

This is a key question and should not be dropped. It is important for a number of reasons, including the cross-fertilization of ideas between different academic disciplines.

We are all well aware that successful companies like Apple use art and design in making first-class products. These products are also very profitable. The importance of understanding how things like undergraduate major affect how people behave later in life--the relationships between software coding, design innovation, and business results--is vital to improving policies in our knowledge- and service-based economy.

It is important for policy to be driven by high-quality research into costs and benefits. Removing this question will leave us further in the dark in terms of how to structure our undergraduate curricula, how to design student experiences that will be rewarding later in life, and how to understand the relationship between arts, the sciences, and business results.

Please do not remove it from the survey!

1441 I am a professor at Rutgers University, and I study social determinants of African American health. I am writing to request that the ACS refrain from dropping the six questions related to marriage and education. These questions have much to contribute to our understanding of inequality, social status and health. Eliminating these items would be to the detriment to the survey and to our understanding of social trends in the United States. I urge you to please reconsider.

1442 I am writing in response to the request for comments regarding two questions in the American Community Survey, or ACS ("Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; The American Community Survey Content Review Results," Federal Register, Vol. 79, No. 211, October 31, 2014, pp. 64743-64745). I am a senior demographer in the U.S. Programs department at the Population Reference Bureau (PRB) in Washington, D.C. At PRB we use ACS data extensively in our work informing the public of demographic, socioeconomic, and housing trends in the United States. In this letter, I would like to highlight a couple of instances where the presence of these questions facilitates some of our work.

Regarding the marital history questions (Questions 21 a-c, 22, and 23): In light of the fact that the federal government has not collected detailed marriage and divorce statistics from states' vital statistics records since 1996, the ACS has emerged as the chief source of detailed information on marriage and divorce in this country. The marital history information in the ACS was very useful in producing a forthcoming infographic on the current status of the U.S. "baby boom" generation—an infographic that includes data on issues facing unmarried baby boomers.

As for the undergraduate field of degree question (Question 12): For the past several years, we at PRB have used five-year ACS data to produce an annual chartbook (as well as an accompanying county-level database) for the Appalachian Regional Commission that showcases social, economic, and housing characteristics in the Appalachian Region. This coming year's chartbook will include two items—one table and one county-level map—that uses data from the field of degree question. The resulting table and map will highlight the share of college-educated adults who have bachelor's degrees in the science and engineering fields—areas of study that develop skills that are increasingly in high demand by American businesses. The inclusion of these items in both the chartbook and the database will allow ARC and its stakeholders to gauge how well the Appalachian region is attracting and retaining this small but important segment of the U.S. population.

I hope that the above cases will assist the Office of Management and Budget and the Census Bureau in their evaluation of the marital status and undergraduate field of study questions in the ACS.

Thank you very much for your consideration of my comments.

1443 The ACS is essential for understanding the experience of people in the US. I draw on it heavily in my own research, most recently in a brief and interactive maps using ACS data from 2009, 2010, and 2011 to obtain representative samples of populations by state and insurance coverage. The data allowed us to examine health insurance coverage for five major racial/ethnic groups (White non-Latino, Latino, Black non-Latino, Non-Latino Asian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native) as well as subgroups by origin for the Latino and Asian/Pacific Islander groups and American Indian/Alaska Natives subgroups by tribe.

The ACS represents an invaluable annual source of health insurance information at the national, state and local level. With its large sample size, it is also the source of information on insurance coverage, or lack of coverage, among subpopulations of interest, including disparities populations. The introduction of the Health Insurance Marketplace dramatically changed the way health insurance is purchased; however, the ACS health insurance series is not designed to pick up enrollment in the Marketplace. Tracking enrollment in the Marketplace is important given the resources invested to provide broad access to quality health insurance products. As the Census Bureau contemplates removing items outlined in the Federal Register, please consider adding 'Marketplace' to the list of sources of coverage and adding additional questions on premiums and premium subsidies aimed at tracking the health insurance market.

1444 New Yorkers for Accessible Health Coverage (NYFAHC) is a statewide coalition of 53 voluntary health organizations and allied groups who serve and represent people with chronic illnesses and disabilities including cancer, HIV/AIDS, cognitive impairments, multiple sclerosis, lupus and epilepsy. Because the conditions affecting the individuals and families we represent do not discriminate between rich and poor, we advocate for accessible, affordable, comprehensive and accountable health insurance for the privately insured, as well as those in need of access to public insurance programs.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the American Community Survey Content Review Results. We are in agreement with slated removal of the seven questions that have been identified based on the results of the 2014 Content Review. If these questions are removed we would like to propose that additional questions should be added to the Health Insurance series.

The ACS represents an invaluable annual source of health insurance information at the national, state and local level. With its large sample size, it is also the source of information on insurance coverage, or lack of coverage, among subpopulations of interest, including disparities populations.

The people we serve are particularly interested in the six disability questions added to the ACS in 2008. When New York State contracted with Urban Institute to model characteristics of non-elderly New Yorkers likely to enroll in the Health insurance Exchanges Under that Affordable Care Act, they did not initially model disability status. Due to the existence of the ACS disability questions, we were able to ask researchers at Cornell's Employment and Disability Institute to at least produce statistics on the numbers and percentages of uninsured people with disabilities and Urban Institute later revised their Simulation Model to include these characteristics.

The introduction of the Health Insurance Marketplaces has dramatically changed the way people get health coverage; but the current ACS health insurance questions do not capture the new coverage options. As the Census Bureau contemplates removing the questions outlined in the Federal Register, please consider adding 'Marketplace' to the list of sources of coverage and adding additional questions whether the person gets help paying premiums and/or cost sharing reductions through the Marketplace.

If you have questions about these comments, please contact [redacted]. Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

1445 Just as U.S. marriage rates have reached their lowest level in a century and rates of divorce are high, the Census Bureau has proposed to eliminate questions about marriage, widowhood, and divorce in its Annual American Community Survey (ACS). This must be avoided! If these questions are dropped, the United States will become the only country in the developed world that does not generate annual age-specific rates of marriage and divorce.

As a family lawyer, I have a hard time understanding why the Census Bureau would drop a series of questions that is truly low cost to the government. I don't believe, as you assert, that such questions are low value. Seismic changes are taking place in this country in terms of marriage and divorce. Marriage is at an all time low. The patterns of those marrying and divorcing are changing dramatically. The only way we know this is from the data the Census Bureau compiles. What do these trends mean for the health of our country, its economy, and it's institutions? Why are lesser educated individuals foregoing marriage? What does that mean for children? Although the government itself may not use that information, researchers around the country need it in order to answers questions regarding the condition and the future of the American family. Are we really to be the only country in the world that doesn't collect this information? Of what of we afraid? You ask all kinds of terribly intrusive questions on your forms - why not continue to ask the ones most people have difficulty answering? It costs you almost nothing, yet provides so much rich data for so many.

I also echo the sentiments set forth in the letter you received yesterday from [redacted], a family law attorney in Virginia.

1446 I manage the IPUMS-USA project at the University of Minnesota's Minnesota Population Center. We make the ACS PUMS files available online for researchers around the world, so we are incredibly invested in the ACS data. I have been encouraging users to consider and respond to the proposed changes to the ACS. I hope you have heard from many of them, as I believe this would be a major loss to the community of people that use the PUMS for research and other purposes.

In addition to running this data project, I am a labor and family economist. My research covers a variety of topics, but it includes marriage, divorce, and education - especially for women and parents. I think removing the marital history questions and the degree of field questions is a terrible idea for those us doing research related to work and family.

I would like to note that I think the content review processes were flawed, and more people and agencies should have been contacted about the processes and proposed changes.

Finally, I would like to use the opportunity to encourage the ACS to release a month-in-sample variable in the PUMS. This would be useful for my research and we often get requests for it.

Please consider my email, along with the many others I hope you have received, when making decisions and recommendations for the ACS changes.

1447 My name is [redacted], and I work as a Research Analyst at the National Center for Children in Poverty, within Columbia University. I am writing today to echo the sentiments of numerous colleagues in requesting that Department of Commerce refrain from the proposed removal of six American Community Survey questions, including five questions related to marriage and one question related to education.

While I also support efforts to keep the marriage and divorce questions – those questions seem to be extremely useful to researchers studying marital and family stability – I am writing today specifically in reference to the education question, person question no. 12, which asks survey participants to list the specific major(s) of any Bachelor's Degrees that they have received. I am particularly interested in this question because, while similar data to it can be found through other educational surveys and databases, I do not know of any data source other than the ACS that enables users to compare undergraduate fields of study across the many demographic, socioeconomic, racial, work-related, and family-related domains. Given the increased federal focus not only on the quantity of education, but on the quality of it, and on particular academic areas (for example, STEM fields), this question is increasingly important in gauging what undergraduate fields of study lead to better jobs and which ones satisfy the workforce demands of employers. As higher education continues to offer a means by which poor Americans lift themselves out of poverty, it is also important to be able to examine how these outcomes differ across different socioeconomic or demographic groupings. I therefore join other researchers in requesting that this question remain in the ACS, so that we continue to use it to compare the impacts of the wide variety of possible fields of study available to American students attaining a Bachelor's Degree.

1448 I am a taxpaying, voting citizen. I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is a unique relationship that now, in many states, transcends gender preference. If you quit asking the questions regarding marital status, you will not be able to detect trends in marriage and how or if they affect society, especially considering the recent changes to the definition of marriage.
I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1449 As the CEO of the largest health foundation in the state of Maine and a member of the Grantmakers in Health Board, I strongly endorse adding questions related to changes in private and public health insurance coverage to the American Community Survey. Because of its large sample size. the ACS is the most reliable and consistent national survey resource to track important changes that affect the lives of every of every person in our nation, and it is one way for policymakers and other leaders in the health care sector to consistently track the impact of the Affordable Care Act. As you know, the ACA represents the most significant change to a sector that effects 18% of our GDP, and therefore tracking its impact to increase our national and state rates of afforadble coverage is vitally important to policymakers, businesses, consumers and those in the health care sector.

Today, ASPE just released the most current data on the sign-ups for the second open enrollment period for the Health Insurance Marketplace. The introduction of state and federally-facilitated Health Insurance Marketplaces has fundamentally altered the way health insurance is purchased; yet, the ACS health insurance series is not designed to track Marketplace enrollment. Tracking enrollment in the Marketplace is critical given the resources invested to provide broad access to quality health insurance products.

In Maine, we have had to fund our own custom survey of changes in coverage to track the impact of the ACA. Adding insurance questions to ACS would help those of us in rural states have comparable and reliable information to track progress (or lack thereof).

I appreciate the opportunity to submit comments requesting that as the Census Bureau contemplates removing items outlined in the Federal Register, it please consider adding 'Marketplace' to the list of sources of coverage and adding additional questions on premiums and premium subsidies aimed at tracking the health insurance market.

1450 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions. Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

1451 On behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), I am pleased to respond to the notice in the October 31, 2014, Federal Register requesting comments regarding the American Community Survey (ACS) Content Review Results. The AAMC is a not-for-profit association representing all 141 accredited U.S. and 17 accredited Canadian medical schools; nearly 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems, including 51 Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers; and nearly 90 academic and scientific societies. Through these institutions and organizations, the AAMC represents 148,000 faculty members, 83,000 medical students, 115,000 resident physicians, and thousands of graduate students and postdoctoral trainees in the biomedical sciences.
The AAMC appreciates the systematic approach the U.S. Census Bureau has taken to review the content of the ACS and the opportunity to provide input regarding the practical utility and respondent burden of specific questions slated for removal from the questionnaire. In response to your request for feedback, we wish to associate ourselves with the comments of the National Science Board, AAAS, American Council on Education, and numerous other scientific, statistical, and educational organizations that have registered concern over the proposal to eliminate ACS Question 12 on "Field of Degree."
Indirectly, the AAMC relies on the data from Question 12 to enable our evaluations of the pipeline between undergraduate post-secondary education and medical school application and attendance. ACS Question 12 serves as the sample frame for another critically important survey, the National Survey of College Graduates (NSCG) conducted by the National Science Foundation (NSF)'s National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics. This unique, longitudinal survey offers comprehensive data on the nation's college graduates, with a focus on those in the science and engineering workforce. Because the AAMC only is able to collect data on students who engage with the AAMC, we cannot observe those students who do not pursue a medical education. Thus, as we consider who may be leaving the medical school pipeline prior to contact with the AAMC, tools like the NSCG are essential to augment the data we are able to collect first-hand. These types of analyses serve as the foundation for policymakers' efforts to understand and strengthen the pipeline to medical and scientific careers.
Without the "Field of Degree" question in the ACS, it is not clear that the NSCG is viable. Other commenters have projected that alternate mechanisms to achieve similar quality data would be difficult to identify, and, at minimum, such alternatives likely would pose significant additional costs to the Federal government and additional burden to survey respondents.
The AAMC strongly supports retaining Question 12 on the ACS to ensure that the nation continues to have access to the highest quality data on the scientific workforce through the most efficient and cost-effective means possible. Thank you again for the opportunity to comment and for your consideration.

1452 The comment below is being sent on behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) in response to the notice in the Federal Register, Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; The American Community Survey Content Review Results (79 Fed. Reg. 64743, October 31, 2014). The AAMC is a not-for-profit association representing all 141 accredited U.S. and 17 accredited Canadian medical schools; nearly 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems, including 51 Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers; and nearly 90 academic and scientific societies. Through these institutions and organizations, the AAMC represents 148,000 faculty members, 83,000 medical students, and 115,000 resident physicians.
The American Community Survey (ACS) is an invaluable annual source of health insurance information at the national, state and local level. The large sample size of the ACS also permits reliable comparisons of insurance coverage, or lack of coverage, among subpopulations of interest. The introduction of the Health Insurance Marketplace as required by the Affordable Care Act dramatically changed the way health insurance is purchased; however, the ACS health insurance series is not designed to identify enrollment in the Marketplace. Therefore, we request that you add 'Marketplace' to the list of sources of coverage under P16. Tracking enrollment in the Marketplace is essential if we are to have a comprehensive picture of who is insured and through which mechanism they obtain insurance. Providing an additional response option should add little or no cost to the survey while the benefit to our knowledge about the health insurance of Americans will be increased enormously.
Additionally, as the Census Bureau contemplates removing items from the ACS we request that consideration be given to adding additional cost information such as questions on premiums and/or premium subsidies to track the health insurance market. The AAMC's Center for Workforce Studies (CFWS) is a leader in understanding the health care workforce. Currently CFWS is developing local area models to examine the dynamics of physician supply, demand and access to care. Including Marketplace as a source of coverage and adding health insurance exchange cost questions to the ACS would be of immense value in understanding local area variations in access to health care, since the ACS represents a reliable source for small area data on health insurance coverage.
Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or require additional information.

1453 I am writing to express concern about removing the questions concerning marriage from the census. Marriage is a critical part of our society and it is important to monitor trends and to learn from them. Many people benefit from having access to this information, from researchers to those who work to improve the quality of marital relationships. Resources can be allocated to regions where people experience the most problems in marriages. It's a resource that can be used to strengthen relationships and help people find greater happiness in the fundamental relationships that bring great happiness and satisfaction in life. I am astounded that you would even consider removing questions on this subject… in the name of saving paper?

I strongly object to making these changes in the census and request that the questions in their entirety be retained in the information gathered by the Census bureau.

1454 I have been a long time user of the Census's Current Population Survey (CPS) and now the American Community Survey (ACS) to estimate the number and characteristics of people with different types of health insurance. I also have written (first in the 1980s) about the fact that the CPS data appear to provide point-in-time estimates of the number of people without health insurance rather than estimates of the number who are uninsured for an entire year. As a result, I think it is tremendously important going forward that the ACS contain questions that permit the government policy analysts and researchers to continue to examine how policy changes or the economy affect the numbers and characteristics of uninsured people from one year to the next. In that vein, the introduction of the state Health Insurance Marketplaces dramatically changed the way health insurance is purchased. Unfortunately, however, the ACS health insurance series is not designed to pick up enrollment in the Marketplace and so far, it is not possible to track changes in enrollment in the Marketplace. Given the public subsidies involved in the Marketplaces, the government and the public need to know how the Marketplaces are working in terms of how many people are obtaining insurance plans sold in the Marketplaces and how many people are using the premium tax credit subsidies. The ACS is the best Census survey for providing annual estimates of the effects of the Marketplaces on health insurance coverage. It would be a tremendous loss if the ACS were not changed to include questions about the Marketplaces and people's use of the subsidies available with Marketplace plans.

As the Census Bureau contemplates removing items outlined in the Federal Register, please consider adding 'Marketplace' to the list of sources of coverage and adding additional questions on premiums and premium subsidies aimed at tracking the health insurance market.

1455 I am writing in regards to the proposal to eliminate the marriage items from ACS.

I strongly encourage the Census Bureau to retain all of the marriage and divorce questions in the ACS. These items are crucial as there is no other source from which to calculate national and local marriage and divorce rates. I am currently working on a project on how the Great Recession affected family life, and these questions are crucial to understanding marital dynamics. I also have a project in the proposal stages to examine marital histories of immigrants by country of origin. ACS is the best and only data source that can be used for such a project. Additionally, the marriage and divorce questions are crucial for many research projects related to marital and nonmarital fertility as we need marital history data to determine whether conceptions and births are marital or non-marital.

1456 [2nd email] The Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York (CIDNY) is a non-profit organization founded in 1978. CIDNY's goal is to ensure full integration, independence and equal opportunity for all people with disabilities by removing barriers to full participation in the community. CIDNY helps consumers understand, enroll in and use private and public health programs, including commercial health insurance.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the American Community Survey Content Review Results. We are in agreement with slated removal of the seven questions that have been identified based on the results of the 2014 Content Review. If these questions are removed we would like to propose that additional questions should be added to the Health Insurance series.

The ACS represents an invaluable annual source of health insurance information at the national, state and local level. With its large sample size, it is also the source of information on insurance coverage, or lack of coverage, among subpopulations of interest, including disparities populations.

The people we serve are particularly interested in the six disability questions added to the ACS in 2008. When New York State contracted with Urban Institute to model characteristics of non-elderly New Yorkers likely to enroll in the Health insurance Exchanges Under that Affordable Care Act, they did not initially model disability status. Due to the existence of the ACS disability questions, we were able to ask researchers at Cornell's Employment and Disability Institute to at least produce statistics on the numbers and percentages of uninsured people with disabilities and Urban Institute later revised their Simulation Model to include these characteristics.

