

To: Representative Melton

We write today to urge support and passage of House Bill 19 – 1239, which will provide meaningful state funding to accomplish a fair and complete count in the fast-approaching 2020 Census, a constitutionally required enumeration of every person living in the country. The decennial census is the invisible backbone of our democracy, crucial to how federal funds are divided among the states; congressional apportionment; redistricting; and key decisions by businesses, nonprofits, and public officials. It truly touches every facet of our state.

The 2020 Census is facing several challenges that put its accuracy at risk. Colorado's future prosperity and ability to thrive for the next decade depends on an accurate count in 2020. Our state must make sure that we provide the resources needed to ensure a complete enumeration.

If Colorado fails to count every individual living here, it may not only fail to ensure that it gains the additional congressional seat it is due but will—with 100 percent certainty—leave tens and even hundreds of millions of federal dollars lying on the table.

In 2016 *alone*, census data guided the allocation of over \$13 *billion* in federal funds to Colorado, more than \$700 million of which was dedicated solely to programs for rural communities. That comes out to roughly \$2300 per person, per year (about \$23,000 per individual over ten years).¹ This figure is based on the 55 largest federal programs that use census data in a primary way. Those funds are used for everything from rural-targeted programs, highways, school lunches, healthcare, foster care, and more. Of all federal programs that are guided by census data, one in six are specifically targeted to rural areas.

Even without the issues the 2020 Census faces, the 2010 Census failed to count everyone in Colorado (and it was perhaps the most accurate in history). It still missed people, particularly in “hard-to-count” (HTC) populations. For example, the 2010 Census in Colorado undercounted children under 5 years of age by 18,000 kids and undercounted Latino/a children by 8,000. Overall, about 25 percent of Colorado's population, approximately 1.5 million people, live in HTC communities.

Even what may sound like a small undercount would have huge repercussions for the state. A 1 percent additional undercount in Colorado in 2010, for example, would have meant a loss of over \$63 million *per year* from five large federal programs *alone*.

HB19 – 1239 creates an appointed bipartisan and diverse committee, administered by the Department of Local Affairs, to award grants to nonprofits and local governments to ensure a complete count across all of Colorado for the 2020 Census. Grants will focus on education of and outreach to communities and groups that are the hardest to reach for the decennial census, reflecting the geographic and demographic diversity of the state.

The 2020 Census will impact all of us for a whole decade. That's why a broad group of nonprofits, service providers, researchers, and policy experts have come together to support the legislation.

¹ The per person amount is a rough estimate to conceptualize the figure involved and is useful when comparing to other states. See the report for the full explanation of how to use per capita number:
https://gwipp.gwu.edu/sites/g/files/zaxdzs2181/f/downloads/IPP-1819-3%20CountingforDollars_CO.pdf

The following groups and individuals support HB19 – 1239, because it is vital to our state for the next decade that every individual counts:



MAKE EVERY COLORADAN COUNT IN THE 2020 CENSUS

Sponsors: Rep. Tipper and Rep. Caraveo & Sen. Winter and Sen. Priola | HB19-1239



The Issue: The 2020 Census is at risk of being inaccurate. Colorado's future prosperity and ability to thrive depend on an accurate count so Colorado needs to make sure our state provides the resources to ensure a complete count.

The 2020 Census is the basis for:

- over \$13 billion in federal funds allocated to Colorado *per year*;¹
- accurate data for the independent redistricting commissions created by Amendments Y & Z;
- making sure that Colorado gets an additional seat in the U.S. House of Representatives (depending on various factors even a 1.3% undercount could cost us that extra seat);² and
- decisions made by businesses, nonprofits, and government about how to expend resources.

The 2020 Census has been underfunded, under-tested, and behind schedule, and raises digital concerns as the first “internet census.”³ An incomplete census means fewer federal funds for everything from healthcare to highways. That funding will go to another state if we fail to get every Coloradan to fill out the census. The 2010 Census didn’t experience the problems of 2020 and *still* failed to count 18,000 children under five years-old and others.⁴ Even a 1% undercount would mean losing out on well over \$630 million across the decade in federal money,⁵ and according to the Colorado Fiscal Institute (CFI), 25% of Coloradans are part of hard-to-count groups.⁶

What the bill does:

- Creates an appointed bipartisan and diverse committee, administered by the Department of Local Affairs, to award grants to nonprofits and local governments for outreach and education to ensure a complete count across all of Colorado for the 2020 Census.
- Grants will focus communities that are the hardest to reach for the decennial census.
- Based on an empirical study from the CFI, the committee will award \$12 million total in grants.
- The committee will provide public notice of the grants, take in community input throughout the process, and be subject to a strong conflict of interest provision.
- Nonprofits and local governments who obtain grants will **not** count people as part of the census but will do education and outreach to hard-to-reach communities across the state.

¹ Andrew Reamer, “Colorado,” *Counting for Dollars 2020 The Role of the Decennial Census in the Geographic Distribution of Federal Funds*, (1/30/2019).

