









April 9, 2024

The Honorable James Comer Chairman House Oversight and Accountability Committee Washington, DC 20515 The Honorable Jamie Raskin Ranking Member House Oversight and Accountability Committee Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Comer and Ranking Member Raskin,

On behalf of the organizations and coalitions we lead, we are writing to express our opposition to HR 7109, the Equal Representation Act, which the Oversight and Accountability Committee is scheduled to mark up on April 10, 2024.

Our members, which include demographers, statisticians, economists, sociologists, geographers, and epidemiologists, conduct scientific and applied research in the public, private, non-profit, and academic sectors. These scientists universally rely on census data to inform their research, evaluation, and training activities. As a result, our organizations work independently and collaboratively to promote an accurate, inclusive, and cost-effective decennial census.

As you know, the decennial census is the nation's largest, most complex peacetime activity requiring almost a decade of preparations, including painstaking research and testing regarding the questionnaire. Understanding how the questionnaire's content and delivery could potentially impact the enumeration of historically hard-to-count populations, in particular, is imperative.

The Equal Representation Act proposes adding citizenship and immigration status questions to the decennial census and excluding noncitizens from the number of persons used to determine apportionment, bypassing the Census Bureau's objective, robust review process. Taken together, the bill's major provisions could potentially undermine participation in the decennial census and, therefore, ultimately diminish the quality and utility of decennial census data. Given these factors, we oppose HR 7109. Conversely, we urge the Committee to hold hearings, consult

experts, and consider legislation that would facilitate and enhance the Census Bureau's ability to fulfill its constitutional mandate and implement a successful decennial census. Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Jennie Brand, President

**Association of Population Centers** 

Jennifer Glass, President

**Population Association of America** 

Wendy Naus, Executive Director

Consortium of Social Science Associations

Paul Schroeder, Executive Director

Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics

Ron Wasserstein, Executive Director

American Statistical Association