The introduction of the Health Insurance Marketplaces has dramatically changed the way people get health coverage; but the current ACS health insurance questions do not capture the new coverage options. As the Census Bureau contemplates removing the questions outlined in the Federal Register, please consider adding 'Marketplace' to the list of sources of coverage and adding additional questions asking whether this person gets help paying premiums and cost sharing reductions through from the Marketplace

If you have questions about these comments, please contact [redacted]. Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

1457 We are writing to express our concern about the proposed elimination of questions related to bachelor's degree recipients' field of degree in the American Community Survey (ACS).
Our organization has extensively utilized this data to inform educators, policymakers, students, and the general public about the economic value of college. In 2011, we published What's It Worth? The Economic Value of College Majors, in which we analyze college graduates' wages and occupations by major. And beginning in 2012, we began publishing annual editions of Hard Times, a snapshot of recent college graduates' unemployment rates and wages by major. This research is available to the public free of charge.
. .
We wish to continue condu.cti~g this research, but our abi lity to do so depends on the existence of the field of degree question in the ACS. We strongly believe its benefit to the American public more than justifies its cost. Both our reports are among the most popular publications we have released. They have driven hundreds of thousands of visitors to our website and gained widespread media coverage in traditional media outlets such as the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and Washington Post. What's It Worth has been widely cited in federal and state government reports and by education policy researchers. We've helped high school guidance counselors and career counselors at college perform their jobs more effectively by putting this research in their hands.
Moreover, there is strong evidence that there is demand for this information across multiple domains. For example, multiple state government officials have expressed interest in conducting parallel statebased analyses of labor market outcomes by major. Several other public policy research institutes, such as the Brookings Institution, have used the ACS to produce related research since 2010.
At a time when seven out of 1 O high school graduates enrolls in college, we believe it is absolutely

1458 The State of North Carolina has read the Federal Register notice concerning the content review of questions asked on the American Community Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. The North Carolina Office of the Governor and Department of Commerce Labor and Economic Analysis Division commend the Census Bureau for its continuing commitment to producing accurate data to support state government, business, and public needs. It is appropriate to review processes to verify that they effectively meet these needs. However, North Carolina is concerned that the content review process for the American Community Survey recommends eliminating Person Question No. 12- Undergraduate Field of Degree. The American Community Survey data on undergraduate field of degree is the sole source for this information, and the following examples demonstrate the importance of the information from this question to North Carolina.
Undergraduate field of degree data produced by the American Community Survey helps to inform workforce, education, and training policy initiatives by the North Carolina Office of the Governor.
Elimination of the undergraduate field of degree question will have a negative impact on research and analysis that is done in support of North Carolina economic and workforce development. This data is vital in understanding the labor force, education level, and types of degrees obtained in local communities.
The North Carolina Department of Commerce uses the undergraduate field of degree data in company recruitment projects. Availability and education level, including the type of degree, of the local workforce is an important factor for companies when determining site locations. The American Community Survey undergraduate field of degree is the only source for this data at the small geographic areas needed.
The undergraduate field of degree statistic is a factor in assessing the level of labor productivity in a locality. The level and type of educational attainment and degree has an impact on income distribution and is important in measuring the health of local economics.
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1459 The Travis County Healthcare District (d/b/a Central Health) was created by the taxpayers of Travis County to ensure the availability of quality health care to our most vulnerable residents. In order for us to accomplish this goal, we support several affiliated organizations - CommUnityCare, Sendero Health Plans, Inc., and the Community Care Collaborative - to help us build and maintain the fabric of our publicly accountable safety net health system. As partners, we all operate with a common objective to create access to care for those in our community who need it most.
Central Health appreciates this opportunity to provide comment regarding the American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS represents an invaluable annual source of health insurance information at the national, state, and county levels. For Central Health, the ACS is the most accurate and timely source of county level information on health insurance coverage. With its large sample size, it is also the source of information on coverage among subpopulations of interest to Central Health, including those county residents living in poverty.
The introduction of the Health Insurance Marketplace dramatically changed the way health insurance is purchased. However, the ACS health insurance series is not currently designed to measure enrollment in the Marketplace. Tracking enrollment in the Marketplace is important given the resources invested nationally and in Travis County to provide broad access to quality health insurance products. As the primary funder of healthcare services for the underserved in Travis County, Central Health is especially interested in understanding how the Marketplace is closing the health insurance coverage gap for county residents.
As the Census Bureau contemplates removing items outlined in the Federal Register notice, please consider adding 'Marketplace' to the list of sources of coverage and adding additional questions on premiums and premium subsidies aimed at tracking the health insurance market.
Ms. Jennifer Jessup
December 15, 2014
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Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comments regarding the ACS.

1460 We are writing in response to the request for comments about dropping the marriage items from the American Community Survey.

The loss of the marriage questions on the ACS would have substantial negative consequences for social science scholars, who use ACS data to examine characteristics of particular subgroups (e.g., same-sex couples), the representativeness and generalizability of their independently-collected samples or other national surveys, and how U.S. couples compare to couples in other countries.

Indeed, rather than removing questions, more detail on questions related to partnering would enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the survey data. Specifically, it would be useful to know (a) individuals' gender identities, (b) individuals' sexual orientations, and (c) (married and unmarried) couples' relationship duration. These questions would make possible a more complex examination of couple relationships that would be inclusive of couples regardless of marital status or the sexual makeups of pairings.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

1461 The ACS represents an invaluable annual source of health insurance information at the national, state and local level. With its large sample size, it is also the source of information on insurance coverage, or lack of coverage, among subpopulations of interest, including disparities populations. The introduction of the Health Insurance Marketplace dramatically changed the way health insurance is purchased; however, the ACS health insurance series is not designed to pick up enrollment in the Marketplace. Tracking enrollment in the Marketplace is important given the resources invested to provide broad access to quality health insurance products. As the Census Bureau contemplates removing items outlined in the Federal Register, please consider adding 'Marketplace' to the list of sources of coverage and adding additional questions on premiums and premium subsidies aimed at tracking the health insurance market.
These data are critically important to my research agenda, which involves tracking media influence on health insurance takeup in the United States.

1462 Attached please find comments from the Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Community Living (ACL) regarding Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; The American Community Survey Content Review Results (79 FR 64743).

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
[Text of attachment...] Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the American Community Survey Content Review Results. The mission of the Administration for Community Living (ACL) is to maximize the independence, well-being, and health of older adults, people with disabilities, and their families and caregivers. These comments confirm that the American Community Survey (ACS) collects a critical set of demographic and socioeconomic information necessary for the performance of ACL's mission.

As specified in the ACL portion of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) response to the Census Bureau submitted in June 2014, ACL uses ACS information in support of work authorized by the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act and the Older Americans Act (as amended).

ACL annually purchases special tabulations of the ACS information at several geographic levels of aggregation, which focus on population estimates of those 60 and older by such characteristics as ability to speak English, educational attainment, employment characteristics, veteran status, and poverty status. These special tabulations are publicly disseminated through ACL's Aging Integrated Database (AGID) system (http://www.agid.acl.gov/Default.aspx).

Further, many state and local agencies administering ACL-funded programs rely on the ACS special tabulations each year to better target their program services and funding.

Given the extensive, practical usefulness of the ACS information—which is supported by the AGID website usage statistics—ACL has expanded the scope of the ACS special 2008-2012 tabulations prepared this year to include population estimates of those with disabilities for all age groups. Summary ACS information for persons with sensory, cognitive, and physical disabilities is now available on AGID at three different geographic levels of aggregation and includes the following types of tables:

- Sex by Age by Disability Status
- Age by Number of Disabilities
- Sex by Age by Hearing Difficulty
- Sex by Age by Vision Difficulty
- Sex by Age by Hearing and Vision Difficulties
- Disability Status by Age by Types of Health Insurance Coverage

1463 Please accept these comments in favor of adding questions related to the Health Insurance Marketplace to the American Community Survey (ACS).

The ACS is an invaluable source of information about health insurance at the national, state, and local levels. It is also the best source of information on uninsurance, especially among subpopulations. The Affordable Care Act and the introduction of the health insurance marketplace have dramatically changed the way millions of Americans purchase health insurance. However, the health insurance questions in the ACS do not address this important source of coverage. Data on how people access health insurance will be crucial to evaluating health reform and developing new changes to continue to improve the health system. This will be especially important in states like Kansas that have resisted implementation of the ACA and devote few state resources to understanding its impact.

As the Census Bureau contemplates removing questions from ACS, I urge you to replace them by adding 'Marketplace' to the list of sources of coverage and including queries on premiums, premium subsidies, previous insurance/uninsurance status, and other questions aimed at tracking the health insurance market.

Thank you for your consideration.

1464 Please do not remove the marriage questions from the ACS as they offer unique information that cannot be garnered elsewhere. They are pivotal to many researchers and their publications that inform important public policies.

1465 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.
Thank you for your attention to this very serious matter,

1466 As noticed in the October 31, 2014 Federal Register, it is my understanding that the Census Bureau is proposing to eliminate certain questions from the American Community Survey. I am writing today to express my concern that the Census Bureau is considering removal of questions 20, 21a-c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage is an important institution and data regarding the data regarding marriage is important.
As can be seen in Shaunti Feldhahn's recent book "The Good News about Marriage" (Multnomah Books, 2014), accurate, statistical data regarding the status of marriage and divorce is difficult to locate. Incorrect conclusions have been drawn because of the lack of relevant, accurate data. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, our ability to track future trends will be diminished. Instead of gathering less data, the Census Bureau should be gathering more. Other questions on the ARC relate to much less important issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC. The removal of these questions represents a marginalization of marriage and would contribute to myths regarding marriage and divorce in this country.
As a leader of Heart for Families (a faith-based non-profit organization committed to strengthening marriages), I believe the lack of accurate data will actually weaken the institution of marriage.
I (and many other American citizens) value marriage. Marriage is the core of the family, and as the institution of marriage deteriorates so will the institution of the family. Strong families are the key to a strong society. The benefits of understanding marriage trends and supporting the institution of marriage are important to me, and it should be important to our nation.
Therefore, I urge the Bureau to leave these questions as a part of all future ACS questionnaires.

I appreciate your service to our nation and your help by sharing these comments with the appropriate personnel.

1467 I am writing to respectfully request that you keep questions about marriage in the ACS. These questions are valuable sources of information for research, teaching, and policy-making.

1468 Thank you for your work in gathering comments for the Department of Commerce in regards to the American Community Survey.

I am writing to express my concern that the Census Bureau not remove certain questions from the Census Bureau survey. I understand that questions 20, 21a through 21c, 22 and 23 are being considered to be removed from the survey. These are important questions about Marriage, an institution that is important in studying the history and future trends of society. I do not feel these are an unreasonable questions and are not a burden for people to answer, as I feel there are other questions that are less important that the respondent is asked.

I also feel that the removal of these questions minimizes the importance that marriage has in the social structure of American society. I value marriage and the commitment that it represents. It is at the core of strong families and a strong cohesive society. The benefits of understanding marriage trends and supporting it as an institution is important not only to me, but many others.

I would ask that the Census Bureau leave these questions on the Survey as they are important in understanding our society.

I know that there are many others who agree with me.

Again, I do appreciate you gathering these comments and your service for us the people.

1469 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1470 If these questions are dropped, the United States will become the only country in the developed world that does not generate annual age-specific rates of marriage and divorce.
As a young lesbian American I believe this information is vital to learning and understanding trends in marriage.

1471 As Chair and Co-Chair and on behalf of the full Committee on Equal Opportunities in Science and Engineering (CEOSE), we are writing in response to the Federal Register Notice (Vol. 79, No. 211 / Friday, October 31, 2014) concerning elimination of questions on the American Community Survey. CEOSE strongly recommends keeping question 12 (Field of Bachelor's Degree) in the survey.
CEOSE is a congressionally-mandated advisory committee to the National Science Foundation (NSF) that was established under the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act of 1980 (Section 36, Public Law 96-516, as amended). The committee's mandate is to "provide advice to the Foundation concerning (1) the implementation of the provisions of this act and (2) other policies and activities to encourage full participation of women, minorities, and persons with disabilities in scientific, engineering, professional, and technical fields." In order to accomplish its mandate, CEOSE must have access to high quality national data on very small populations (women, minorities, and persons with disabilities educated in and working in scientific, technical, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields) to provide fact-based recommendations. NSF currently uses the American Community Survey as a means to sample these small populations. Without question 12, drawing a sufficient sample of these groups with STEM degrees would be difficult, costly, and unlikely to result in reliable data .
Retaining question 12 on the American Community Survey will ensure that we continue to have quality data on the participation of women, minorities, and persons with disabilities in the STEM workforce and that those data can continue to inform policy and serve as benchmarks for evaluation of programs to increase participation of women, minorities, and persons with disabilities in STEM. These data will foster broadening participation in STEM which is critical to the nation's global

1472 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future surveys. Marriage is in a decline and we need to be able to detect trends such as this.
As a taxpayer, I expect you to monitor the state of marriage by continuing to ask questions about marriage. Removing these questions shows disregard for the institution of marriage. Please continue to include the marriage questions. I would appreciate a response.

1473 I am writing on behalf of the American Mathematical Society to urge you to retain the "Undergraduate Field of Degree" question (Question 12) on the American Community Survey (ACS).
Question 12 data is essential for the National Science Foundation's National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) to carry out its Congressional mandate to "collect, acquire, analyze, report, and disseminate statistical data related to the science and engineering workforce." The National Science Board's Congressionally mandated biennial Science and Engineering Indicators report relies heavily on Question 12 data to inform about trends in science and engineering as does another Congressionally mandated report, Women, Minorities, and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering. NCSES uses the "Field of Degree" question data to create its own survey of college graduates. Eliminating Question 12 will add significantly to the cost of a NSF survey and will reduce the quality and utility of the data.
Two recent reports by the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) focus on student success in STEM courses in K-12 and in postsecondary education. Prepare and Inspire: K-12 Education in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) for America's Future cites the need to better prepare K-12 students in STEM subjects and to encourage these students to pursue careers in STEM fields. The report, Engage to Excel: Producing One Million Additional College Graduates with Degrees in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics suggests that the United States needs to produce approximately one million more STEM professionals over the next decade in order to maintain its scientific preeminence. In order to meet this goal the country will need to increase the number of students who receive undergraduate STEM degrees by approximately thirty-four percent annually over current rates.
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www.ams.org
[redacted]
Data and analyses enabled by Question 12 responses will be critical for monitoring the Nation's performance in educating students in STEM subjects and inform whether or not enough STEM workers are being produced. Information gleaned from Question 12 responses will be important to education and industry leaders, policymakers, students and parents.
Analysis of information from Question 12 is also often of interest to locales. For example, if a particular city has a high percentage of its population with STEM degrees, this characteristic can be used in promoting the city to a variety of companies. "Field of Degree" data can be used to inform students about economic benefits of specific college majors.
Having reliable, high quality information concerning the Nation's STEM workforce is important since our economic well-being relies heavily on this segment of the workforce. Retaining the "Field of Degree" question on the ACS can ensure, in an efficient and cost effective way, we continue to have useful and reliable knowledge about the STEM workforce.

1474 I am writing about the proposed elimination of questions about marriage, widowhood, and divorce in the Annual American Community Survey (ACS). If these questions are dropped, the United States will become the only country in the developed world that does not generate annual age-specific rates of marriage and divorce.

The ACS is the ONLY way to estimate divorce for the entire nation and local (county and city) marriage and divorce rates. The National Vital Statistics System does not collect key socioeconomic information, is missing divorce data for one-fifth (20%) of the population of the U.S., and provides no information at the county or city level.

As a family demographer and sociology graduate student, these questions are vital not only to my future career but also to the nation as a whole. I strongly object to the removal of the marital history questions.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

1475 Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the proposed information collection published by the Census Bureau (the Bureau) on October 31, 2014 at 79 Fed. Reg. 64743, which would eliminate six questions from the American Community Survey (ACS). On behalf of the nearly 170,000 bipartisan members and supporters of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), I would like to share AAUW's input on the importance of the ACS data. AAUW believes the ACS is an essential service and stands with many other groups in supporting the ACS and its important role.i Because ACS's data is so important to AAUW's research, we are concerned with the proposed elimination of questions from the ACS regarding undergraduate field of degree and marital status.

AAUW relies on this information to further our research promoting pay equity and closing the wage gap. AAUW's member-adopted Public Policy Principles affirm our opposition to "all forms of discrimination" and commitment to "an economy that provides equitable employment opportunities."ii To further these goals, AAUW publishes original research reports analyzing the national gender pay gap as well as the gap in all fifty states and Washington DC. Using the data provided by ACS, AAUW has found that undergraduate field of study and marital status are both factors that contribute to pay inequality.iii Since changes in marital status and choice of undergraduate field have both economic and social impacts on women, it is imperative that AAUW continues receiving this data so we can continue to back up proposed policy changes that will benefit women and their families.

The ACS is the only source of objective, consistent, and comprehensive information about the nation's social, economic, and demographic characteristics down to the neighborhood level. Because questions regarding undergraduate field of degree and marital status are critical to our research, AAUW strongly believes that these six questions should continue to

1476 I object to the removal of marriage from the ACS!

1477 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.
Thank you.

1478 Please accept my comments in favor of retaining questions 21a-c, 22 and 23 regarding marital status. Marriage remains a foundational institution for societal structure with far reaching influences on the economic, education, health and crime characteristics (among others) of the American populace.

The ACS database established from these questions will remain useful to help federal agencies understand marriage trends, forecast future needs of programs that have spousal benefits, and measure the effects of policies and programs that focus on the well-being of families, including tax policies and financial assistance programs. In the Federal arena, this high quality data can be utilized in researching and reporting tasks for programs with spousal benefits and effects, including veterans 'and social security programs. It will remain instrumental in analyzing family formation, to understand the different types of families in need, and in federal programs that benefit low-income families.

In addition, state and local agencies use these statistics, in combination with number of children, income, and employment to determine what kinds of social services might be needed in a community. Health care and community services may use this information to understand the percentage of older people in a community without spousal support, who may need additional care as they age. Advocacy groups use these statistics to understand current and future challenges and to advocate for policies that benefit their groups. Researchers use these statistics to understand marriage trends, changing attitudes about marriage, blended families, etc.

In summary, I strongly urge the Census Bureau not to eliminate these questions from the American Community Survey and request that you forward my comments to the appropriate reviewing body. In addition, given the many seasonal distractions during the comment period and the critical importance of this issue, I would request the Bureau extend the time window for citizens to be made aware of these proposed changes and to offer comments.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter and your service to our nation.

1479 Please keep marriage Data questions on the ACS! If You want to simplify questions, Why not just ask have you ever been divorced? That we give demographers and researchers a lot of information And simplify the ACS questionnaire.

Thanks for your consideration. I apologize For the Spelling errors- Using iPhone Voice texting, Sent on the road and deadline today!

1480 I am writing to respond to the request for comments about the elimination of the field-of-degree question from the American Community Survey. We feel strongly that this question is a necessary component for the nation's statistical system. Its elimination would severely damage our ability to understand ongoing changes in American society and to implement effective policy responses, both at the national level as well as at the state and local level.

The field-of-degree question was introduced following recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences, after an extensive program of field testing and evaluation. The primary reason for the addition was to enable the ACS to serve as the sample frame for the surveys conducted by the National Science Foundation (NSF) for the Scientists and Engineers Statistical Data System. The availability of the ACS question has reduced costs and improved quality for NSF's survey program. The ACS is the only survey suitable to provide the sample frame for the NSF surveys on the STEM workforce.

The ACS is now the premier source of information on the characteristics of the STEM workforce, and elimination of the question on field of degree would leave us with no data sources large enough to study small but crucial academic specializations. There have been hundreds of new studies on the impact of college majors on lifetime earnings and demographic behavior.

The field-of-degree question has proved to be invaluable in our current research. Washington state received a $17.3 million grant from U.S. Department of Education Institute of Education Sciences for continued work on the design and implementation of the state's P-20w longitudinal data system. The system will provide a wider array of data, improved analytic capability, and greater access while continuing to include protections for individual privacy and confidentiality in compliance with state and federal regulations.

However, one of the limitations of the administrative records we use to determine wage outcomes is that we can determine the industry of the employer, but not the occupation of the employee, making it impossible to identify the occupation of a recent baccalaureate graduate. The ACS question on field-of-degree allows us to link the numerous degree fields to current occupations, and Sankey charts allow us to follow the various career paths degrees take to occupations.

We are currently displaying links between field-of-degree and income on our Education Research and Data Center website similar to the Upjohn Institute College Earnings Tool. Unfortunately, our data are only available for Washington state public institution graduates. We would like to explore some micro-simulation modelling where we link field-of-degree to occupation to help us refine Return-On-Investment models that have been developed in the current literature. Only the ACS data permit this type of research. We also need the ACS data with field-of-degree to see how our public baccalaureate graduates compare to all new graduates in the state. We have also explored the ACS field-of-degree data to see which degree fields are drawing migrants into our state and which degree fields migrants possess that are leaving our state.

In sum, the college field of degree question has proven invaluable. There is no alternative source for this information and the data are essential for both the effective operation of government programs and for understanding societal and economic changes in the nation and states. The Census Bureau has determined that all these

1481 I am writing to request that the Census Bureau and Commerce Department keep the field of degree question in the American Community Survey. The field of degree question was recently identified as one of seven questions slated for potential removal from the ACS after an initial content review. This review identified the field of degree question as both low cost (as defined by the level of respondent burden or difficulty in obtaining the data) and low benefit (as defined by the level of usefulness). The criteria used to determine the degree of benefits associated with each question was determined in large part by whether or not the question had legally "mandatory" and/or "required" uses. Unfortunately, this measure did not assess the utility of measuring rare populations (e.g., the science and engineering workforce) or the demographic characteristics of these populations.
One of the principle benefits of the field of degree question is that it provides crucial data on the size and characteristics of the science and engineering workforce. Eliminating this question will reduce the quality, utility, and frequency of data essential to analyzing and disseminating information of the science and engineering workforce. This data serves as important indicators of the ability of the United States to maintain its leadership in research and development and to be globally competitive. In doing so, it is incredibly beneficial to policymakers, educators, and researchers in their efforts to understand and improve the science and technology workforce at the local, state, regional, and national levels. The field-of-degree data help us better understand if we are producing adequate levels of scientists and engineers in various essential fields such as computer science, engineering, and the life sciences.
Moreover, removing this question will adversely affect the quality and availability of data for two congressionally mandated reports compiled by the National Science Foundation: Science and Engineering Indicators and Women, Minorities and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering. While the NSF is not required to use the ACS as the source of data for this report, the ACS provides a level of data that would be difficult if not impossible to achieve in both quality and quantity through alternate means. The Women, Minorities, and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering report in particular is used to assess the equity and
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1482 My wife and I are opposed to the deletion of these census questions.
We think this info provides important information to the nation.
Why was this action proposed during the Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years holidays? You need to extend the commend time frame by one month.
We will also contact our two VA Senators /Congressmen next week to express our views on this matter.

