



MELISSA MCKINLAY
PRESIDENT
PALM BEACH

RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.
PRESIDENT ELECT
WAKULLA

LEE CONSTANTINE
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
SEMINOLE

BILL TRUAX
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT
CHARLOTTE

NICK MADDOX
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
LEON

VIRGINIA "GINGER"
DELEGAL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

August 21, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
U.S. Capitol Building, Room S-230
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
U.S. Capitol Building, Room S-224
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer and Leader McCarthy:

As President of the Florida Association of Counties, I am writing to you today to express my concern and opposition to recent actions that would negatively impact the ability of the U.S. Census Bureau to achieve a full and accurate 2020 Decennial Census (Census). Therefore, I respectfully request immediate Congressional intervention to ensure a complete, fair and accurate Census count.

The U.S. Census Bureau recently announced that field data collection and the self-response period would be shortened by one month and end on September 30, 2020.

The Florida Association of Counties OPPOSES the revision of timeframes related to field data collection and the self-response period. Furthermore, the Florida Association of Counties SUPPORTS a process that ensures the complete and accurate count of all individuals, including non-citizens.

The decennial census, which aims to count every United States resident each decade, is critical to county governments. With nearly a trillion dollars in federal funding being apportioned each year based on Census results, an accurate, complete count is crucial to county governments and their residents. Funding for health care, economic development, infrastructure, education and other critical county responsibilities are all informed by Census results. Census counts are also increasingly critical to data-driven businesses and research efforts. Therefore, without an accurate and complete count, counties across the country, and our residents, will not have access to the services we critically need.

In addition, Census response rates are currently down throughout the Country, and the sudden and unexpected curtailment of data collection by an entire month only serves to adversely impact ongoing efforts for state and local jurisdictions. Allowing enough time for the Bureau's Nonresponse Follow-Up Operation (NRFU) is crucial to reaching households that have been historically





undercounted and are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. Additionally, halting counting operations early will disproportionately affect the quality of life and resources for county constituents for the next decade as well as the effectiveness of county officials to execute their responsibilities.

I reiterate my request for Congressional intervention to secure a complete, fair and accurate 2020 Census count and affirmation of The Bureau's prior commitment to the October 31, 2020 deadline. Thank you for your attention to these critical issues. Please let me know if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

Melissa McKinlay
President, Florida Association of Counties
Palm Beach County Commissioner

MELISSA MCKINLAY
PRESIDENT
PALM BEACH

RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.
PRESIDENT ELECT
WAKULLA

LEE CONSTANTINE
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
SEMINOLE

BILL TRUEX
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT
CHARLOTTE

NICK MADDOX
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
LEON

**VIRGINIA "GINGER"
DELEGAL**
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