² Election Data Services, *Reapportionment Studies, 2018 Table*, (12/19/2018), p. 1.

³ Government Accountability Office, “High Risk List,” 2020 Decennial Census; Gabrielle Levy, “Underfunding, Canceled Tests Raise Fears About First-Ever Online Census,” *US News*, (3/19/2018); Beth Jarosz, “Citizenship Question Risks a 2020 Census Undercount in Every State, Especially Among Children,” (10/5/2018); Robert Shapiro, “Trump’s Census policy could boomerang and hurt red states as well as blue states,” *Brookings Institution*, (3/30/2018). See also: Census Project, “Recent Media” and “Budget Issues,” (ongoing).

⁴ William P. O’Hare, “State-Level 2010 Census Coverage Rates for Young Children,” *Population Research and Policy Review*, December 2014, Volume 33, Issue 6, pp 797–816.

⁵ Andrew Reamer, “Counting for Dollars: The Role of the Decennial Census in the Geographic Distribution of Federal Funds, Report #2: Estimating Fiscal Costs of a Census Undercount to States,” (3/19/2018).

⁶ Esther Turcios and Abbey Pizel, “Ensuring a Complete Count: The 2020 Census,” *Colorado Fiscal Institute*, (1/31/2019).



Who supports: The 2020 Census will impact all of us. That's why the following broad group of nonprofits, service providers, researchers, and policy experts have come together to support HB19-1239:

COLORADO CHILDREN'S CAMPAIGN
Every Chance for Every Child

COLORADO CENTER ON LAW & POLICY
Empowering Attorneys, Inspiring Leaders

Colorado Fiscal Institute

Colorado Common Cause

LATINO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF COLORADO

Colorado NONPROFIT Association

95 COLORADO

COLORADO CSL SENIOR LOBBY

COLORADO CROSS-DISABILITY COALITION

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLORADO

COLORADO FARM BUREAU

COLORADO AFL-CIO

DENVER METRO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

NAACP
COLORADO | MONTANA | WYOMING STATE CONFERENCE

SUPPORT JEFFCO KIDS

COLORADO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

MI FAMILIA VOTA

ACLU CO

CIRC
Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition

ALL KIDS COVERED
Healthy Kids A Healthy Colorado

COLORADO COUNTIES, INC.
Educate • Advocate • Empower

COLORADO COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS
Creating a Path to Self-Sufficiency

alzheimer's association

drcog DENVER REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

CLLARO

Colorado Hospital Association

Children's Hospital Colorado

United New Economy

COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF HOME BUILDERS

COLORADO RURAL HEALTH CENTER
The State Office of Rural Health

The Bell Policy Center

CENTER FOR HEALTH PROGRESS

Colorado Social Legislation Committee

COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS

Mile High Health Alliance

Clayton EARLY LEARNING

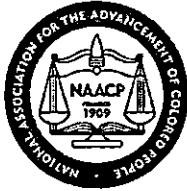
The Women's Foundation of Colorado
Women Thriving. Colorado Rising.

COLORADO CHILDREN'S HEALTHCARE ACCESS PROGRAM

COUNCIL FOR A STRONG AMERICA COLORADO

ONE COLORADO

For more information, contact Patrick Potyondy, policy manager, Colorado Common Cause, ppotyondy@commoncause.org, 970-420-4458.



NAACP

Colorado / Montana / Wyoming State Area Conference

In Support of HB19-1239

The U.S. Constitution mandates a count of all persons to be conducted every 10 years for the matter of apportionment. The language is clear in its simplicity. People count. And since the 14th Amendment was ratified in 1868, all people count equally.

The census is essential for apportioning representation for each state. Only by accurately counting our population will we be guaranteed equal representation for our state. Our state's voice, our people's voice in the federal government depends upon the 2020 Census. This is vital, and it is essential, and it is only one of the reasons why the census matters.

In 2015, more than \$8 billion dollars were distributed to Colorado based on the decennial count from 2010. This number includes federal funding for Medicaid, SNAP, Medicare, highway planning and construction, the State Children's Health Insurance Program, and Head Start among other programs. The 2020 census will be used to determine funding levels for the next decade. An undercount in 2020 will impact our families for the next ten years. If we undercount the population of Colorado, we will be failing in one of our government's most important responsibilities: providing a safety net for the most vulnerable among us.

Through FOIA requests, the NAACP has been instrumental in bringing to light the dramatic nature of the underfunding currently faced by the 2020 Census:

- The count of currently deployed military servicemembers may be jeopardized as the Department of Defense will not report data on them to the Bureau under new guidance. This could affect roughly 15% of all overseas military personnel.
- The Census Bureau intends to reduce its field staff drastically: The staff of enumerators—field employees who visit homes in person to count the residents—is projected to be 400,000, down from the 600,000 the 2010 Census.
- For address canvassing, which updates the Bureau's indispensable address list, the Bureau plans to hire 43,500 employees, compared to 160,000 for the 2010 Census.
- Chronic underfunding over the course of the decade, including during the recent 35-day shutdown, has negatively affected preparations for the 2020 Census according to internal Census Bureau documents.