1483 Ms. Jessup, 21a-21c, Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this brief email to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. I am writing today to express my concern that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage is an important institution and in the last several years we have seen this institution decline. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends. Other questions on the ARC relate to much less important issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC., Furthermore, the removal of these questions represents a marginalization of marriage. As an American citizen, I value marriage and I know many others who do as well. Marriage is the core of the family, and as the institution of marriage deteriorates so will the institution of the family. Strong families are the key to a strong society. The benefits of understanding marriage trends and supporting the institution of marriage are important to our nation and to me. I urge the Bureau to leave these questions as a part of all future ACS questionnaires., I appreciate your help and your service to our nation

1484 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing the questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you stop asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.
As a taxpaying citizen, I urge you to continue monitoring the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.
Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's lax attitude toward the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1485 I just became aware of the possibility of marriage, divorce, and widowhood questions being removed from the Annual American Community Survey (ACS).
I strongly encourage you to carefully consider this decision. I urge you to keep marriage, divorce, and widowhood questions in the ACS. Furthermore, I recommend asking additional marriage, divorce, and widowhood questions to strengthen the validity of the ACS survey results.
I do not know any of the details about why this might take place, nor do I know how involved the process of conducting the survey might be if marriage, divorce, and widowhood questions remain as part of the ACS.
As a former teacher, I do know that taking a fraction of a minute to ask a question can provide significant opportunity for data analysis.
Perhaps, a solution to the problem prompting this chance can be reached.
As I stated previously, I an unaware of any of the details involved in this potential decision. I can imagine that potential reasons for this change might be funding, personnel, or time related.
These can be overcome in order to continue collecting significant data. Perhaps, a nonprofit organization or an academic university could be of assistance in the process.
If the decision to remove the marriage, divorce, and widowhood age questions are withheld from the ACS even for a trial year, the data for that period of time will be lost and cause an irreversible break in statistics for data analysis.
Thank you for your time and consideration to continue collecting significant data regarding marriage, divorce, and widowhood in American families.

1486 I just found out about responding concerning dropping marriage questions on Census surveys. I oppose dropping questions regarding marriage. These questions have been so helpful for information regarding families and individuals. Please fight to keep marriage questions on census reports!

1487 I appreciate the opportunity to respond to the Census Bureau's request for comments regarding the results of the American Community Survey (ACS) Content Review results, as published in the Federal Register on October 31, 2014. As a research professor at the George Washington Institute of Public Policy, George Washington University, I focus on federal policies that support U.S. economic competitiveness. From that perspective, I believe that the ACS is an essential resource for enabling the nation's economic well-being. My research indicates that the structured use of ACS data is very deeply embedded in the operations of the public and private sectors and, as a result, substantially improves the functioning of the nation's economic markets.
Regarding the Census Bureau's proposal to eliminate seven questions from the 2016 ACS, I support the elimination of question H6 and the continuation of questions P12 (field of bachelor's degree), P21 (recent marital activity), and P23 (year of marriage). I have no opinion on the retention of P22 (number of times married).
In particular, I believe that the availability of P12 data facilitates significantly improved government and private sector decision-making with regards to education, workforce development, and science and technology development. In the short time that P12 has been in existence, it has made a significant, highly noticeable contribution to the quality and value of statistical analyses of U.S. workforce dynamics, for example, in many of the publications of the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce.1 As I believe you have received a large volume of comments testifying to the value of P12 for research and policy, I won't cover that point any further. My comments in support of retaining P12, P21, and P23 instead primarily will address the process by which the Census Bureau came to its decision to remove these questions.
I will say in advance that my comments are informed in part by research I recently completed under contract with the Census Bureau's ACS Office identifying federal and non-federal uses of ACS data. That said, the opinions I express are entirely my own.
According to the ACS Content Review final report, the Census Bureau has structured its content review on the basis of the following understanding:
• Historically, the Census Bureau has periodically reviewed the justification for questions on the ACS (or census long form), solicited external comment, communicated the results and recommended implementation.
• As required by Title 13 of the U.S. Code, in preparation for each decennial census, the Census Bureau has provided to Congress two key deliverables that outline proposed long form/ACS content: a listing of the planned topics and their statutory uses three years prior to the census, and the specific planned question wording two years prior to the census. The Census Bureau provided these to Congress most recently for the 2010 Census and the ACS in March 2007 and March 2008.
• In the 2000 census, content for the long form was constrained by only including questions for which there was either:
1) a current federal law that explicitly called for the use of the decennial census data for a particular federal program;
2) a federal law or implementing regulation that required the use of specific data, and the decennial census was the historical or only source of data; or,
3) the data were necessary for Census Bureau operational needs.
• In 2006, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), in consultation with the Census Bureau, adopted a more flexible policy for content determinations for the ACS. o The policy provides for OMB, in consultation with the Census Bureau, to consider issues such as frequency of data collection, the level of geography needed to meet the required need, and other sources of data that could meet a requestor's need in lieu of ACS data.
o In some cases, legislation may justify the inclusion of a topic in the ACS.
o In other cases, OMB may approve a new topic based on an agency's justification and program needs.

1488 Recognizing that the ICSP-SACS decision criteria are programmatic, not mandated or required, and are based on an earlier version primarily developed to improve response rates and data quality, not respondent burden, the next question is a reverse one: Are these criteria consistent with existing law and regulation? Again, based on my reading, I don't think so.
The ICSP-SACS criteria and the Census Bureau's resulting proposal to remove several questions are based solely on an assessment of the federal uses of each ACS question and do not take into account the value to non-federal users. However, OMB's Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) regulations, OMB and Census Bureau Information Quality Guidelines, and the ICSP-SACS charter require that value to non-federal users be considered.
The OMB regulations (5 CFR 1320) indicate (italics added):
• The PRA is designed to reduce, minimize and control burdens and maximize the practical utility and public benefit of the information created, collected, disclosed, maintained, used, shared and disseminated by or for the Federal government.
• Practical utility means the actual, not merely the theoretical or potential, usefulness of information to or for an agency, taking into account its accuracy, validity, adequacy, and reliability, and the agency's ability to process the information it collects (or a person's ability to receive and process that which is disclosed, in the case of a third-party or public disclosure) in a useful and timely fashion.
• In determining whether information will have ''practical utility,'' OMB will take into account whether the agency demonstrates actual timely use for the information either to carry out its functions or make it available to third-parties or the public, either directly or by means of a third-party or public posting, notification, labeling, or similar disclosure requirement, for the use of persons who have an interest in entities or transactions over which the agency has jurisdiction.
OMB's Information Quality Guidelines state (italics added):
• Section 515 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act for FY2001 directs agencies subject to the PRA to issue their own information quality guidelines ensuring and maximizing the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of information, including statistical information, disseminated by the agency.
• ''Utility'' refers to the usefulness of the information to its intended users, including the public. In assessing the usefulness of information that the agency disseminates to the public, the agency needs to consider the uses of the information not only from the perspective of the agency but also from the perspective of the public.
• ''Influential'', when used in the phrase ''influential scientific, financial, or statistical information'', means that the agency can reasonably determine that dissemination of the information will have or does have a clear and substantial impact on important public policies or important private sector decisions.6
6 Office of Management and Budget, "Guidelines for Ensuring and Maximizing the Quality, Objectivity, Utility, and Integrity of Information Disseminated by Federal Agencies; Notice; Republication," Federal Register, Vol. 67, No. 36, February 22, 2002, pp. 8458-8460.
The Census Bureau's Information Quality Guidelines say (italics added):
• The Census Bureau considers its published statistical information to be "influential," and does not distinguish among the many data it releases annually those which are more or less influential.
• In implementing these guidelines, the Census Bureau acknowledges that ensuring the quality of information is an important management objective that takes its place alongside other Census Bureau objectives, such as ensuring the success of Census Bureau missions, observing budget and resource priorities and restraints,

1489 I am writing today to add my voice to numerous others who use and find valuable in their research the American Community Survey and who are urging the Commerce Department to maintain the undergraduate-major question on the American Community Survey which is scheduled for elimination. Research on the economics of innovation and the teaching of statistical methods may suffer if these questions are eliminated.

My NSF-sponsored research examines the fundamental processes and student and researcher characteristics that lead to innovation. Every country seriously interested in rising living standards seeks to extend its innovative capacity and outcomes, and raising living standards is a shared interest among researchers and policymakers alike. The question on undergraduate field of study has been extremely useful in analyzing the innovation economy, e.g., Cook (2014). One interesting finding is that much of the innovation derived from U.S. patents stems from undergraduate STEM and other majors.

A second reason for maintaining both the marital-status and undergraduate field of study question is training in economics. I use the ACS questions in teaching statistical methods. Students use these questions and their correlates to study lifetime earnings and other economic outcomes.

Thank you for your kind consideration of my request to maintain the ACS in general and these two questions in particular.

1490 As a data user and government employee, I understand
all the concerns raised by general public and Congress members.

Few points.
1. Privacy/intrusion concerns:
Personally, I am very confident on Census' way of releasing of data.
I believe a lot of these concern can be eased if respondent understand the importance and the way data privacy is handled. In addition, these maybe eased by making procedure changes. For example, we can have one surveyor collect part of the survey questions while another surveyor covers different part of the survey at different time if necessary.

2. Cost/Accountability:
ACS can be considered as simply a survey vehicle, while each Federal agency is responsible to cover the cost and defend the justification of each question asked. In this way, Census only need to defend its own requirement and its own budget while other agencies need to defend their own requirement and budget request. This also allows agencies to respond to policy changes more promptly.

1491 It's come to my attention that seven questions are slated for removal from American Community Surveys in the future and that most of them are about marital status.

Why? The state of family and family relationships in America is data worth knowing, far more than, say, internet habits.

Could you or someone from your office please contact me to explain in greater detail why data on the marital status of Americans seems to be slated for removal from the public record?

1492 I hope you will reconsider the plans to remove questions about marriage from the ACS. Clearly the nature of families and their formation are an important area for U.S. policymakers, researchers and others to have the latest information. Without these questions in the ACS we can't be as informed as we need to be about this key building block of society. Whatever your political leanings, questions of marriage are important — we need to ensure there is clear and accurate information being gathered through the ACS to help shed light on the questions that are always emerging tied to marriage.

1493 I am writing to express my concern about the Census Bureau's plans to drop the marital history and college degree field questions from the American Community Survey. The ACS questions on marriage and divorce are essential for understanding how the family lives of older Americans are changing, most importantly through rising divorce rates. These changes have important implications for our Social Security and Medicare. No other data source provides the accurate and timely data necessary to measure these trends and assess their policy implications.
The college degree field question is widely used and yields enormous cost savings to the federal government.
I hope the Census Bureau will reconsider their recommendation and retain the ACS marital history and college degree field questions.

1494 As a social demographer and fifth-year PhD student, below are a few reasons why I believe the marital history and education items proposed for removal should remain part of the ACS questionnaire:
• Do most college freshmen know how the number of divorces can go up while the divorce rate goes down? Definitely not. Questions like these that help us to tease apart overall proportions of ever-married/divorced adults and actual events in a given year are incredibly helpful tools in demonstrating this.
• STEM campaigns are coming out of the woodwork, particularly regarding US performance compared with other developed countries, and particularly regarding girls' education. We know that part of the lack of women in STEM careers stems (pun absolutely intended) in part from earlier paths taken in education. Why would we want to stop collecting information on undergraduate majors now?
• As college gets more and more expensive and student debt continues to climb, socioeconomic information by field of study will be an increasingly valued reference for future cohorts exploring potential postsecondary paths.
• ACS is incredibly valuable as a resource for the growing body of research on same-sex couples. In an area with so much uncharted territory, and as more and more states legalize same-sex marriage (and as we eventually begin, inevitably, to witness more same-sex divorce) these kinds of questions will be crucial in understanding the marital portrait of same-sex couples in the US.
Thank you so much for your time and for inviting public comment.

1495 I am concerned that the U. S. Census Bureau is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. The government and it's agencies should be supporting traditional marriage be 1 man and 1 woman for many reasons.
First, that marriage leads to families, and families are the cornerstone of every solid society. Second, solid marriages lead to stabilty in their community. Solid families take care of themselves and pay taxes, without needing government assistance. They contribute to balanced cost in government, not deficit spending.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention and will watch for your final decision.

1496 I am writing in response to the request for comments regarding the proposed elimination of the six important questions from the American Community survey (ACS): the five marital history questions and the undergraduate field of study question.

The ACS marital history questions form a critical part of our statistical infrastructure. They were developed by the Census Bureau as a replacement for vital statistics on marriage and divorce system. The ACS questions were needed because the vital statistics infrastructure has deteriorated greatly. State collection of marriage and divorce vital statistics is voluntary and many states opt-out; only the total counts are reported, with no details on age, times married, or other key demographic information; and even the quality of the data is suspect, as my colleague Steve Ruggles and I show in a recent article in Demography. Thus, the ACS marital history questions provide the only source of state and nationally representative data on marriage and divorce across the life course.

In the short time that these data have been available, scholars have used these data to identify important changes in American family life. We've learned that older Americans are divorcing at unprecedented rates, a trend that I-Fen Lin and Susan Brown call the "Gray Divorce Revolution". Steve Ruggles and I show that this increase is so large that, once we control for the age distribution of the population, divorce in the U.S. is at an all-time high. And, increasing numbers of Americans have re-married (Livingston 2014). More research is needed to fully describe these changes in marriage patterns at older ages and to understand the implications of these changes for the health and well-being of the elderly and for key social programs, including Social Security. The ACS is the only data source available that provides accurate data on marital transitions at older ages.

While older Americans are divorcing more, very young Americans are divorcing less – perhaps because they aren't marrying at all. The ACS is the only source of that provides information on rates of marriage and divorce by age across the life span.

Scholars are using the ACS to study divorce trends and the Great Recession and to understand long-run socioeconomic differentials in divorce risks (see Cohen 2012, Payne 2014). Others have used the ACS to study inter-racial and inter-ethnic marriages, studies which require large samples sizes (e.g. Qian and Lichter 2011). Researchers have also looked at the marriage and migration processes simultaneously, using information on the date of marriage and data of migration included in the ACS (e.g. Levechenko and Solheim 2013). The time-married variable is key to a broad variety of studies, even those that don't directly focus on marital events.

During the past two years, gay marriage became legal in most states in the U.S. The ACS now identifies households with same-sex married couples. The ACS now provides researchers with data on same-sex marriages at a critical juncture in American history.

We are in the midst of a period of important change in American family life. We need more data, not less. And we need data sources that make possible analysis of sub-populations and state-level geographies for policy analysis. The ACS marital history questions have already proven their worth through the valuable research conducted since they were introduced. Their value will only increase over time, as trend analysis become more important.

1497 I object to the removal of marriage, widowhood, and divorce from the Census Bureau's Annual Community Survey. In my area of research into black popular culture, having access to research related to marriage and divorce is critical.

1498 Good policy decisions require access to good information. And if we are to make good decisions with respect to marriage, a fundamental union in the US, we need to keep questions about marriage (and its dissolution) in the American Community Survey. Thank you in advance for your support on this matter.

1499 The Endocrine Society appreciates the opportunity to comment on the American Community Survey (ACS) Questions slated for removal based on the 2014 ACS content review. Founded in 1916, the Endocrine Society is the world's oldest, largest, and most active organization devoted to research on hormones and the clinical practice of endocrinology. Today, the Endocrine Society's membership of over 18,000 includes clinical, translational and basic scientists, as well as clinicians in practice. After reviewing federal register notice 2014-25912, we are concerned that Person Question No. 12—Undergraduate Field of Degree is slated for removal from the ACS. We argue that this question is of high practical utility, imposes minimal burden to respondents, and is required for the proper functioning of agencies such as the National Science Foundation (NSF). Question No. 12 therefore must be maintained in future versions of the ACS.
Data on undergraduate degrees and subjects of study are necessary to measure and understand the extent to which students are trained in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields. These data enable professional organizations to assess the success of federal, state, and local initiatives to improve training in STEM fields, including efforts to increase the participation of underrepresented minority groups in STEM fields. Maintaining the United States' leadership in STEM fields is regarded as a priority to improve the "health and longevity of our Nation's citizenry, economy and environmental resources", as described in a report by the National Science and Technology Council1.
The complicated nature of workforce development in STEM fields requires a systematic and comprehensive approach to the collection of data on degree fields. The biomedical workforce, in particular, is severely threatened by a decade of flat funding coupled with budget cuts due to sequestration2. In this challenging time, workforce data compiled in periodic reports by the NSF are necessary to understand the effects of budget cuts on the future biomedical workforce, and how the biomedical workforce pipeline may be sustained. We therefore echo comments made in Nature that
1 http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/stem_stratplan_2013.pdf
2 http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3882436/
the data provided by answers to Question No. 12 are not only of immense value but are necessary for the fulfillment of Congressional mandates to the NSF3.
In conclusion, the data provided by Question No. 12 are of high practical utility, impose minimal burden to respondents (no more than 9 seconds), and are required for the proper functioning of agencies such as the NSF. We therefore urge the Department of Commerce and the Census Bureau to retain Question No. 12 in future versions of the ACS. Thank you for considering the Endocrine Society's comments. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact [redacted].

1500 I have heard that there is current consideration of removing questions about marriage in American Community Surveys. It is my strong opinion that tracking trends in marriage is very important to statistical analysis and detection of trends. Marital status and length of marriage has been shown in the past to have a relevant correlation to prosperity, to community stability, and to many other important indicators of the state of the population in this country. I have responded in the past to some of the community surveys and recall questions about purchasing habits and entertainment consumption. While those may be important, they are not nearly as important indicators of a wide variety of issues as information about marriage.

1501 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1502 I am writing in opposition to the decision to cut the marital events and marital history questions from the American Community Survey.

I understand the high cost of these data, and the fact that there is not a legal mandate to collect this information.. However, the data these questions provide is extremely important to researchers, policymakers, journalists, local communities, and the public.

In my academic work, I have published a peer-reviewed article using these data, titled, "Recession and Divorce in the United States, 2008-2011," in Population Research and Policy Review [33(5):615-628]. Without these data -- which make available divorce incidence along with individual-level data with sample size sufficient to study local areas -- we would not be able to ascertain the effect of this massive social event on family life in the United States.

That is just one example. In addition, I have written blog posts illustrating what we can learn ONLY from these data, including:

•□□□□□□□□Divorce rates for millennial-generation adults in 25 major cities: https://familyinequality.wordpress.com/2014/11/06/top-25-cities-for-millennial-divorce/
•□□□□□□□□Divorce rates for Asians from different national-origin groups: https://familyinequality.wordpress.com/2014/11/13/asian-divorce-rate/
•□□□□□□□□Marriage rates among people with different disabilities: https://familyinequality.wordpress.com/2014/11/24/marriage-rates-among-people-with-disabilities/
•□□□□□□□□The extremely high widowhood and divorce rates, and low marriage rates, in Detroit: https://familyinequality.wordpress.com/2014/12/01/detroits-decline/

I hope you are able to preserve this vital source of information.

1503 I ask you to please retain the five questions relating to marriage and divorce and one question on undergraduate education in the American Community Survey. I have used data from the ACS in my work and believe the elimination of these questions would irrevocably damage the important statistics regarding the strength of American families, especially with regards to the divorce rate.

1504 We are writing to respond to the request for comments on the proposed elimination of the question related to bachelor's degree recipients' field of degree in the American Community Survey (ACS).
Jobs for the Future works with our partners to design and drive the adoption of education and career pathways leading from college readiness to career advancement for those struggling to succeed in today's economy. We feel strongly that the elimination of this question would be detrimental to our work, that of our partners, and the work of other entities and individuals interested in the labor-market implications of a particular undergraduate field of study.
The ability to understand the long-term impacts of educational attainment for specific programs of study is critical to developing and maintaining educational pathways that lead to familysustaining careers. Moreover, the ACS data is unique in that it enables analyses of the impact of particular degrees on both earnings and employment outcomes; the data can then be disaggregated and compared by race, ethnicity, gender, or other demographic categories. As a result, these data are critically important to identifying and addressing issues of inequality, as there is no other federal data source—including the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), or the National Center for Education Statistics—that links educational attainment to wages, industry, and occupational data in the same manner over time for such a large sample of the population. In addition, without data on field of study, we cannot adequately track whether we are creating enough next generation experts in high-demand fields or ensure participation by underrepresented groups—both of which are integral to the nation's long-term economic wellbeing.
We sincerely hope that the committee will reconsider the elimination of this question, as it provides data that is critical not only for research but also for programs, federal, state and local policymakers, and other individuals who want to understand the labor-market value of a

1505 I am writing regarding the proposed elimination of questions relating to marital history and undergraduate field of degree in the American Community Survey. I believe the elimination of these questions would result in diminished understanding among policy makers seeking to address emerging social and economic changes. Therefore, I urge the Census Bureau to retain these questions in the American Community Survey.
In my work as Minnesota State Demographer, I am routinely asked to supply data to answer pressing policy questions and to help policymakers direct public resources. The American Community Survey is the best tool we have to do this, due to its breadth of topics, ability to examine small population subgroups, resolution at even small geographies, and national comparability.
Removal of the marital and divorce questions strikes a blow at basic understanding of household composition and change, which is fundamental to appreciating household resources and related policy implications. We are in a period of unprecedented change with the large Baby Boom generation exiting the workforce. In the years to come, concerns about their economic resources and rates of disability will come to the fore. A full understanding of the marital and divorce histories of the Boomers will be essential to allow policymakers to plan for their economic security and needed services.
The marital history questions slated for removal do not impose a burden on respondents. Their removal would not result in significant cost-savings, as the Census Bureau itself has indicated. However, their removal would create a tremendous gap in our knowledge base, due to the fact that the National Center for Health Statistics does not maintain comprehensive statistics on all 50 states' marital and divorce records.
Furthermore, I would like to lend my voice in support of the question on undergraduate field of degree. The American Community Survey is the premier source of information on characteristics of the STEM workforce. The field-of-degree question data are necessary for labor force planning in STEM and other high-growth fields. At a time when Minnesota's labor force is about to slow to nearly zero growth in the coming decades, data regarding college degree production is essential to our workforce planning and economic preparedness.
Both the field of degree and marital history questions are invaluable. I urge you to listen to the research and policy community and retain these questions, which are

1506 Thank you for overseeing the Census. I have been concerned by reports that your team is considering removing questions about marriage from future Census surveys. I think this is highly inadvisable for a number of reasons:

1. Government agencies need this data to inform them as they shape marriage and family policies
2. We need to understand how marriage affects the well-being of children so we can provide for their safety, security, and future happiness
3. Removing these questions sends the dangerous message that marriage is unimportant. And it is a highly important institution that affects every man, woman, and child in this nation.

As a private citizen, I am asking that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23 on the census survey.

1507 I got an email from the Minnesota Population Center saying that a number of questions related to education and marriage may be removed from the ACS. I don't really know a whole lot about why they would be removed or what benefit that would be to anyone, but it seems to me that if it doesn't come at some exorbitant cost, the questions should be kept. So please, if possible, keep the questions! More knowledge can be a great thing.

1508 We are responding to the request for comments published in the Federal Register on October 31, 2014, pp. 64743-45 regarding the Census Bureau's pending decision to drop five questions about marriage from the American Community Survey (ACS). We represent four of the nation's most notable and frequently quoted think tanks. We want you to know that we are greatly concerned about your pending decision to drop these questions.
If these questions about marital history are dropped, the U.S. would become the only nation in the developed world that does not collect annual age-specific information on rates of marriage and divorce. The nation would also lose the ability to estimate marriage and divorce rates among subgroups in the population. Losing this information would have at least two consequences that are of great importance.
First, this information is used to administer some government programs. In a 1997 report (GAO/OCG 97-16) to the Honorable Henry Hyde, then Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, the Government Accountability Office reported that they had identified over 1,000 programs in thirteen categories in which "benefits, rights, or privileges are contingent on marital status." In some cases, if federal agencies cannot use ACS data to estimate the number of individuals or families eligible for benefits from these programs, they may have trouble constructing plans for administering the programs and estimating the costs of the benefits, rights, or privileges. We believe this consideration alone might justify continuation of all or most of the
five questions on marital history.
Second, all four of us head organizations that have, taken together, scores of students, postdoctoral fellows, and senior researchers who conduct research on every aspect of marriage and divorce. A number of them routinely use the numbers generated by the ACS martial history questions in their analyses. Without the information from these questions, much that we know about the frequency of marriage and divorce, changes in rates of marriage and divorce over time, rates and changes in various subgroups of the population, and correlations of marriage and divorce trends with other demographic factors and personal characteristics would be lost. Now, when marriage rates are undergoing unprecedented declines with major consequences for poverty rates and the intellectual and social development of the nation's children, would not be a good time to lose the information yielded by these ACS questions.
Many researchers at our institutions would support other changes to ensure that the ACS, which provides a vital, annual source of information to inform government and private sector decisionmaking, stays current with a changing policy environment. Specifically, researchers would want to see "Marketplace" added to the list of sources of insurance coverage for the existing health insurance question and suggest adding additional questions on premiums and premium subsidies aimed at tracking the health insurance market. The change and additions need not come at the expense of questions about marital history that provide indispensable insight into changing life in America.
We would urge you to include all five questions (or at least as many as possible) because the questions are of great importance for research purposes. A wide variety of policy topics use family background as an important independent variable, and it is not a binary "yes/no" for marriage. A family in which the respondent has been married just once and is still married is radically different from one in which the respondent is remarried, divorced, or never married. All five questions are important to distinguish among these different backgrounds, which we know from a large literature have markedly different relationships to the dependent variable. Cutting the last four questions would in effect make serious analysis of the role of family structure with the ACS difficult in many cases and impossible in some.
In short, we write in hopes that the U.S. Census Bureau, one of the most respected agencies in the federal government, will make every effort to balance retaining all or most of the five questions on marital history with requests to add new questions about other important issues. After all, marriage and family composition are arguably fundamental building blocks of our nation. The consequences of the Bureau following through on its proposal to drop all five questions on marital history

1509 I was really upset when I heard that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status from future American Community Surveys. Why? The only reason that comes to my mind is the governments attack on the institution of marriage. If the Census includes questions about internet use, it certainly can ask questions about marital status. As a tax payer I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 12a-21c and questions 22 and 23.

1510 I understand that you are considering the possibility of deleting the field of study question from the ACS. This would be a mistake. The answers to this question are important to understanding how the supply side of our labor market evolves, which is crucial during a time of substantial skill mismatches.

1511 I am writing in response to the federal register notice on the American Community Survey.
Even to Minnesota, a state that conducts a state-specific health care access survey, the American Community Survey (ACS) represents an invaluable annual source of health insurance information. With its large sample size, it remains an essential source of information on insurance coverage, or lack of coverage, among subpopulations of interest, including populations that continue to experience deep disparities.
The introduction of the Health Insurance Marketplace dramatically changed the way health insurance is purchased; however, the ACS health insurance series is not designed to pick up enrollment in the Marketplace. Tracking enrollment in the Marketplace is important to inform state and federal health policy making to ensure broad access to quality health insurance products.
As the Census Bureau contemplates removing items outlined in the Federal Register, please consider adding 'Marketplace', ideally with state-specific program names, to the list of sources of coverage and adding additional questions on premiums and premium subsidies aimed at tracking the health insurance market.

1512
1. To "understand marriage trends." They are used to "measure the effects of policies and programs that focus on the well-being of families, including tax policies and financial assistance programs."

2. For sociologists researching the impact of marriage on our society and for businesses that serve and support families.

3. Beyond this, the term "marriage" is important. We live in a culture in which marriage has been under attack, with opponents attempting to deconstruct it and redefine it. If we allow the term to slip from common usage and be absorbed into the larger category of domestic partnership, life partnership or even sexual partnership, we are conceding ground in the marriage debate. We would be conceding that the concept is not even important enough to differentiate it from other social arrangements. Even with the normalization of same-sex relationships being recognized as "marriage," there is much good that can be done by people, religious or not, who believe that the historic concept of marriage is fundamental to a healthy society.

4. It is not the Census Bureau's responsibility to make this decision without input from the people.

Please do not remove the questions concerning marriage from the Census forms.

1513 On behalf of the American Educational Research Association (AERA), I am pleased to have the opportunity to comment in response to the recent request from the U.S.
Census Bureau concerning, in particular, questions slated for possible removal from the American Community Survey (ACS). With over 25,000 members, AERA is the major
national scientific organization that strives to advance knowledge about education, to encourage scholarly inquiry related to education, and to promote the use of research to
improve education and serve the public good.
Our response is directed to Person Question No. 12, Undergraduate Field of Degree (hereinafter Person Question #12). AERA brings particular expertise about the importance of routine and reliable measures of field of undergraduate education for the practical decisions made each day by public and private sector organizations in U.S.
communities. Thus, we are limiting our response to this question. We want to state at the outset that we appreciate that the Bureau conducted a comprehensive content review of the survey to assess the costs and benefits of each question in the ACS in a transparent and intentional manner. Nonetheless, it is our
opinion that the criteria used did not adequately capture the value of Person Question #12. This question meets two of the stated measures of the Bureau's review. It is used
to fulfill legislative duties of the National Science Foundation (NSF) and does so in the most efficient possible manner, serving as a sample frame for surveys, with negligible respondent burden. Furthermore, AERA contends that the review did not include sufficient attention to the social and scientific benefits of this question. Person Question #12 is a fundamental indicator for essential research on our economy and educational systems and losing this information about our future workforce and educational exposure and training system would be a tremendous loss for our nation.
AERA urges you to retain Person Question #12, for the reasons set forth below:
Fulfills Legislative Duties of the National Science Foundation
The 2010 reauthorization of the America COMPETES Act, HR 5116 Section 505 identifies specific duties of the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES), located within the National Science Foundation (NSF) regarding all aspects of managing statistics related to the science and engineering enterprise in the United States.
Sec. 505. NATIONAL CENTER FOR SCIENCE AND ENGINEERNIG STATISTICS.
(a) ESTABLISHMENT. –There is established within the Foundation a National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics that shall serve as a central Federal

1514 The State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO) represents education leaders who serve statewide coordinating and governing boards and other state policy agencies for higher education. SHEEO seeks to advance public policies and educational practices to achieve more widespread access and successful participation in higher education, more new discoveries through research, and more applications of knowledge that improve the quality of human lives. Although always important, the mission of SHEEO and our member agencies became particularly relevant in the national context when early in his administration President Obama put forth a goal challenging every American to commit to at least one year of post-secondary education and training so that by 2020 our nation will have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world.

Nationally, public colleges and universities serve 74% of all undergraduate students1 and receive $81.6 billion in state and local investment2. In addition to ensuring these institutions help us meet national attainment goals, our member agencies are also working to ensure they use state resources effectively to ensure student success, meet workforce needs, and meet other state goals. Since the American Communities Survey (ACS) has included Person Question No. 12, which asks a person's undergraduate "field of degree" for bachelor's degree recipients, our members and our association have had a powerful tool for better understanding the effectiveness of our education system and its ability to meet national, state, and individual needs. This question has given us invaluable information not previously available allowing us to answer questions and influence policies in the following ways:

How does the economic benefit (wages/earnings) of a bachelor's degree differ by field of study?

In 2010, SHEEO released a report titled The Economic Benefit of a Postsecondary Degree3 which uses data from ACS Person Question No. 12 to group majors and examine incomes across discipline groups for different education levels. This analysis helps our states understand the value of a postsecondary education for students based on the field they pursue. Many other influential reports use these data to examine this subject including the Georgetown Center for Education and the Workforces' report What's it Worth: The Economic Pay Off of College Majors4. With tuition levels increasing and student loan debt

1 SHEEO's calculations for all undergraduate students attending higher education institutions in 2012-13 using the IPEDS Trend Generator: http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/trendgenerator/

2 State Higher Education Executive Officers (2014). State Higher Education Finance Report. Retrieved online at. http://www.sheeo.org/sites/default/files/publications/SHEF_FY13_04292014.pdf

3 Available online at http://www.sheeo.org/sites/default/files/publications/Econ%20Benefit%20of%20Degrees%20Report%20with%20Appendices.pdf

4 Available online at: https://cew.georgetown.edu/whatsitworth

levels growing, it is important for states, institutions, and students to understand the potential return on investment of different fields of studies. Reports like these as well as the Census' own reports on this subject, described in a press release in October 2012 titled Choice of College Major Can Mean Millions Over Career5, provide consumers with valuable information about how a major can impact future earnings. Our members use this information to help advise students, to inform program decisions, and to help show the value of the postsecondary education system.

What industries do students with specific fields of study work in?

There is little concrete data about the paths individuals take to different careers or the linkage between a college major and career, but the data collected as part of ACS Person Question No. 12 has the potential to shed light on this subject. At least one notable report from the American Association of Colleges and Universities, How Liberal Arts and Science Majors Fare in Employment: A Report of Earnings and Long-Term Career Paths6, examines this subject and provides higher

1515 It has been brought to my attention that the next Census to be taken may actually drop questions relating to marriage. Really? What would be the logic for this? An institution that has been in existence for thousands of years. What this will do is discount the importance and existence of marriage and the family. That in itself will directly affect the census and the make-up of America.

You might want to review page 97 of your handbook, these reasons are why these questions should continue to be asked and evaluated. If anything this should be expanded.

If the census bureau want to eliminate any questions, let's start with those that have little to do with our census, take a look at the following:

- ◊ type of laptop or computer used; what does this have to do with census, more likely to help computer companies market
- ◊ number of automobiles in a household; I thought a census was to count people not automobiles
- ◊ Square footage of the home; ???
- ◊ What time do you leave for work in the morning; uncomfortably intrusive and has nothing to do with census
- ◊ How they pay for their mortgages; again ???

I strongly urge reconsideration on this change, unless a logically, well thought out reason can be provided.

1516 I am writing in response to the request for comments regarding the American Community Survey (ACS) Content Review Results, and in particular, with respect to the proposed elimination of Questions 12, 21a-c, 22, and 23. I am Vice President of U.S. Programs at PRB, where we rely on ACS data to help us analyze important demographic, socioeconomic, and housing trends in the United States, including changes in the STEM workforce and the impact of changes in family formation and dissolution on the health and well-being of children and families. PRB communicates these research results to a wide range of nontechnical audiences including educators, journalists, policymakers, advocates, and the public.

Comments on Proposed Elimination of ACS Person Question No. 12 on Undergraduate Field of Degree

This question was added to the ACS in 2009 following recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences so that the ACS could serve as the sample frame for the National Survey of College Graduates, conducted by the National Science Foundation. This question has also provided much needed information on the gender, race, occupation, income, and geographic location of those with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) degrees. With the addition of this question to the ACS 2009, it is possible to analyze the occupations, industries, and incomes of those with STEM degrees, as well as to assess what share of those with STEM degrees are working in STEM occupations. ACS data on field of degree have been used by states, cities, and economic development organizations to evaluate the types of industries they should attract and to draw investment to their geographic regions. PRB is using information from this question from the 2009-2013 ACS to help the Appalachian Regional Commission assess the STEM pipeline at the county level within the Appalachian Region and where it could potentially be tapped for economic development initiatives.

Comments on Proposed Elimination of Marital Status Questions 21a-c, 22 and 23

These five marital status questions were added to the ACS in 2008 at the request of the Department of Health and Human Services to provide important information that was lost when the federal government stopped collecting detailed marriage and divorce statistics in 1996 from states' vital records. Because the ACS Is the only source of nationally representative data with a large enough sample size to provide reliable statistics for small population subgroups, these marital history questions provide the only available data to examine trends in marriage and divorce transitions by socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, gender, and geographic area. Trends in marriage and divorce have played an important role in the transformation of family and household structure in the United States, which in turn, has had a critical impact on the health and well-being of children and families. The loss of data from these five questions in the ACS will seriously constrain the ability of demographers, sociologists, and economists to track and analyze the long-term trends and socioeconomic and demographic differentials in marriage and divorce and their impact on the health and well-being of children, adults, and families in the United States.

I hope the Office of Management and Budget, working with the Census Bureau, will consider retaining the undergraduate field of degree and marital history

1517 I am writing to respond to the request for comments about the elimination of questions relating to marital history and undergraduate field of degree. My comments are in response to the question of whether the information has practical utility.

I research how changes in local economic conditions affects the lives of community members. I specifically study rural, farm-dependent communities. Because of the small population of these individual communities, they are not consistently samples in other datasets. However, nearly 20% of Americans live in rural communities. The ACS provides regular data which allow me to conduct longitudinal analyses of these communities.

I am currently working on a project that is limited to the question of current marital status. I have found that increases in community income decreases the rate of adults in their early 20s report being married and increases the rate of adults in their 30s-60s report being married. I want to extend this project to observe people's actual behaviors--this requires the questions whether people have gotten married, widowed, or divorced in the past year. I need more years of data in order to address this question.

I am also studying how changes in community income affect education behaviors. Currently I have found that increases in community income increase the rates of school attendance for young adults ages 18-22. Understanding what people study during these periods is one of my next steps. That would require the data from the question asking about undergraduate major.

To summarize, both the marital history questions and the college field of degree question are important. There is not an alternative source for this information for rural communities, and the data are essential for understanding changes in American society. This makes the data they provide have great benefit for research. The Census Bureau has determined that all these questions are low cost. I hope the Office of Management and Budget working with the Census Bureau will consider retaining marriage history questions and the undergraduate field of study question in the ACS.

Thank you for your careful consideration of my comments.

1518 I am grateful for the opportunity to provide comment and feedback on the American Community Survey (ACS) Content Review Results. As Dean of the five-campus Purdue University Graduate School, I wish to advocate in the strongest terms for the Department of Commerce to retain Person Question 12 (Undergraduate Field of Study)—the question where respondents are asked to provide the specific major of any bachelor's degrees received by the person with the highest degree in each household.

The results from this survey question serve as the basis for constructing many of the important data collection activities that we rely on today. It is critically important for us to be able to document and articulate the value of advanced degree study by discipline. Students need to be able to make informed decisions and understand where the great opportunities lie. I fear that if question 12 is removed, our advanced degree discipline-based data collection efforts will be crippled, potentially with an adverse effect on advance degree enrollments, particularly in disciplines important to the U.S. economy. It really doesn't take long for a respondent to answer question 12 and the benefits are tremendous.

1519 I am writing in response to the request for comments on the U.S. Census Bureau's proposal to remove Question 12—Undergraduate Field of Study from the list of questions included in the American
Community Survey (ACS). The National Coalition for History (NCH) consists of a diverse number of groups representing historians, archivists, researchers, teachers, students, genealogists, preservationists,
political scientists, museum professionals and other stakeholders. As an organization representing a broad range of those who received undergraduate degrees in the humanities and social sciences, we oppose the proposed removal of Question 12 from the ACS. Recent years have seen a spirited debate questioning the value of a liberal arts education in comparison to
those in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) undergraduate fields. In 2013, the American Academy on the Arts and Sciences' Commission on the Humanities and Social Sciences
issued a report The Heart of the Matter, detailing the importance of the humanities and social sciences in the development of a 21st Century workforce to allow our nation to compete in the world economy. The
report stated, "At a time when economic anxiety is driving the public toward a narrow concept of education focused on short-term payoffs, it is imperative that colleges, universities, and their supporters
make a clear and convincing case for the value of liberal arts education." Question 12 provides crucial data needed to make this case. For example, the American Academy of Arts
and Sciences relies on the data derived from Question 12 to prepare its Humanities Indicators project, which analyzes earnings and occupations of humanities majors. We feel it is short-sighted for the Census

1520 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1521 I am writing to urge the Census Bureau to keep questions on marital history and undergraduate field of study. The ACS is an extremely valuable survey, providing key information on the social and economic state of the nation. The rich content allows important analyses that inform public policy on a variety of topics, including assessing many government programs.

I am demographer who studies family structure and marriage. The ACS is the only national-level annual survey that allows the study of marriage and divorce across many diverse sub-populations and geographies in the U.S. These data allow demographers to study key trends about marriage and divorce over time with a consistent data source.

The number of times married is a key variable to understand marital history on a cross sectional survey. There are clear differences between a first marriage and subsequent marriages; without this question, trends in first marriages cannot be distinguished from remarriages. The questions on marriage, divorce and widowhood in the last year were added in 2008 because vital records, collected at the state level, were failing to provide consistent and detailed information to monitor marital transitions. According to the Census Bureau:
"Measures of marital transitions will allow the ACS to provide estimates of marriage and divorce rates, as well as flows into and out of marriage. Information about rates, flows, and duration are critical for more refined analyses of eligibility for program services and benefits and of behavioral changes resulting from federal policies and programs. Besides the ACS, no other data sources exist that can provide the level of detail necessary to plan for and evaluate the effects of federal policies and programs related to marriage."
This rationale still holds. If these questions are now dropped, the United States will become the only country in the developed world that does not generate annual age-specific rates of marriage and divorce.