On top of this, in 2020, the Census Bureau will be using an online survey, and yet the federal government has failed to allocate sufficient funding for the traditional test runs. This means we don't have any data on how different groups of people will respond – or fail to respond – to the census, but past experience tells us that the people most likely to be overlooked are people who have less access to technology, people who are more mobile, people who rent or live in multi-family housing, people who fear deportation for themselves or for family members.

In fact, the census historically has disproportionately undercounted people of color: including those who are African-Americans, Native American, Latinos, Asian-American, people who make up an estimated 32% of our state population.

That's why HB19-1239: Census Outreach Grant Program is so important. The 12 million dollars in grants that would be enabled by this bill will go towards helping to make sure we accurately count everyone, especially those who have been undercounted in the past.

The mission of the NAACP is to secure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights in order to eliminate race-based discrimination and ensure the health and well-being of all persons. In order to ensure equality in resource distribution we must first have an accurate enumeration of our population. For this reason, the NAACP Colorado State Conference urges a "yes" vote in support of HB19-1239.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Lytle

State Conference President

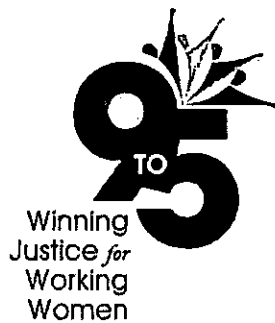
Cherry-Rose Anderson

State Conference Civic Engagement Chair



NAACP

Colorado / Montana / Wyoming
State Area Conference



1634 Downing St, Unit A
Denver, CO 80218
303.628.0925
www.9to5.org

March 26, 2019

Thank you chair and members of the committee. My name is Cesiah Guadarrama Trejo and I am a housing organizer with 9to5 Colorado. We are an economic justice grassroots women organization with 6,000 members across the state that works to uplift women and their families.

I am here in support of HB 19-1239. As many of you know census data is used to allocate funding for a wide range of programs and services including health care, education, transportation, child care, housing, energy assistance, and many more. Many of our members and communities that we work with, need these programs for them and their families. It is imperative that the state of Colorado does everything that is within their power to count everyone, especially hard to count communities. As a housing organizer I know that often times tenants and homeless folks fall under a hard to count category, as the housing crisis continues to get worse in our state it is extremely important that everyone is counted regardless of their current housing situation because most likely many of them also need many other services that receive funding allocation based on census data.

As an organizer part of my job is to be out on the field door knocking, tabling, having community meetings and to do outreach to folks in ways that works for them. For working class people that means having evening meetings or door knocking in the evenings and weekends, for immigrant families it means having printed materials and people who speak the language folks are most comfortable with, it means having information in formats that are accessible to people with disabilities and so much more. In a society where our federal administration pushes certain populations into hide and to fear government, we need community organizations to act as bridges to make sure people understand why and how to participate. We are in support of this bill because we know and understand that there are already many organizations who are working in these communities and most importantly have the trust of the community and will be the best people to be doing outreach and education on the census.

I urge you to vote yes on HB 19-1239. Thank you for your time.

Testimony on Census bill 3/26/2019

My name is Salvador Hernandez. I am the Colorado State Director for Mi Familia Vota. I am here to speak on support of HB19-1239. My duty as the Director is to carry the mission of Mi Familia Vota, which is to build political power in the Latino and immigrant community to achieve social and economic justice. The Census count is just around the corner and we as an organization are concerned for what this census will mean for our community. Last year alone we registered more than 10,000 people to vote in the state of Colorado and mobilized thousands of constituents to participate in the Midterm elections. As many research studies have shown, the census will have a tremendous impact in different aspects that affect our everyday life. Colorado is projected to gain an extra congressional seat when redistricting happens. Even a 1.3% percent undercount will cost the people of Colorado an extra seat in Congress, which will mean underrepresentation for ALL Coloradans across the state.

Time after time, we have seen the ceaseless attacks to the Latino and Immigrant community coming from the Trump administration, and his latest attack to diminish the power of the latino community come in the form of a hateful and discriminatory question in the census. Including the Citizenship question in the census is nothing but an attack against the integrity of our democratic nation by undermining significant parts of the population and silencing their voices. There is absolutely no doubt that including the citizenship question will mean that entire families will abstain from participating in the census out of fear and intimidation. We have heard the stories of the Latino community in the work that we do every year and the mistrust that currently exists between the community and government entities. I have personally been asked by our community if participating in the census will lead to deportation, family separation or incarceration. It pains me to not have a concrete answer for them, I simply tell them that I don't know whether this question will be included in the questionnaire or not. What I do know, is that our local government can do something against the attacks coming from the Trump administration. That means, allocation the appropriate funds to make sure an accurate count happens in Colorado. We don't know for certain how big the damage has been done by threatening to include the citizenship question, but we do know that we cannot leave it to chance and we must do everything we can to ensure an accurate census count..

I strongly urge you to support and vote yes on bill SB19-1239. Our democracy depends on it.

Thank you.