The ACS is the only nationally representative source of information on marriage and divorce with a large enough sample to study sub-populations, and a variety of studies would be impossible without these data. These include analyses of marriage and divorce by socioeconomic differentials, family transitions at older ages, and levels and trends in same-sex marriage. The cost benefit analysis by the Census Bureau identified these questions for deletion because they are not being used to produce statistics at the lower level geographies. This is ironic because a large sample is required to produce reliable national and state-level estimates. The marital events are rare enough that they should not be analyzed at small sub-state geography, but that does not mean the data are not valuable. In fact there is no other source to provide this information.

1522 The questions about marriage on the ACS are very important to my research and the research of my colleagues. It's the only way we have to measure what's happening to the marriage and divorce rates in the United States. Please keep the marriage questions in the American Community Survey.

1523 I am writing to respond to the request for comments about the elimination of questions relating to marital history and undergraduate degree field. I strongly urge you to reconsider removing these questions as they are crucial data points when doing labor economic studies on human capital. Removing these questions will be terribly detrimental to our ability to conduct longitudinal studies as well as to account for significant factors related to labor participation decisions and career pathways.

I would like to provide some examples of how I use these two sets of questions in my own line of work, and explain why they are important to my work. I am a labor/health economist. I have been conducting human capital studies for over five years with a focus on the health care workforce. In my work, I have found that about 80% of the health care workforce (including clinicians and non-clinicians) are women, and occupation choices and decisions to exit/enter the labor force varies by marital status. In my prior work in analyzing welfare reform, marital status also played an important role in determining household income as well as decisions to seek work. In general, my findings are supportive of the wider labor economics and sociology literature which shows that marital status is a critical socioeconomic factor related to workforce decisions by women. These marital history questions are important to determine whether a woman entered the labor force or had a hard time finding employment because they were recently divorced or widowed, or whether they exited the labor force because they became married. Especially for women who cycle in and out of the welfare system, understanding the role of marriage (and even better co-habitation) is important to determine whether having a second source of income and the amount makes a difference in labor participation decision. The length of marriage and number of marriages is also important to understand the role of marital effects on lifetime earnings. To understand how marital status impact income is key when deciding what best social programs should be in place for women to ensure that divorce/widowhood do not penalize women in the labor force, as well as to ensure there enough support systems to make sure that married women with future expectations of bearing children are not making pre-mature exit decisions.

The bachelors degree field is also important and if anything should be further refined and strengthened. About a quarter to a half of health care workers have a bachelors degree or more. About 20% of health care workers have a one year accelerated bachelors degree on top of their 4 year bachelors degree. The field of study question can be useful to identify whether a registered nurse (RN) received a bachelors degree specific to nursing or not. There is a big push in the nursing industry to better distinguish the various types of nurses in order to improve our understanding of whether more education translates to better care, and how industries use RNs with different skillsets. In general, we need better granularity of the type of education and training that individuals receive to more accurately classify health care workers even below the bachelors level, for example, what type of certification was received and in what field. Although some of this information may be accessible in occupation specific surveys, these surveys are very expensive, infrequently conducted, vary from year to year and is not available for all important health care occupations. It is important to have a national survey with these types of questions in order to understand the career pathways that one may take, and to understand why a person with the same degree and otherwise same characteristics may pick one career pathway versus another.

I have used the American Community Survey (ACS) in collaboration with several professors and students across the country for at least five funded studies (most of which are in progress or under review), which I have been fortunate to have access to via the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series. I am leading the University of Washington Center for Health Workforce Studies funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration. In this upcoming year, we plan to use ACS for at

1524 This information is important to geneologogists

1525 I am writing in very strong support for the ACS marital history questions. These are vitally important to government, business, and the public because they are the only data available to assess the marriage and divorce rates in the US. What is happening to families and more specifically to marriage and divorce in America? Is marriage declining? Is divorce stable? These ACS items are needed to answer these and other questions about marriage, divorce, and widowhood. There are no other data sources available to address the marriage, divorce, and widowhood rates. I know you have received a lot of requests to retain these questions in the ACS. I hope you will be responsive and SAVE THE MARITAL HISTORY QUESTIONS IN THE ACS!

1526 I'm writing regarding the recent decision to eliminate the marital history questions from the American Community Survey, and hope that you'll be able to consider my comments as part of your review process. By way of background, I'm a professor of economics and public policy at the University of Michigan, and have written extensively about changes to the American family, and trends in marriage and divorce.

In brief, I think that eliminating these questions would be a mistake. The key argument is that the removal of this question would leave a major gap in our federal statistical system. Without the ACS questions, there would simply be no reliable way to track changes in family life over time. As I detail in the attached New York Times article, the problem is all the more severe in the context of a systematic dismantling over recent decades of the statistical architecture for measuring family change.

I should also note that one of the key strengths of the ACS is not just in measuring phenomena in small areas, but also those affecting small groups, and the number of people married or divorced each year is a small group, and hence changes in marriage and divorce rates can only be reliably inferred from large-scale surveys like the ACS.

I would be happy to talk further about any of these issues.

1527 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government’s attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1528 I am writing to urge you to reconsider the removal of the field-of-study question from the American Community Survey (ACS). Although this question has only been included in the ACS for a few years, it has already yielded some valuable evidence on the extent to which earnings of college graduates vary across majors. However, the findings are subject to change over time as the higher education system and labor market evolve. Moreover, the body of academic research that rigorously examines the causal relationship between major and future earnings is as yet limited, and more data are needed to fully explore all of the questions around this issue.

The earnings difference between one field and another is important information for prospective and current students to take into account when choosing majors and also when choosing how to pay for that degree in a way that fits their individual circumstances. The Treasury Department draws from research based on the ACS field-of-study question when formulating and analyzing policy measures that enhance long-run economic growth and economic mobility. It also has a specific interest in how earnings correlate with the choices made by students because of the implications for the ability to repay student loans, the vast majority of which are either guaranteed or directly financed by the federal government.

The decision to remove the field-of-study question from the ACS would be particularly costly because of the lack of alternative data sources for this particular question. There are few other reliable places to find data by major and each is limited in its own way. Payscale.com has earnings data by field, but because it is voluntarily reported by site visitors, it is subject to significant sample selection bias. Some states have their own longitudinal data systems that track student characteristics and outcomes over time, but they are not nationally representative and generally cannot follow graduates who move to another state. And given the statutory ban on a federal unit-record system, there will not be a comparable federal-data in the near future. The ACS, by contrast, collects representative data for the entire country in a statistically valid manner. In addition, the ACS provides sub-state level data. College graduates have gradually shifted toward specific urban areas, and sub-state data is needed to properly account for differences in cost of living (and hence the return to education) across different cities.

The Office of Economic Policy at Treasury also relies on the National Survey of College Graduates (NSCG) for its work, and the ACS field-of-study question is crucial to developing the NSCG sampling frame. The National Science Foundation uses the question to stratify the NSCG sample based on occupation and field-of-study, rather than just occupation. The implication is that they can identify, for example, scientists and engineers, who did not study those fields in school, in addition to identifying those who studied those majors but do not work in those occupations. Both aspects are important when we evaluate policies regarding STEM jobs and education.

Even though the field-of-study question is considered "low cost" by the Interagency Council of Statistical Policy (ICSP) Subcommittee for the ACS, there may still be ways to further reduce the cost of this question. While most ACS questions have simple "yes/no" or limited categorical responses, respondents have to write in their major. This format provides a low-cost question for the respondent (since it is straight-forward to recall field-of-study), but it may also contribute to high data processing costs since the Census Bureau needs to "read" and code the response. It may be possible to redesign the question to ask for broad categories of majors while still preserving the question's value for both the research community and for use in the NCSG survey design. Such a change would make it slightly more

1529 I have just learned of the proposed elimination of questions about marital status from the Census' American Community Survey. I am writing to oppose such cuts in the strongest possible terms. My area of scholarly research is in the ethics of marriage and family, working within religious traditions. The importance of accurate, impartial survey data on these questions cannot be overestimated. Biased data and impressionistic perceptions of "what is happening with the family" make highly polarized debates over these issues much, much worse. The availability of reliable data is essential. I myself am a religious researcher, and generally take a Catholic view of these questions – therefore, I think it particularly absurd that Congressional conservatives are seeking to eliminate the Community Survey. I would strongly urge the Census Bureau to retain the Survey and these particular questions, for the benefit of the entire society and its ongoing discussions about marriage and family.

1530 Please retain the questions about marriage and divorce as referenced by Justin Wolfer in his essay for the Upshot in the NYT. His arguments are compelling to me and such a change shouldn't be made for political reasons. Thank you and Happy New Year.

1531 The question is clear.
Could you get this information by matching address to the business register? That should be possible for the single location businesses. However, it would most likely be quite difficult for the multi-location businesses. If you wish to link person to business entity, it is worthwhile to retain the question. On this basis, it is most likely easier to retain the question. I would advise not to drop it as this to information shall have practical utility.
2. Person Question No. 12—Undergraduate Field of Degree—This question focuses on this person's Bachelor's Degree. Please print below the specific major(s) of any Bachelor's Degrees this person has received.
It is easy to answer. I would advise not to drop it as this information shall have practical utility.
3. Person Question No.P21a—Get Married—In the past 12 months did this person get—Married? Questions are clear. They are easy to answer. I would advise not to drop them as this information shall have practical utility.
You could look into the possibility to get this information by matching name and address to marriage/divorce/ death registers
4. Person Question No. P21b—Get Widowed—In the past 12 months did this person get—Widowed?
5. Person Question No. P21c—Get Divorced—In the past 12 months did this person get—Divorced?
6. Person Question No. P22—Times Married—How many times has this person been married?
7. Person Question No. P23—Year Last Married—In what year did this person last get married?

1532 Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this brief email to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. I am writing to express my concern that the census bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage is an important institution and in the last several years we have seen this institution decline. Without this information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends.
Furthermore, removal of these questions represents a marginalization of marriage. As an American citizen, I value marriage and I know others do as well. Marriage is the core of the family, and as the institution of marriage deteriorates so will the institution of family. Strong families are the key to a strong society. The benefits of understanding marriage trends and supporting the institution of marriage are very important to me and to our nation. I urge the Bureau to leave these questions as a part of all future ACS questionnaires.

I appreciate your help and your service to our nation.

1533 Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this brief email to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. I am writing today to express my concern that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage is an important institution and in the last several years, we have seen this institution decline. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends. Other questions on the ARC relate to much less important issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC. Furthermore, the removal of these questions represents a marginalization of marriage. As an American citizen, I value marriage and I know many others who do as well. Marriage is the core of the family and as the institution of marriage deteriorates so will the institution of the family. Strong families are the key to a strong society. The benefits of understanding marriage trends and supporting the institution of marriage are important to our nation and to me. I urge the Bureau to leave these questions as a part of all future ACS questionnaires.
I appreciate your help and your service to our nation.

1534 I would like to weigh in on the removal of the marital status and higher education questions from the census.
I believe that this information is more critical on a micro level - at the very local governmental level - than can be imagined. Timely information about critical trends in the U.S. - marriage and educational attainment - can only benefit those few American who make policy for the rest of us, and our decendents.
In addition, it will be very costly to reverse this mistake when the Census Bureau realizes it, in a few years.
Thanks for your time, and the hard work you do.

1535 I write to urge the retention of American Community Survey (ACS) questions relating to marital history and undergraduate degree field. The marriage history questions are crucial because the United States has no alternative source for detailed annual statistics on marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage. The federal program to gather detailed statistics from marriage and divorce records was discontinued in 1996; the ACS marital history questions were designed as a replacement. If the marriage questions are eliminated now, the U.S. will become the only country in the developed world that does not generate annual age-specific rates of marriage and divorce. This would hamper demographic research and decrease public knowledge about marriage and family issues.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

1536 As a former President of the American Statistical Association, I want to emphatically join the many scholars objecting to the removal of detailed questions on marriage and divorce from the ACS. Data from these questions helps scholars and policy makers to understand some of the most important trends in American society. I see no budgetary or privacy reasons to eliminate these important items.

1537 I want to add my voice as a taxpayer who believes in evidence based policy making to urge you to keep the marriage history questions in the ACS.

1538 I am writing to you in response to the Federal Register notice published on 31 October 2014 at 79 FR 64743, "Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; The American Community Survey Content Review Results." We would like to express our deep concern over the proposal to eliminate Question 12 from the American Community Survey, concerning Undergraduate Field of Degree. I note that the ICSP Subcommittee for the ACS deemed this question to be "Low Benefit and Low Cost" and thus a candidate for elimination. I believe that the benefit gained by including this question is higher than originally assessed, and that elimination of the question would reduce the availability of data critical to programmatic needs at the national and sub-state levels, and that alternative methods of collecting those data would be more burdensome to the U.S. public.

I conduct analyses for state, regional and local government authorities that support the formulation of regional strategies for maximizing the economic benefit gained from science and technology capabilities. We have performed these types of analysis recently for governmental and quasi-governmental entities in Monterey, California; Savannah, Georgia; and Tampa Bay, Florida; as well as the state governments of New York, Ohio and Virginia. A key part of these analyses is an estimation of the current and potential science and technology workforce in a given region. Understanding the number of degree-holders in science and technology fields in the regional workforce enables us to estimate a key aspect of the potential growth in that locale for specific industries that rely on science and technology. For example, the presence of persons with undergraduate degrees in the life sciences contributes to the potential for the region to develop, attract, and retain employers in industries such as pharmaceuticals, medical devices, biomedical research and development, and health care technologies.

The data for this S&T workforce analysis comes from the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) at the National Science Foundation. The NCSES National Survey of College Graduates provides critical data for CSTED and other economic development organizations for understanding sub-state workforce structure and capabilities. The NCSES uses Question 12 on the ACS to generate the sampling frame for the National Survey of College Graduates, a key survey tracking the population of science and engineering workers in the U.S. The detailed data collected through this question ultimately informs state and local government agencies and their affiliated economic and workforce development organizations on the availability and adequacy of each state's human capital pool for technical workers.

I do not see any viable alternative to the use of ACS Question 12 for generating that sample frame. NCSES reports that the current collection method saves substantial money while increasing the quality of its data collection. Given the need to use public funding wisely and efficiently, retaining Question 12 would ensure the future collection of critical data for economic developers, at a lower cost to the government and with very minor burden to ACS respondents.

As innovation is a key lever for propelling robust growth in economic output and employment at the regional level, the alternative would hamper attempts to formulate effective state and sub-state economic strategies. I urge the Census to retain this question, which, by their own admission, has very low respondent burden.

1539 Please do not eliminate survey questions related to marital history and undergraduate degree field from the American Community Survey. It brings significant information to our evaluation of the effects of social change in the United States.

1540 As a Ph.d. sociologist and US citizen I have followed marriage and divorce statistics for forty years. Cutbacks in data collection and reporting starting in the 1990s has reduced professional expertise in interpreting marriage and divorce trends for the US, relative to other nations, yet the US has the most policy-related issues dependent upon the depth and accuracy of that data. Your office intends further cuts, unwisely for competent research.

As a citizen parent I have likewise had to contend with sloppy marriage and divorce policies in my home state of Montana in the United States in order to protect the interests of my two children and six grand-children, even appealing to the more responsible Family Law Court of Australia which has maintained more adequate social-psychological standards in custody assignment. Because of the state-based nature of domestic standard-setting and data collection, I have had necessary concerns--at various times--for the social welfare of five of my grandchildren. Undercutting database collection at the federal level on marriage and divorce statistics impairs the ability of US parents to act responsibly for their progeny. It should not be contemplated by any responsible official. Please restore professional collection integrity to marriage and divorce stats in the US

1541 I know that your hard deadline of December 30 has passed, but after reading Justin Wolfers' piece in the Times today, I felt that I needed to add my voice of protest at the removal of these questions (12, 21a-c, 22, 23) from the American Community Survey. Particularly since the data are not collected in any other form by the Federal Government, it is striking that a "low cost" question would be removed from the survey because it does not appear to meet the needs of small area data collection for some subset of government agencies. The "low benefit" assigned to these questions is not warranted given their important for understanding important trends in household formation, the economic and social structure of families and so forth. It has been the case in the past and will continue to be important in the future, as long as marriage and divorce are crucial legal underpinnings of the ways that couples and their families take advantage of rights provided by various versions of family law in the states. As an historical demographer with knowledge of data from other countries (e.g., Germany) I can assure you relatively poor places such as the Kingdom of Bavaria recognized the value of such data on current marriages and divorces (within the past year, often by socio-economic category and often by age group) already in the late 1840s, when they first started collecting and them publishing them. The data have been so important that they have been collected continuously since that time (except for few years during the periods of the World Wars). When I see that the primary statistical agency of the United States would consider dropping such questions in 2014, it strikes me that inadequate regard has been paid to role that census data collection plays in the ability of demographers, social scientists and policy-makers to understand past and current trends in these crucial indicators of family formation.
For these reasons, I urge retention of these questions on future versions of the American Community Survey.

1542 Please don't settle for less information! We need more!
How could we keep track of national trends any other way?

1543 thank you. As an educator I am concerned on the impact of divorce on young children and families and Education is the key to our democracy,

1544 Please continue to include all questions related to martial history and undergraduate degree field in the American Community Survey (ACS). I am a psychology researcher at Stanford University, and I recognize the drastic impact of eliminating such data collection on our understanding of families and human development.

1545 I am writing to respond to the request for comments about the elimination of questions relating to marital history. I feel strongly that these questions are essential components of the nation's statistical infrastructure. Their elimination would severely damage our ability to understand ongoing changes in American society and to implement effective policy responses. I agree fully with Stephen Ruggles' detailed letter which is included below the line.
I am now 70, married late at 41 and was thus something of an outlier in marriage trends for my generation; my husband and I were late parents, and with our own children, now 24 and 26, are witnessing the dramatic changes from our own generation. Our daughter is living with her partner; they are parents of a 6-month old and have no immediate plans to marry. Our son has recently married his husband and they look forward to raising children when they have completed their educations. Trends such as these MUST be documented.
I hope that these questions will continue to be asked by the Census Bureau; they are important data for planning social services.
Thank you for considering my comments.

1546 We need to include marriage/divorce questions. Without info we can't create proper public policy. Family policy is a really important issue. Let's get the data to do it right.

1547 I'm a retired mathematics professor at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and am troubled by the announced changes in collecting census information about marital history. In view of all the political conflict over same-sex marriage, divorce, and the role of procreation in marriage, more rather than less reliable statistics are needed. Otherwise public policy discussions tend to degenerate into arguments about religious beliefs and the like. I realize how powerful the Tea Party movement has become in its effort to undermine such research, but the statistics by themselves are not political and need to be available to scholars. The information also has to be collected and disseminated in a timely way.

1548 Please do NOT eliminate the question about marital history and undergraduate degree field from the American Community Survey.
These data provide valuable insight about the choices Americans are making in their lives.

1549 It is inconceivable to me that the Government would even consider making these cuts.
Can we please do something right and retain these vital questions?

1550 Please consider the impact of changes to your survey in a broader context than your narrow agency-specific mission. Future generations of social scientists will be grateful to us for ensuring they have helpful data to use.

1551 I am writing to request that the ACS questions regarding marriage and education be retained and not be eliminated as has been proposed. I believe them to be of considerable importance to research regarding American family life, at a time in which the American social and familiar structures are undergoing rapid and unprecedented change.

1552 Please do not make the drastic set of cuts to the American Community Survey (ACS), which would eliminate all of the questions related to marital history and undergraduate degree field, which are proposed by the Census Bureau.
I know just how important these questions are in evaluating statistical data that is used by many people and agencies to make informed decisions.
Please do not let the dictates of a few affect so many others.

1553 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing the questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.
As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.
Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1554 I recently completed a book ("Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Civil Rights: A Public Policy Agenda for Uniting a Divided America") which included substantial data about same sex marriage in the United States. This data would not be available if plans to eliminate the collection of such data were allowed to go forward. This means that data about more than 640,000 same sex couples (1,280,000 individuals) would be eliminated. Additionally we have absolutely no data available in the US Census about approximately 7 million single Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people...the only major minority group not counted. My recommendation: Continue to count all couples (married and unmarried) as well as L.G.B.T. singles.

1555 Pls make every effort to include questions on marriage and divorce and even to ask questions pertaining to unconventional "traditional" marriages bec the public needs to see How we are evolving. If you ask fewer questions, people who want to plague consumers will have the info and sell it to those of us who want to know. Level the educational field.

1556 How can the government even consider tracking less information? In an age where we should know if families are staying together or separating more. The us should want to know theses answers. Medicare spending goes up with divorced couples. States can this this info to target anticipated tax revenue increases or decreases. Not to mention a myriad of links that economists can track (crime rate vs divorce, education rate vs divorce, etc)

Government should be ashamed that they want to stop getting info. I am tired of the excuses of privacy (what privacy issue is there. All the records are already on file).

Government is a noble institution that can and does help society solve problems. But only when it acts noble and responsible. Continuing to cut programs off at the knees and then complaining that they don't work is the message of a court jester

Man up and do your jobs. Start helping the people that elect you and pay your salary. Stop doing only half a job

1557 I am submitting my request as a citizen and someone who is interested in having a strong country and society as well as an analyst by profession, who understands we can only determine policy and measure the success and failure of public programs from benchmarks, longitudinal data sets and analysis. The marriage questions on the American Community Survey are one of our few insights into family life in America and must stay as a matter of efficiency and effectiveness of government.

1558 Please reconsider the plans to cut marital and education data from the US Census. I am a research librarian, and I have worked in public, university, advertising, media and corporate libraries and information centers. I have assisted citizens, students, campaign managers, editors and executives in finding reliable data on the US population. US Census data are crucial research items, as we know the source and trust it better than that of any marketing firm.

By not providing marital status and education level -- even data that may not match the exact criteria we need -- you are limiting researchers' source material and depriving users of fundamental descriptions of the American population, including source material that will return as purchasing data and trends in personal habits, and that will help to promote development of products that are important to the US economy, as in the manufacturing of automobiles or pharmaceuticals or telecommunication devices.

I know that my own personal data will not only provide source material for term papers or the design of new consumer goods; they may even help a person to propose a research topic that will develop into further US government report topics.

1559 I recently learned that the Census is considering removing some questions in future surveys. The questions I'm referring to are in relation to marital status in future American Community Surveys. The reason I'm concerned is because I'm married and I see my relationship with my wife as something that is different from other relationships defined in the survey. I'm concerned that removing these questions won't be able to give you the data you will need to tract this institution.

I feel it is imperative to continue monitoring marriage in questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. Some of the other questions asked in the survey clearly has the same if not lower weight in comparison to a few questions about marital status.

If you remove these questions you won't be able to track the changes in marriage as well as make informed policy changes relating to marriage. Please keep these questions as a part of future surveys.

1560 I believe that it would be a serious mistake to eliminate questions on marriage and divorce from the American Community Survey. They are critical for many research studies of social trends and I don't believe that they data are otherwise available.

1561 In my opinion, cutting these data from the survey would severely damage our ability to understand ongoing changes in American society and to implement effective policy responses. No other data sources exist that can provide the level of detail necessary to plan for and evaluate the effects of federal policies and programs related to marriage and families.

It is more than ironic that the U.S. officially honors families as the basis for all our social and political decisions and yet, by eliminating data collection of marital status across all the states, the Census Bureau would be removing the information necessary to address family needs and changing social structures in the diverse communities that constitute America.

1562 I have just learned about a proposal to eliminate questions about marriage status and other family issues from the American Community Survey. I am not a statistician, but it seems to me that more information is always better than less information, and as long as you're asking questions, you might as well ask about everything you can. Thank you for considering my comment.

1563 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1564 It is imperative that no questions related to marriage and divorce, child-bearing, or a host of other subject be removed from the US census. People are not compelled to answer these questions and this data is necessary for making informed policy decisions across an ever widening range of issues. The US is rapidly becoming a third world country with regard to income inequality and the willful ignorance of those elected to lead us. This must be reversed immediately. Real data is an essential part of this

1565 I am writing to respectfully request that the ACS continue to ask questions pertaining to divorce and marriage. As a research economist these matters are of considerable importance to me. In fact, I remember using these very questions when I was in the process of writing my dissertation. Losing the ACS questions would make policy analysis relating to marriage, divorce and family composition much less tractable. I thank you for your time and hope you will keep marriage questions in the ACS.

1566 I am a sociologist who focuses primarily on the experiences of black immigrants. As you probably know, intermarriage is one of the best indicators of "assimilation", but intermarriage rates differ substantially across racial and ethnic groups. I would like to research a critical question: what are the trends in the marriage rates of the children of black immigrants and native-born whites? Is marital assimilation increasing, decreasing or remaining the same? In order to answer this question, I need to know the year in which the couple married. Luckily, in 2008 the American Community Survey began asking this question. However, because the children of black immigrants constitute a very small population and because the US Census Bureau no longer undertakes a decennial census, the only way a scholar can generate a large enough sample of these individuals is to add together many waves of the American Community Survey.
If the 'year of marriage' question is removed from the ACS, there will literally be NO WAY to determine trends in the inter-racial marriage rates for the children of black immigrants. Wouldn't that be a shame?
Thank you for considering my response to this potential policy change.

1567 The proposed cuts to the American Community Survey (ACS) are short sighted and should be reconsidered. The elimination of marital history questions would severely damage the ability of policymakers to understand ongoing changes in American society and to implement effective policy responses.

1568 On behalf of the CDC Office of Minority Health and Health Equity, I am pleased to respond to the notice in the October 31, 2014 Federal Register requesting comments regarding the American Community Survey (ACS) Content Review Results.
We recognize the importance of minimizing respondent burden and ensuring high quality of the information collected and the need for a periodic review of the relevance of the survey content. However, we consider the loss of the marital history questions and the question on undergraduate field of study harmful to the nation's ability to monitor developments related to health equity.
The CDC Office of Minority Health and Health Equity (OMHHE) and others across CDC are engaged in efforts to advance monitoring of social determinants of health from a lifecourse perspective. CDC OMHHE considers potential loss of ACS marriage data tantamount to losing our ability as a nation to evaluate this important determinant of the health and well-being of individuals across the lifespan. Furthermore, education is a key social determinant of health across the lifespan and losing the ability to track equity in access to STEM careers would be a tremendous loss.
Detailed Comments on Proposed Elimination of Marital Status Questions # 21a-c, 22, and 23
If these questions are dropped, the United States will become the only country in the developed world that does not generate annual age-specific rates of marriage and divorce. In addition, because the ACS is the only source of nationally representative data with a large enough sample size to provide reliable statistics for small population subgroups, the ACS marriage history questions are the only available data to examine trends in marriage and divorce transitions by socioeconomic status and by population subgroups. The ACS marriage questions can be cross-classified with any of the other questions that appear in the survey. Thus, we can assess differentials in marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage (using the times married question), comparing such characteristics as education levels, income, and ethnicity. The loss of these data will weaken the ability of researchers to analyze how changes in marriage trends impact the health and well-being of individuals across the lifespan.
Comments on Proposed Elimination of Undergraduate Field of Study Question #12
This question has also provided much needed information on the size and the characteristics of the U.S. Science, Technology, Education and Mathematics (STEM) workforce; a question that has attracted increased attention in recent years. The elimination of this question would eliminate the ability to track this relatively small but important segment of the US workforce, and to analyze the changing race/ethnic and gender composition and geographic distribution of this workforce. The ACS is the premier source of information on the characteristics of the STEM workforce, and elimination of the question on field of degree would leave us with no data sources large enough to study small but crucial academic specializations.
Both the five marital history questions and the college field of degree question are invaluable. There is no alternative source for this information, and the data are essential for scientific understanding of changes in American society. The Census Bureau has determined that all these questions are low cost. Removing them from the ACS would seriously damage the statistical system. I urge you to reconsider.

1569 The marriage history questions on the American Community Survey (Census) should be kept on this survey, not removed.
America and its statisticians and its policy makers should not be plunged into ignorance, in this case regarding marriage trends in American society.
I hope that intelligent thinking and common sense prevail:
Data on marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage in the United States should continue to be collected by retaining marriage history questions on the American Community Survey (Census).
Reference: "Census Bureau's Plan to Cut Marriage and Divorce Questions Has Academics Up in Arms," by Justin Wolfers, New York Times, Dec. 31, 2014.

1570 The ACS is currently the most reliable source for estimates of marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage. I have been notified that cuts will be made to the ACS that will significantly harm family research. Please note that:

1. The ACS is the most reliable source of national, state, and city data on the frequency of marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage.
2. The ACS is the only data source that can measure marital behavior in relatively small groups in the population, such as Asian Americans.
3. The ACS is the only national source of information on the frequency of same-sex marriage and the characteristics of the same-sex married population.
4. The ACS provides the best quality national data for estimating the effects of social programs and policies on married and unmarried populations.

Please consider the above and keep these questions in the ACS.

1571 Marital history in the ACS provides arguably the most important information on family life in the US. My research, which for example has looked at the relationship between marriage and time spent in childcare (through cross links to the American Time Use Survey) would be much poorer without it. Please keep these questions in the survey.

1572 I am a family law attorney in San Francisco. I am a certified specialist in family law, as designated by the Board of Specialists of our state Bar. I have been practicing law since 1992 and my work includes substantial pro bono service including work in a legal service organization focusing exclusively on family law matters. Currently, I provide pro bono services to our local courts to ease the overcrowding and under-resources family law courts in our area.

I write to request that the federal government continue to keep and expand the statistical data collected by the federal government relating to marital history and undergraduate degree field in the American Community Survey. Our courts, families and practitioners need this valuable data to ensure that we have proper staffing and resources allocated to these important issues.

1573 In response to the notice in the October 31, 2014 Federal Register requesting comments regarding the American Community Survey (ACS) Content Review Results, the American Political Science Association (APSA) would like to note our opposition to the elimination of Questions 21-23 on marital status and Question 12 on undergraduate field of study.

The American Community Survey is used by a variety of government agencies, but it is also an invaluable source of information for our members and other academic researchers who study the behavior of the United States population. We consider these questions to be an essential part of the scientific and policy value of the ACS and to the future understanding of demographic and social changes in the US population. As there is not alternative source for this information, their elimination would severely damage our ability to understand ongoing changes in American society and to implement effective policy responses.

In sum, we believe these data are essential for the effective operation of government and for scientific understanding of changes in American society -- we strongly oppose their elimination.

1574 Please do not cut the ACS which would eliminate all questions related to marital history. These changes would profoundly damage the American statistical system and would especially compromise investigators of changing family demography.

It is crucial that those interested in changing patterns of marriage, divorce, widowhood and remarriage be heard clearly.

1575 Please do not allow the elimination of the marital history questions from the ACS. As an economist studying social policy at Duke University, and former Senior Economist for Labor, Education, and Welfare at the White House Council of Economic Advisers, I can assure you that these questions are vital to the ability of governments at all levels in this country to create evidence-based policy. These questions are our only remaining source of reliable annual information on family stability, an absolutely critical indicator of child well-being in the United States. Without them we will not be able to understand how policy changes and economic changes affect children’s living situations, which people across the political spectrum agree is vital information.

1576 It is shocking that we know more about the marital and divorce patterns of men and women in over 120 developing countries that participate in the worldwide Demographic and Health Surveys (funded by USAID) than we now will about these behaviors among Americans.

This change makes absolutely no sense, either in terms of demographic research on the changing social profile of the American population, or of understanding how marital behavior impacts the health of individuals and their families.

Please reconsider your decision.

1577 We need detailed data about family forms, family changes, and children's households as we develop public policy for family courts and services offered to families. The cost of collecting such data pales in comparison to the cost of not having the data as states make decisions about funding family courts and agencies.

1578 As a retired educator, I strongly believe that our federal government should continue collecting information about American family life (ie., marriages, divorces, separations, number of children, income levels, etc.). Detailed information allows our country to track changes, both positive and negative, in order to determine public policy that will benefit citizens.

1579 In response to the "Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; The American Community Survey Content Review Results" published in the Federal Register (79 FR 64743) on October 31, 2014, I am submitting comments on (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility.

Please do not discontinue asking ACS Person Question No. 12 (Undergraduate Field of Degree). This question has quite a bit of practical utility for me and my firm. This question gives vital information related to determining which people are in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math fields. We have used it in workforce studies to determine our population of interest. It is especially important for us that you keep collecting this data element because there is no other degree data collected (i.e. at the Masters or Doctorate level). In fact, we are currently completing a study with ACS data that would not be possible if we didn't have access to the data from this question.

In summary, retaining this question will continue to ensure access to high quality data that enables valuable workforce studies.

1580 I wish to register my concern that questions relating to marriage and divorce might be eliminated from future census surveys. I am opposed to removing such questions since they provide invaluable information for not only academicians but for the general public as well.

1581 I have heard that marriage and divorce questions in the American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS is the only data that allow us to estimate divorce for the entire nation. This is important information that have policy implications. I strongly recommend for keeping these questions in the survey.

1582 I am writing to express my strong opposition to removing the questions on marriage and divorce, as well as undergraduate degree field, from the American Community Survey. I believe that these questions provide vital information for demographers and statisticians and is essential for understanding what is going on in our country and for the formulation of public policy.

1583 I am a pediatrician and internist who read with alarm the plan to discontinue collection of marriage and divorce statistics. While I am not actively engaged in research, I appreciate how important family research is in understanding how to improve health. Indeed, one of the most important determinants of health in adults has been found to be marital status.

Children's health is intimately linked with the stability of their family and community. Furthermore, the health of the community is intimately linked to the health of the families in it, and the community's health feeds back into the families. A stable home life is the bedrock of good health: good nutrition, healthy habits, mutually fulfilling relationships. Children have trouble learning how to have successful relationships without being taught by example how to do that, and marriage and divorce statistics provide us with a crude measure on how we are doing.

Without ongoing research to monitor how changes in policies, values, and economies are associated with changes in marital status, we will not know what direction we are headed in, and how we can advocate for changes that are likely to improve the health and happiness of our society.

When I visited China back in the mid-1990s, I was astounded that drivers would turn off their headlights at night in order to save energy. They only turned them on when they thought that another vehicle was approaching or there was a suggestion of something on the road. The result was a lot of terror and accidents. It was obviously a stupid thing to do for us, but was widely accepted as reasonable by the Chinese.

Discontinuing the collection of marital statistics would be akin to turning off the headlights for our country's families. Please reconsider this plan.

1584 I urge you to reconsider your decision to drop the collection of national marriage and divorce data. As one who is focused upon the status of marriage in this country and strategies to promote healthy marriages, I am vitally interested in credible statistics in this area, and your agency's collection of such data is critical to the measurement and trends of this critical data. Thank you for your favorable consideration.

1585 I was recently informed of your decision to stop gathering marriage and divorce data. As the Executive Director of our local noon-profit organization that diligently works to save marriages from divorce, the access to reasonably good data regarding the state of marriages nationwide is extremely important. There is so much mis-information out there, that to take away our only source of good data, especially on a State-by-State basis, seems almost anti-societal in nature. I'm sure you are not against the institution of marriage, but from our viewpoint, the decision to take away these measurements, would severely hurt all the efforts we are making to support and strengthen this institution,.
I ask you to please reconsider your decision.

1586 It is distressing to read of the Census Bureau's intention to eliminate questions from its surveys.
As a long-time historian and genealogist, I am heartsick to think that such information will not be available to future researchers.
I would implore the need for more questions, rather than fewer, to provide useful views of our society for guiding both present and future decisions in many areas.

1587 I note from today's NYT that a comment period on the ACS closes today. Although this is way too complicated for me to comment in detail, as a former federal official who once studied data to develop policy, I believe data, as nearly complete as possible, is essential to good analysis. From what I can see, the ACS is essential.

1588 I think it is insane to drop the question on marital history on the upcoming census.
This question gives valuable information on marriage and divorce in a time when marriage is becoming a luxury, and divorce seems to split along class lines. In order to support people who are on the lower income level with appropriate policies to help stabilize their lives, it is important to have this information.
On the ground, besides the income level relationship, there is anecdotal evidence that Millennials are forming live-together households, but for economic reasons are taking more time to get married, which is delaying births, and sales of starter homes. If the burden of student debt or lack of employment are the major reasons inhibiting people from settling down, having the information on marriage could be important for framing these issues and finding ways to help young people.
At the other age of the age spectrum, older adults are divorcing more and not re-marrying as often, though they also may be living together as couples. A reason for this could be the relationship between marriage, divorce, and social security benefits. If people are not re-marrying for economic reasons, we need to know that information to be able to reconsider policies that were based on old assumptions. Marriage confers protections on older adults relating to estates and health care, yet if it is too expensive to remarry, older couples may not be protected as to hospitalization rules and end-of-life decisions, nor be receiving benefits of marriage under IRS rules.
These are two reasons why marital status is strongly linked to the economy, and why having up-to-date marriage and divorces statistics collected by the census is so important.
Please keep collecting the information on marriage and divorce.

1589 I write to urge that the proposed elimination of marriage questions in the ACS be withdrawn. The elimination of these questions will severely impact the quantity and quality of statistical information essential to researchers and government policy makers. A nation that does not know what the social state of it's citizenry is over time is woefully unable to offer any coherent picture of the impact or reality of social and political trends on the nation. Ignorance is always dangerous. Deliberate ignorance is folly.

1590 Please do not eliminate questions related to marriage and undergraduate degree in the American Community Survey. These questions are vital to understanding various demographic trends and to formulating effective policies.

1591 The questions in the survey are important to the understanding of our country and its families. They are necessary to follow the trends and be able to change policy as needed and necessary.
I was moved by the quote from Steven Ruggles that is noted below:

The leading academic association of demographers has argued for the Census Bureau to reverse course, as have many individual analysts. Steven Ruggles, the incoming president of the Population Association of America, argues that cutting these data "would severely damage our ability to understand ongoing changes in American society and to implement effective policy responses." His sentiments echo earlier analysis by the Census Bureau that "no other data sources exist that can provide the level of detail necessary to plan for and evaluate the effects of federal policies and programs related to marriage."

Please reconsider and continue this line of questioning from the Census Bureau.

1592 I am a private citizen who asks that you include marital and other questions related to family structure in future population surveys.
As recent events (Ferguson, NYC, etc) have shown, poverty and income inequality are among the most important topics for policy makers, and they are likely to remain that way for some time. The contribution of marital status to individual economic outcome is well-known.
Making economic policy without accurate information would be like changing speed limits without following traffic accident rates. As Daniel Patrick Moynihan observed, everyone is entitled to their own opinion, but they are not entitled to their own facts. Without facts, we will have even more politicians creating sweeping proposals based upon anecdotes and bias.
So please, give us the facts!

1593 The marriage history questions are crucial because the United States has no alternative source for detailed annual statistics on marriage, divorce, widowhood, and remarriage.Please retain this.

1594 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1595 Please do not remove questions about marriage and divorce from the American community questionnaire

1596 Today I read the article by Justin Wolfers published on December 31 in the New York Times. I am not a research scientist so I don't have specific projects requiring the marital history and undergraduate degree information. I am however a scientifically and financially literate tax payer. I want hard information on topics like these to be available to inform decision making in the legislative and executive branches.
Please do not eliminate these questions. Please consider changes in the availability of the data from other surveys as well as from ACS when determining questions.
Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

1597 The Census Bureau has proposed a drastic set of cuts to the American Community Survey (ACS), which would eliminate all of the questions related to marital history and undergraduate degree field (linked below). These changes would profoundly damage the American statistical system and would especially compromise investigators of changing family demography.

I am interested to know if the proposal has been reversed, as recommended by those interested in tracking this information as a basis for trending and policy making over time.

1598 I am dismayed to read of the proposed changes to census data collection (marriage, divorce questions). I use these statistics regularly in my teaching university courses to help students understand the impact of gender, class, and race on social choices over time. This information affects how my students work and provide services in their communities as social workers, teachers etc. I was looking forward to seeing and teaching about the shifts in same sex marriage, which will also impact their work. I teach Education credentialing courses and have taught many women's studies and gender focused courses.
My Fulbright sponsored research women and culture has used such statistics to compare status and situation of women in Central Asia (Azerbaijan) with the US (age of marriage, divorce rates).
Please add my comments to your aggregate summary of impact.

1599 Please reconsider the elimination of marital history questions from the list of questions asked by the Census Bureau.
I am an historian of marriage and the family, and the information gleaned from such statistics greatly informs my research as well as the research projects of the scholars I rely on.
Moreover, this information essentially informs a host of studies that have a direct impact on policy making at the federal, state and local levels.
Thank you for your time and consideration.

1600 I am a fourth-year PhD candidate in Public Affairs and Community Development at Rutgers University - Camden, New Jersey. I write a brief message in response to the request for public comment on the proposed elimination of questions related to marital history from the ACS. I write in support of efforts against the elimination of six marriage and educated related from the American Community survey. Although I do not rely on marriage and divorce questions in my own research, I have used and rely extensively on data assembled and disseminated on a continuing basis from the U.S. Census Bureau and the ACS. Data on poverty rates, single family households, and family structure have been vital to my research. I understand that the marriage and divorce data and statistics provided by the ACS are unique and vital to the work of so many researchers and practitioners in the field of public policy studies. Please keep these important questions in preserving the continuity of data available to inform some great and very critical work being done in various sub-fields and specializations both within and outside of academia.

1601 I am a researcher and federal grant manager for our Community Relationship education center. I have been informed of the possibility of the Census Bureau considering the removal of marriage related questions in the ACS survey. There is no other organization in the United States that can collect such critical data for study and use in the development of family education. Marriage, whether favored by the populous or not, is not a mere cultural or religious issue. There are systemic concerns regarding the study of marriage and family that without this crucial Census data would be impossible. I believe removal of the marital history questions would be a huge mistake. I hope you will reconsider or ask the broad social science community for more input.
That being stated, I know that complaints and concerns often dominate public service. I am grateful for what you do, for the amazing efforts of the federal employees of the Census Bureau. You deserve our thanks as well.

1602 Marriage is one of the single most important decisions a person makes in his or her life.

Measuring marriage status reveals important social trends

1603 I am writing to support keeping the field of degree in the ACS. I am an economic researcher who regularly studies aspects of careers in STEM. I also teach 150 students each year about data analysis. In both of these endeavors, I have used the ACS's question about field of bachelors degree. As an example, I am presently analyzing gender differences in staying in the field of engineering, for those with engineering degrees. Also, more than 100 of my students used the ACS in their major class project, and most of them were interested in people who had majored in finance, accounting or business (not surprisingly, since I am at a business school.) Moreover, I use SESTAT restricted data, and SESTAT is now using the ACS field to choose its sample.
Indeed I would encourage you to ask the field of the highest degree for those with degrees higher than bachelors. I myself had an undergraduate degree in political science and urban studies, but my PhD was in economics and I teach and work as an economist.
By the way, last year my household was IN the ACS as well.
Thank you for your consideration.

1604 Attached is a response from the Public Trustees for Social Security and Medicare to the Federal Register Notice (Vol. 79, No. 211 / Friday, October 31, 2014) of Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; The American Community Survey Content Review Results.
[Text of attachment...]This notice proposes removing marital history items on the American Community Survey (ACS). The Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 401(c)) requires the Board of Trustees to report annually on the actuarial status and financial operations of the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) and Disability Insurance (DI) Trust Funds. The Office of the Chief Actuary (OCACT) at the Social Security Administration is responsible for the modeling that produces the results in this report. Additionally, the population projections, which form the basis for these results, are used for the estimates in the President's Budgets and in the annual reports of the Board of Trustees on the actuarial status and financial operations of the Medicare program. An important aspect of this modeling is estimating future populations by marital status. Individuals who are or were married may be eligible to receive benefits on the record of their spouse or ex-spouse.

In order to project populations by marital status, the following items are needed:
1. Distributions of new marriages for historical years, by single year of age of spouse one crossed with single year of age of spouse two.
2. Tabulations of existing marriages in historical years, by single year of age of spouse one crossed with single year of age of spouse two.
3. Distributions of new divorces, by single year of age of spouse one crossed with single year of age of spouse two.
4. Remarriage rates by age, sex, and prior marital status.

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) stopped collecting detailed marriage and divorce data from the states in the late 1980s. Thus, data needed for projections by marital status is essentially nonexistent. It is possible to get detailed data from some states. However, many states charge fees and many states will not give the data out at all. Thus, there is no way to get complete detailed marriage and divorce data, which represents the whole country, without the ACS. Furthermore, it is very time consuming to compile state data for those states that agree to provide us with data because of different formats and age groupings of the data. States will not give the data by single year of age as is needed. Compiling data from various states would take months, requiring us to ask each state for the data, receive the data, validate the data, and compile the data together after accounting for different formats and age groups. This would take a tremendous amount of time. In addition, those states providing the data may not be representative of the United States as a whole.

The ACS helped greatly in filling in the lack of marriage and divorce data with the addition of the marital history questions in 2008. With the ACS, the OCACT was able to retrieve accurate data for total divorces, new marriage distributions (age of spouse one crossed with age of spouse two), and tabulations of existing marriage (age of spouse one crossed with age of spouse two). According to "Breaking Up is Hard to Count: The Rise of Divorce in the United States, 1980-2010" in Demography volume 51, "vital statistics and retrospective survey data underestimate recent marital instability." The ACS is the only data source that captures this instability because of more complete reporting and better quality of data. With the Supreme Court's June 2013 Windsor ruling allowing some same-sex couples to receive federal benefits, the need for additional detailed marriage and divorce data increased.

1605 I would like to express my concerns regarding elimination of Marriage History and Bachelor Field of Study questions from ACS survey.
Both questions are very valuable in my opinion. The marriage history questions are central to study of marriage, which is one of the classical topics of demography. It is like depriving physicists of opportunity to study planets. The bachelor field of study question is central to sociology and economics, especially given the current debates in
society regarding what a bachelor degree is really worth.

It would be great if we could keep both of these questions.

1606 I just completed the ACS online. I am bothered and troubled by the wording in the standard form letter from the Director of the U. S. Census Bureau that informs us we are required by U. S. law to complete the survey. That form letter does not discuss the penalties that may be imposed for failure to complete the survey. Would you be so kind as to inform me of the specific law(s) the Director is talking about, the penalties and where I can access the law(s), online. Also please tell me how many people the U. S. Justice Department has prosecuted and the penalties that were imposed, since the law(s) has been in effect.
It just seems unreasonable and unfair to those who are being told we have a LAWFUL obligation to complete the survey, yet the government fails to tell us what the penalties are, should fail to complete the survey. We are constantly bombarded by our political leaders about their pledge of transparency, yet this is a glaring example of how our government is failing to live up to that pledge.

1607 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1608 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing the questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends. It is important to understand the state of marriage because it affects so many aspects of our lives from education and poverty to happiness and health. If families can have the greatest effect on the development of a human being, then knowledge of how the family is doing is a top priority for any government entity.
As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1609 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing, their internet usage and other matters, you surely should continue to ask a few questions about changes in marital status.

Why does the U.S. government want to remove questions about marital status ? The ten year census will continue to request this information and I see no change in the IRS' position on this matter. One can therefore only assume ulterior motives symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. It seems strange to maintain such a position at a time where so homosexuals are finally enjoying the benefits of 'Married' status that the U.S. government would suddenly 'Not want to know'. Surely you'd want to count all of those non-traditional marriages as well.

I resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1610 Please DO NOT CUT marriage information from the US census questions and reporting. It has been extremely helpful in my own life for figuring out information about my own family's background (hence my own). With SO many people marrying and divorcing multiple times, children being created out of various unions, etc. families scattered and mobile, this data is actually MORE important to maintain for future generations, not less.

1611 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.
Sincerely,

1612 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1613 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.
I don't like the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1614 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1615 Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this brief email to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. I am writing today to express my concern that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage is an important institution and in the last several years we have seen this institution decline. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends. Other questions on the ARC relate to much less important issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC.

Furthermore, the removal of these questions represents a marginalization of marriage. As an American citizen, I value marriage and I know many others who do as well. Marriage is the core of the family, and as the institution of marriage deteriorates so will the institution of the family. Strong families are the key to a strong society. The benefits of understanding marriage trends and supporting the institution of marriage are important to our nation and to me. I urge the Bureau to leave these questions as a part of all future ACS questionnaires.

I appreciate your help and your service to our nation.

1616 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing the questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.
As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.
Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1617 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends. Marriage does matter for abundant life.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I believe it to be foolish by the government to refuse to ask these important questions. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1618 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1619 Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this brief email to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. I am writing today to express my concern that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage is an important institution and in the last several years we have seen this institution decline. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends. Other questions on the ARC relate to much less important issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC.
Furthermore, the removal of these questions represents a marginalization of marriage. As an American citizen, I value marriage and I know many others who do as well. Marriage is the core of the family, and as the institution of marriage deteriorates so will the institution of the family. Strong families are the key to a strong society. The benefits of understanding marriage trends and supporting the institution of marriage are important to our nation and to me. I urge the Bureau to leave these questions as a part of all future ACS questionnaires.
I appreciate your help and your service to our nation.

1620 Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this brief email to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. I am writing today to express my concern that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage is an important institution and in the last several years we have seen this institution decline. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends. Other questions on the ARC relate to much less important issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC.

As a Christian I value marriage and I know many others who do as well. (My wife and I have been married for 34 years.) Marriage is the core of the family, and as the institution of marriage deteriorates so will the institution of the family and our nation. Strong families are the key to a strong society. The benefits of understanding marriage trends and supporting the institution of marriage are important to our nation and to me. I urge the Bureau to leave these questions as a part of all future ACS questionnaires.

1621 Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this brief email to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. I am writing today to express my concern that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage is an important institution and in the last several years we have seen this institution decline. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends. Other questions on the ARC relate to much less important issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC.

Furthermore, the removal of these questions represents a marginalization of marriage. As an American citizen, I value marriage and I know many others who do as well. Marriage is the core of the family, and as the institution of marriage deteriorates so will the institution of the family. Strong families are the key to a strong society. The benefits of understanding marriage trends and supporting the institution of marriage are important to our nation and to me. I urge the Bureau to leave these questions as a part of all future ACS questionnaires.

I appreciate your help and your service to our nation.

1622 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1623 Thank you for your assistance in forwarding this brief email to the proper decision makers in the Department of Commerce. I am writing today to express my concern that the Census Bureau not remove questions 20, 21a-21c, 22, and 23 from the ARC. Marriage is an important institution and in the last several years we have seen this institution decline. Without information specific to marriage gathered on the ARC, we will not be able to track future trends. Other questions on the ARC relate to much less important issues, so the inclusion of these questions does not present an unreasonable burden to those who receive the ARC.

Furthermore, the removal of these questions represents a marginalization of marriage. As an American citizen, I value marriage and I know many others who do as well. Marriage is the core of the family, and as the institution of marriage deteriorates so will the institution of the family. Strong families are the key to a strong society. The benefits of understanding marriage trends and supporting the institution of marriage are important to our nation and to me. I urge the Bureau to leave these questions as a part of all future ACS questionnaires.

1624 As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

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As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1629 I am writing to express my objection to the proposed removal of questions about marriage from the American Community Surveys. Social science has clearly shown a link between marriage and certain social and economic trends. If you stop asking questions to identify which respondents are married and which are not, you will no longer be able to identify important trends.

As a taxpayer, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census can ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, then the Census can certainly ask a few questions about changes in marital status! Failure to do so is tantamount to an intentional blind eye by the government relative to the age-old institution of marriage. I would even call it an attack on marriage, and it is totally unacceptable.

Please see to it the questions about marriage stay on the survey. Thank you.

1630 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing the questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

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As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1632 I am very concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. Marriage is the best interest of the State! The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status. Relationships are far more important than plumbing and internet use!

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Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions. I would appreciate a reply to this email.

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As a citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

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Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1642 The Colorado Health Institute strongly supports modifying the American Community Survey (ACS) questionnaire to includea "Marketplace" option among the liSt of health insurance coverage sources. As the Census Bureau contemplates removing items outlined in the Federal Register, we also recommend that the Department of Commerce consider adding questions on premiums and premium subsidies.
These modifications will be critical to accurately track the Impact of national health reform.
The Colorado Health Institute is a nonpartisan and nonprofit health policy research center. Our audience includes the Colorado state legislature, the philanthropic community, heaith care providers and the media.
We closely monitor the impact of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) on Coloradans. The introduction of the health insurance marketplace dramaticafly changed the way health insurance is purchased. The current design of the questionnaire will not pick up enrollment in the marketplace,
We have found the ACS to be crilicai in providing objective analysis on coverage in Colorado and the nation. The large sample size enables us to examine coverage and economic disparities among
subpopulations and provide localized data for policymakers. Some examples of how the Colorado Health Enstitute uses the ACS data include:
• Annual reports on uninsured Coloradans who are eligible for, but not enrolled in, the Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program.
A series of health report cards developed for the Colorado Health Foundation that examine coverage across all 50 states and health indicators across the fifespan.
• County and ZIP,vcode level profiles of coverage and sccioeconomic characteristics using the American Factfinder 3- and 5-year tables avajtable on the U.S. Census Bureau's website.
The addition of a marketpbace option will enable us to captuie changing dynamics of Coloradans' health insurance, strengthening these analyses for our audiences.
Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please contact me if you have any questions or if the
Colorado Health Institute may be of further assistance,

1643 I write to express my belief that continuing to collect marriage/divorce data should be retained in the American Community Survey. Accurate and unbiased data is difficult enough to obtain. The common dictum that half ofmarriages end in divorce is propagated enough, but that statement itself is difficult to verify with data from various states. I understand the decision to reduce such questions as part of the survey is a cost-cutting decision. However, states are already doing the same —and that makes it even more important that such questions remain part of the Survey, with such data being maintained and available to those who strive to improve our communities. I'm one of them.
Some may suggest marriage is passé as an institution, but the statistics continue to show that a stable home with biological parents is the best hope for our children — and by implication — for the future of our nation. Even that fact would not available if were not for some good data sources available from which meaningful and accurate trends can be determined.

1644 I am writing to you to express my strong concern about the possibility that the U.S. Census Bureau may omit questions about marital status and other matters pertaining to the family from future surveys. As a sociologist with special teaching and research interests in families, I believe that this would be a serious mistake. If we as a society are to formulate and implement rational and humane public policies regarding families, particularly those families who badly need affordable child care, health care, preschool, etc., our efforts will depend on the availability of high quality and detailed data, from competently done and illuminating research studies.
Deleting questions about families from surveys, in order to save funds, will in the long run be "penny-wise and pound-foolish. '
Thank you for your consideration of my views.

1645 This letter is being submitted to give comment on the proposed removal of identified questions on the American Community Survey (ACS) Content Review.
During a quarterly review webinar presentation to the Census Information Center (CIC) and State Data Center (SDC) program networks on October 22, 2014 made by Gary Chappell, ACS Content Review-Project Lead, we were informed which questions were under consideration for removal.
On slide 18 (attached) of Gary Chappell's presentation,• P12-Undergraduate Field of Degree (P) is noted as not being mandatory (Muses) and not required (R Uses); agency impacted/comments include NSF - examples where data is applied; and the last column note other agencies that have program uses for the data. We agree the data has many uses at a program level. It is valuable for scholarship programs, especially those that apply to Native Hawaiians (NH).
This is the only question out of the seven that we will comment.
The "Undergraduate Field of Degree11 data is used for the Native Hawaiian Health Scholarship Program (NHHSP) that is embedded in the Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act (1988; 1992 amended, 42 U.S. Code Section 11709; 2012 reauthorized) and funded by Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The "Undergraduate Field of Degree11 data is viewed as the "large pool11 data. It is analyzed with data from detailed ACS occupation tables that encompass the 12 health and medical professions that are accepted as career professions for scholarship support through the NHHSP. A demographic profile is developed with detailed race data, layered with identified gaps in health services and gaps in the availability of medically trained personnel over HRSA's federally designated and qualified areas (medically underserved populations and medically underserved area). Federal needs assessment data are also added. All this data set policy and drives the selection process, approved health and medical professions for the program, reveal professional shortages in these professions, and later, the placement of selected Native Hawaiian (NH) health scholars that complete their educational requirements and licensing. The majority of the NH scholars stay in the federally qualified areas to serve after their service obligation has been completed.
This internal retention data is compared to ACS data to demonstrate the success of the NHHSP. All the datasets are used in annual funding requests, justification for health care and medical professions where shortages are reported, economic comparisons and budget requirements that determine the monetary value when applied to educational costs, and request for additional professions to be recognized as "gap" professions in federally designated areas.
We support the continuance of gathering the "Undergraduate Field of Degree" data as part of the ACS.
Our concerns are many if this data were obtained from outside sources for the following reasons:
• the data sample would not be as large/comparable as ACS
• data must be collected from wide geographic areas for diverse population representation
• margin of error (MOE) must not exceed ACS or Census data standards
• inclusion of detailed race groups in disaggregated, alone/alone and in combination formats
• report if outside sources gather data year-round or in-time data
• outside resources must provide the same level of confidence, data reliability and credibility standards as the Census Bureau
We further recognize the importance of the "Undergraduate Field of Degree" data that impacts:
• planning career paths and class availability at the college level
• development of employment opportunities and standards
• economic stability

1646 As a family physician , I am very concerned about the proposal to stop collecting data on marriage as part of the American Community Survey . Strong families are critical to our culture on virtually any outcome you could consider. The more complete database we hav e on these issues the better . Government policies
have done much damage to the institution of marriage in recent decades. There should be accountability with respect to the impact of these continued policy changes .

1647 I am writing to express my sincere hope that the American Community Survey (ACS) will retain its "Undergraduate Field of Degree" question (Question 12). Answers to this question provide policymakers, Federal Agencies, researchers, and many others with important and useful (and in numerous cases mandated) data about the U.S. science and engineering workforce. The overall burden of answering this question is very small and the implementation of an alternative means of obtaining the information would almost certainly result in significant additional costs.
I urge the U.S. Census Bureau to keep Question 12 on the ACS, and also commit itself to preserving the ACS as a valuable tool for understanding U.S. demographics.

1648 I was informed that there was some interest in changing family search census records regarding stating if you're married, single , divorced, widowed , etc . As I ' ve researched in the past about my ancestors, sometimes it's been hard to figure out who my ancestors are because it says they are married to multiple people . If it said they were divorced then I can check the dates and see that they remarried and it makes it easier for me to solidify that they really are my ancestor. Please don't change the census records! Thanks so much for your time!

1649 I would like to request that question 12 be retained but changed . Please process and report Question 12 with disaggregation of philosophy and religious studies ; the majors should be processed, coded and reported as distinct majors . Thank you for taking such requests for comments.

1650 I am an academic philosopher (currently employed as a Lecturer)
I write to urge you to keep question 12 on the ACS survey, but to allow Philosophy as a distinct major .
Currently it is grouped with theology and religious studies , despite the fact that there is no clear connection between these disciplines . In addition, grouping these disciplines together may be detrimental to the reputation of philosophy
since it is likely that our majors outperform those of theology and religious studies on many metrics. Thanks for considering my suggestion.

1651 I'm interested in talking to someone who deals with the American Community Survey in regards to the elimination of the collection of data on the undergraduate field of degree.
I'm working on a piece on the impact of this question being removed and would like to hear from ACS regarding this, besides the comments I see on here (https://www.federalreqister.gov/articles/2014/10/31/2014-25912/proposed-informationcollection-comment-request-the-american-community-survey-content-review- results#p-28).
I'm on deadline for a piece for Tuesday 9th. Let me know what time works best and the appropriate person to speak to regarding this.

1652 There is every reason I'm the world to follow gay marriage Judah as close as race. LGBTQ argued there fight was the exact same as black freedom. It should be tracked in the same way.

1653 I am writing to comment on the proposed changes in the questions on the American Community Survey. I am a sociologist with specializations in the areas of inequality, especially race, class,
gender in the areas of employment and education. Therefore, it is important to track these trends, especially as the nation faces a huge inequality gap that has profound implication for who
does advance'within.the system of higher education. I write this to make it clear that I do not think that removing the question 12 on undergraduate degrees obtained from the American
Community Survey (ACS) is a good idea.
I recognize that the ACS is the primary data source for other agencies as well as institutions that follow critical educational trends. It is not just enough to know the numbers of students securing
undergraduate degrees; we need to know their areas of study and where they do with these particular degrees. Our labor market is changing very quickly. We have seen unprecedented
shits in the gender and racial composition of areas of work, but we need to study these pipelines, making information on educational attainment critical. In terms of national needs, we are still
lacking in the STEM fields, especially with native born women and people of color. The field of study question is important in understanding educational and careers paths and therefore
supporting programs and practices that can reduce inequities. In addition to my research, I think this information about field of study is important in our teaching and making all students aware

1654 I am writing in response to Federal Register document 79 FR 647 43, titled "Proposed Information Collection: Comment Request: The American Community Survey Content Review Results."
The proposed change would harm the collection of marriage and divorce statistics at a time when the institution of marriage 1s undergoing soc1ety-w1de changes Such a change would seriously harm the ability of researchers to study these changes, which would have negative spillover effects into numerous fields.

1655 On behalf of the American Sociological Association's approximately 13,000 members, I am writing to express our concerns regarding the U.S. CensusBureau's Federal Register Notice (2014-25912) on proposed changes to the American Community Survey (ACS).
The American Sociological Association strongly supports the ACS. We are deeply concerned about the potential removal of the questions pertaining to undergraduate degrees obtained and the questions about marriage and divorce from the survey. These questions provide essential data for users across the country, from corporate marketing executives, state policymakers, and academics, to dedicated government officials.
The American Sociological Association (ASA) is particularly concerned about the removal of the question about undergraduate degree. Within the Association, we use these data to understand the paths by which students enter-or do not enter-sociology. As our nation so desperately needs diverse STEM disciplines, understanding these educational and career paths is essential. Additionally, the National Science ~oundation's National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) relies on this degree question to produce the only national source of information about the United States' science and engineering workforce.
As American families become increasingly complex, we need to understand our nation's marriage and divorce patterns. Sociologists are among the many scholars and policy leaders who use these data almost daily in writing, research, teaching, and policy making. Not having these data will negatively influence how we as a country understand our family structures as the 21st century progresses .
Thank you for your-time and please do hesitate to contact the ASA if you have any question or concerns.

1656 On behalf of the Population Association of America's (PAA) Committee on Population Statistics (COPS) and Association of Population Centers (APC), we are pleased to respond to the notice in the October 31, 2014 Federal Register requesting comments regarding the American Community Survey (ACS) Content Review Results. Our comments are mostly in response to the question of whether the information shall have practical utility, although they also touch upon respondent burden.
The PAA and APC are two affiliated organizations that together represent over 3,000 population scientists worldwide, including demographers, sociologists, economists, and statisticians, who conduct research on the implications of population change. A number of our members study labor market conditions and the implications of family formation and dissolution and its impact on the health and well-being of children, parents, families, and communities. The ACS is an invaluable source of information for our members as it is for federal, state and local governments, and the private sector.
PAA and APC also recognize the importance of minimizing respondent burden and ensuring high quality of the information collected and the need for a periodic review of the relevance of the survey content. That said, we are puzzled by the Census Bureau's recommendation to drop the five marital history questions and the question on undergraduate field of study—questions that are straightforward and low cost to administer.
Comments on Proposed Elimination of Marital Status Questions # 21a-c, 22, and 23
The federal government stopped collecting detailed marriage and divorce statistics in 1996 from states' vital records. In 2008, the five marital status questions were added to the ACS at the request of the Department of Health and Human Services after an extensive period of testing and analysis. If these questions are now dropped, the United States will become the only country in the developed world that does not generate annual age-specific rates of marriage and divorce. In addition, because the ACS is the only source of nationally representative data with a large enough sample size to provide reliable statistics for small population subgroups, the ACS marriage history questions are the only available data to examine trends in marriage and divorce transitions by socioeconomic status and by population subgroups. These trends have implications for administering and analyzing the impact of various government programs, including Social Security. The fact that the marriage history questions cannot be used for small area analysis is a shortsighted justification for their exclusion. Further, the loss of these data will weaken the ability of family researchers to accurately portray, interpret, and follow long-term marriage trends in the United States and to analyze how changes in marriage trends impact the health and well-being of individuals across the lifespan.
Comments on Proposed Elimination of Undergraduate Field of Study Question #12
Our members are also concerned about the proposed elimination of question #12 regarding undergraduate field of study. As you know, this question was added to the ACS in 2009 following recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences so that the ACS could serve as the sample frame for the surveys conducted by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and improve the National Survey of College Graduates (NSCG) program for the Scientists and Engineers Statistical Data System. This question has also provided much needed information on the size and the characteristics of the U.S. Science, Technology, Education and Mathematics (STEM) workforce; a question that has attracted increased attention in recent years. The elimination of this question would eliminate the ability to track this relatively small but important segment of the US workforce, and to analyze the changing race/ethnic and gender composition and geographic distribution of this workforce.
We hope the Office of Management and Budget working with the Census Bureau, will consider retaining the marriage history questions and the undergraduate field of study question in the ACS.

1657 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1658 I'd like to register a strong objection to the idea of dropping Person Question No. 12 – Undergraduate Field of Degree from the American Community Survey questionnaire. It provides information that is of great value in social science and education research and policy making. There is no other source of information on undergraduate major that is tied into such a large sample of the population.

This information is valuable to higher education planning especially in this era of government concern for the value students receive from higher education. How else will educators be able to determine which majors best prepare students for subsequent success in life, especially in the labor market. In addition to being valuable information for education planners, it provides valuable information to the students and their families by providing guidance with regards to the economic value of an undergraduate degree. As research based on the ACS for the past four years (2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012) has shown, there's a great deal of difference associated with major and future economic success over an individual's lifetime.

In fact, I would argue that not only shouldn't this question be dropped, but that a comparable question be added with regard to the major/field of study completed for the highest degree earned by the individual. This will provide researchers with the information needed to do similar research with regard to graduate education which again will prove of great value to both educators and students considering pursuing advanced degrees.

I speak on this issue from the perspective of a social scientist who has been making very good use of the ACS and Question No. 12. In fact a colleague of mine and I am writing a report for the National Endowment for the Arts on the value of arts majors to those who complete them.

Thank you for your serious consideration of this matter, and if there's anything more I can provide on this issue, please let me know.

1659 I object to the removal of marriage from the ACS!!!!

1660 Attached, please find March of Dimes' comments on the 2014 American Community Survey (ACS) Content Review as published in the Federal Register on October 31, 2014. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [redacted].
[Text of attachment...] The March of Dimes, a unique collaboration of scientists, clinicians, parents, members of the business community, and other volunteers affiliated with chapters representing every state, the District of Columbia and
Puerto Rico, appreciates this opportunity to comment on the 2014 American Community Survey (ACS) Content Review as published in the Federal Register on October 31, 2014. The March of Dimes urges the Department to
add insurance questions to the ACS to track enrollment in Marketplace health plans. The ACS represents an invaluable annual source of health insurance information at the national, state and local level. With its large sample size, it is also the source of information on insurance coverage, or lack of coverage, among subpopulations of interest. The introduction of the Health Insurance Marketplace is dramatically changing the way health insurance is purchased for some individuals and families; however, the current ACS
health insurance series is not designed to monitor enrollment in the Marketplace. As the Census Bureau contemplates removing items as outlined in the Federal Register, the March of Dimes urges you to add "Marketplace" to the list of sources of coverage and additional questions on premiums and premium subsidies aimed at tracking the health insurance market. Many private sector entities, such non-profits and academic institutions, regularly use Census data for planning, research and evaluation. Each year, the March of Dimes pays for a special tabulation of insurance data for women of childbearing age (15-44) and children so that we may better understand insurance trends among the populations we are most interested in. This information helps to inform our program and advocacy efforts, as well as publications such as our Prematurity Report Cards and our bi-annual Data Book for Policy Makers. This information is invaluable to our efforts to serve women, children and families. In conclusion, the March of Dimes commends the Census Bureau for reviewing the content of the ACS in order to best meet the needs of federal agencies, and the American public. As the Bureau further refines the ACS, we urge you to consider the value of data related to Marketplace enrollment to inform the government and interested stakeholders on the effect of the Affordable Care Act on health insurance status, including types of insurance individuals are enrolled in.
We look forward to future collaboration on the shared goal of improving the health and healthcare delivery for women, infants, and children. If you have any

1661 I am writing to urge you not to drop the questions about marriage, divorce, and widowhood from the Annual American Community Survey. It is important that our country has a way to generate annual age-specific rates of marriage and divorce on local, state, and national levels. The National Vital Statistics System does not collect enough information by itself. I feel that removing these questions is simply another step by the government to disassociate its policies from their impact on the American family and the institution of marriage. Please do not allow these questions to be removed from the ACS! Thank you!

1662 I completely object to the Census Bureau eliminating questions about marriage, divorce and widowhood in its Annual American Community Survey (ACS)! The research that is necessary to track marriage trends in the U.S must remain. Thank you for your time.

1663 Just a comment regarding the American Communities Survey. Please understand that the information gathered on this survey is very widely used and important. Also, I do not support removing the six questions regarding marriage and education; losing them would be a big loss.

1664 I am pleased to submit the attached comments in response to the October 31 Federal Register notice on the American Community Survey Content Review.
[Text of attachment…] I am pleased to respond to the October 31 Federal Register notice on the American Community Survey Content Review. I am a demographer at Nielsen, and while I do not speak for the company, I have conferred with Nielsen colleagues in preparing these comments.
We use many ACS tables at Nielsen, most notably in the demographic information products that we provide to large and small businesses in a wide variety of industries. These products are nationwide in scope, and build from the block group level, so we have a major stake in the quality and availability of ACS data. We use many ACS tables, but those proposed for elimination are not among those I use in my work, and I am not aware of Nielsen colleagues with a critical interest in them.
The question on the presence of a business or medical office is a holdover from when value was reported for "specified" owner occupied housing units. We always preferred value for all owner occupied units, but our problem with "specified" was with the exclusion of housing in multi-unit structures. Excluding units with a business or medical office makes sense, but it is not a high priority, and the question probably would not be missed.
We use the ACS data on marital status and educational attainment (for block groups nationwide), but have not used data on marital history or field of degree. That is partly because 5-year data have not been available, but I am not aware of plans to add these new items to our products, or of immediate client demand for such data.
Marital history and field of degree are no doubt valuable to some users, and while we have not used them, interest in them could develop. However, my understanding is that these questions would not have been proposed for elimination if a need had been identified for small areas. If marital history and field of degree are not needed for small areas, could they be collected by another survey – keeping them on ACS until they are safely transitioned to another survey? In response to this alternative, one might argue the importance of data for small populations as well as for small areas. If the need for small population data is as clear for these items as the need for small area data is for other items, that would be a strong argument for keeping these questions on the ACS. In other words, is the need for data on small populations specified or is it speculative?
The ACS content review established a system for assessing benefits and costs, but there seems to be room for clarifying or debating the ground rules for the retention or elimination of questions. For example, how important is the need for data on unspecified small populations?
Beyond the proposal to eliminate specific questions, there are broader concerns with respondent burden and the expectations of congressional critics. In this context, dropping the seven questions might give the Census Bureau something to point to in responding to critics – while retaining them could lead to charges that the Census Bureau is unwilling to make even minor cuts. But even if all seven questions are dropped, the reduction in burden would be minor, and one wonders if it might be a largely sacrificial gesture that would do little to placate the critics. Also, might we face a dilemma in which the ACS questions that impose the greatest burden tend to be those with the strongest benefits and statutory justifications?
In addition to assessing benefits and burdens on a question by question basis, might we do well to consider overall benefits and burdens of the ACS? The notice describes some overall measures, but I don't recall any discussion of what overall level of burden would be considered acceptable? By default, we seem to define acceptable burden as the total associated with questions that have sufficient justification. In the absence of a standard level of acceptable overall burden, it is difficult to gauge what the elimination of specific ACS questions would accomplish.

1665 Dear Jessica, Please do not remove marriage from the ACS. We need this data to continue to study marriage and divorce rates.
These are important data as we seek to understand the issues related to parenting.
Thank you for listening,

1666 I am disturbed that the Census Bureau has proposed the elimination of questions related to marriage, widowhood, and divorce from the Annual Community Survey. This information is crucial for the classes I teach and the research that I conduct. I sincerely hope that this proposal will be reconsidered!

1667 I'd like to add my voice to those who object to the proposal of removing marriage, widowhood, and divorce questions from the ACS.

1668 I am objecting to the removal of marriage from the Annual American Community Survey (ACS). Just as U.S. marriage rates have reached their lowest level in a century the Census Bureau has proposed to eliminate questions about marriage, divorce and widowhood in its Annual American Community Survey. This must be avoided! If these questions are dropped, the United States will become the only country in the developed world that does not generate annual age-specific rates of marriage and divorce.

The ACS is the ONLY way to estimate marriage and divorce rates on local, state and national levels. The National Vital Statistics System does not collect key socioeconomic information, is missing divorce data for one-fifth (20%) of the population of the U.S., and provides no information at the county or city level.

This is clearly another step by the government to disassociate its policies from their impact on the American family and the institution of marriage. Please don't allow this to happen.

1669 I was disappointed to hear of the proposal to drop five questions from the American Community Survey related to marriage. This data is very important to journalists, to marriage educators, and to average Americans like me who care about helping people reduce marriage and improve marriage quality. I hope you will reconsider this effort and continue to collect useful data on marriage and divorce. If we can't measure the factors that affect marriage and divorce, it makes it harder to help affect positive outcomes.

1670 I am writing to comment on question 12 of the American Community Survey. I understand that the ACS is considering eliminating this question. I would urge ACS to keep and revise the question, instead. The revision should allow "philosophy" to be its own distinct answer, not lumped together with "religious studies."

The main reasons for this are that philosophy and religious studies are very different courses of study, with different canonical texts, different skills imparted to students, different career trajectories for majors, and so on. Since the ACS data is widely used and one of the few sources of the kind of information it provides, it would be particularly useful to professional organizations and education administrators to have clear data about philosophy without it being muddled together with other disciplines.

1671 Hi, as a regular user of ACS, I was very anxious to hear that the higher education questions and marriage questions might be curtailed. We are currently working with the ACS on questions of agglomeration and knowledge exchange. We find that certain majors experience greater returns in cities than others. STEM majors, in particular, benefit less from cities. Please continue to support these questions.

1672 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I am deeply concerned, since the federal government apparently does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1673 Please do not exclude marriage from the ACS survey. I believe this is vital to know and supports family values.

1674 Please see the attached letter in support of the retention of the Undergraduate Field of Degree question by San Jose State University. Thank you.
[Text of attachment...] I am writing on behalf of the graduate division of San Jose State University in San Jose, CA. With about 5,500 graduate students in over 70 different degree programs, San Jose State has the largest graduate enrollment in the California State University system. My comments are in response to the proposed change in information collection in the American Community Survey (ACS) Content Review Results, specifically the elimination of Question 12 of the American Community Survey (ACS), known to many as the undergraduate field-of-degree question.
We strongly oppose elimination of this question, in which survey respondents are asked to indicate the major of the bachelor degrees received by the person with the highest degree per household. We have need of this information in our program planning process, in which we determine market needs in our geographical area for employment, and we assess interest in programs by our current and potential students. Knowing the degrees of our residents helps us perform the market analyses to determine future curricula. We would not only like to retain the question, but it would, in fact, be helpful to us if it were expanded to include all bachelor's and higher degrees in a household.
Short of that, retention of the current survey question would suffice. Thank you for your consideration.

1675 Please find attached a letter from [redacted] in response to the Federal Register Notice that announced the findings of the content review of the American Community Survey (ACS).
[Text of attachment…] As Vice Chancellor for Research at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, I am writing to you in response to the Federal Register Notice that announced the findings of the content review of the American Community Survey (ACS). In particular, I write to highlight the importance of retaining Person Question No.12 -- Undergraduate Field of Degree as a critical component of the ACS.
Many different evaluators, including researchers, economic and workforce developers, and federal and state policymakers rely on this "Field of Degree" question to understand trends and the link between higher education and the workforce. The information gleaned from this question, and given greater context when linked with other data from these surveys, is critical to understanding how individuals are educated and retained in fields across the spectrum of professions, particularly those in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) professions.
The National Science Foundation's (NSF) National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) relies on the ACS to produce the nation's only source of comprehensive information about the science and engineering workforce. NCSES collects in-depth data on scientists and engineers to answer questions regarding their education and employment outcomes, where they went to school, what they studied, how they paid for their education, where they work, the nature of their work, and who supports their work. It also describes underrepresented groups in a way no other survey currently accomplishes. Congress requires the NSF to submit a biannual report, as mandated by the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (Public Law 96-516) from 1980, detailing statistics about the graduation rates and workforce participation of women, minorities, and persons with disabilities in science and engineering. If the NSF were unable to track graduation outcomes and professional retention through the ACS due to the removal of this question, they would be forced to obtain this same information through a separate survey which would be time and labor intensive at the expense of the taxpayers.
The ACS Field of Degree question also enables the evaluation of outcomes of policy changes explicitly because the survey captures not only where individuals start but also where they establish themselves professionally. This permits researchers to study other links between education and profession in conjunction with gender, salary, ethnicity, and career trajectory which inform policies related to workforce development. At a time when the federal government, schools, and institutions of higher education are investing to attract more students overall to these fields through STEM education, with a particular emphasis on women and underrepresented minorities, as well as supporting efforts focused on retention, the ability to know where individuals started is critical to understanding the effectiveness of these initiatives, and thus the overall success or failure of these policies. The removal of Question 12 would severely hamper these analyses.
As an example, the absence of the "Field of Degree" question would have made it impossible to discover one of the most significant outcomes regarding training more scientists and engineers. A study released in September 2013 by the Census Bureau entitled Disparities in STEM Employment by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin, which draws heavily on data from the American Community Survey, finds that nearly three quarters of people with bachelor's degrees in STEM fields do not have careers in STEM occupations, but do have higher rates of employment overall. This finding has considerable implications for a variety of discussions including how to define STEM fields, whether STEM skills are becoming more critical for a wider range of occupations, and how this is reflected in the new US Department of Education college ratings as far as it relates to earnings related to the field of degree pursued at those institutions.

1676 Pllease save questions on marriage in the ACS. We should be broadening our understanding of the demographics of the country, not narrowing it. Otherwise the marketers with access to our on-line behavior will
be the only ones with a working knowledge of the American population.

1677 I am shocked and perplexed that the American Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage as an American institution is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage may show that the institution is in decline. However, if you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends. As such, this is an outrage.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.
Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage, and on American institutions. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I should expect you will continue to include these questions.

1678 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I insist that these questions, which are vital to understand changes in America, continue to be included in the American Community Survey.

1679 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1680 I am concerned that the Census Bureau is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marital status is a relevant factor in sociological analysis and should be included in the survey.

My understanding of US history of the last century or so indicates that the institution of marriage is held in much lower esteem nowadays. We have also experienced a higher proportion of fragmented families. I believe (and I am not alone) there is a connection between those two facts. If government statistics in future will be less likely to include marital status, there will be less chance for sociologists to test that belief using their professional analytical methods.

I ask the Census Bureau to please continue to ask about marital status on future ACS forms.

1681 I am deeply concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a – 21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask peoplew about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I am deeply concerned that the federal government possibly doesn't consider these questions worthy of attention, and hope that you will continue to include these questions. Thank you.

1682 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.

1683 I believe that the marriage questions in your annual survey should continue to be asked. Please reconsider your thoughts on deleting them from your survey.

1684 In the interest of obtaining data to analyze arts training and the artist workforce, please continue to include "Person Question No. 12: Undergraduate Field of Degree." This question has been used by researchers in the field, as well as federal agencies such as NEA, to continue to understand the changing features of citizens with arts degrees. Using this ACS data, we can determine the growth rate of artists, the distribution of artists in the US and the entrepreneurial character of artists. This question in the ACS data is a crucial data source for research on the artist workforce. I urge you to continue to include this information in future surveys.

1685 It has recently come to my attention that the Census Bureau is planning to drop questions regarding marital history and college major from the American Community Survey. As a researcher who studies economics of the family, marital stability, and demography, this is extremely upsetting to me. The ACS is an important data source, and having clear information on marriages and divorces is vital for the type of research that I (and many other economists, sociologists, demographers, and other social science researchers) do. Additionally, information on college major is crucial for researchers studying educational choices and outcomes. I hope that you can reconsider this action and keep these important variables in the survey.

1686 Greetings Dr. Jessup--hoping very much that the Chronicle article this week about the ACS/field-of-study question is erroneous, since like so many university administrators we rely in vital ways on that important data. Glad to supply supportive information at whatever level of detail might be helpful in promoting the retention of this essential question in the Community Survey.

And if this decision is ultimately yours, please know that the university community is deeply hopeful that you will elect to retain the question.

1687

I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions, as this is a most important statistic for accurate evaluation.

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1691 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.That sounds like a problem to me!

As a taxpaying citizen, I insist that you continue to monitor the state of marriage by asking questions 21a-21c and questions 22 and 23. If the Census has the time and resources to ask people about their plumbing and their internet use, you can certainly ask a few questions about change in marital status.

Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions. As the family goes so goes the culture and the future of our society.

1692 I am concerned that the Census is considering removing questions about changes in marital status in future American Community Surveys. Marriage is different from other relationships. The recent trends in marriage show that the institution is in decline. If you quit asking the questions, you will not be able to detect such trends.

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Removing these questions is symbolic of the government's attack on the institution of marriage. I deeply resent the idea that the federal government does not consider these questions worthy of attention. I hope you will continue to include these questions.