



CONSORTIUM *of* SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

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COSSA Statement on the Trump Administration’s Decision to Stop Efforts to Add Citizenship to the 2020 Census

Washington, D.C. — The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) applauds the Administration’s decision to end its attempts to add a citizenship question to the 2020 Census. This decision resolves over a year of uncertainty and allows preparations for the 2020 Census to move forward without the threat of further controversy and legal action. Ending efforts to add the question removes a major obstacle to the Census Bureau’s ability to conduct a fair and accurate count of all persons living in the United States and protects the integrity of valuable census data used by social and behavioral science researchers to answer critical policy-relevant questions that impact the lives of people across the United States. In addition, dropping the citizenship question continues an important precedent of not including questions that have not been extensively researched and tested, maintaining the scientific accuracy of the Census operation.

“I think many social scientists are breathing a sigh of relief,” said COSSA Executive Director Wendy Naus. “Social scientists rely on accurate Census data to produce evidence that helps us address the most difficult challenges our nation faces. The Administration’s decision—which means that only questions that have been rigorously vetted by Census Bureau experts will be included on the 2020 Census—is good news for science.”

While this decision is a huge victory for those working to ensure a fair and accurate 2020 Census, more work remains to undo the damage the controversy over the citizenship question has caused to the Census’s reputation. COSSA will be working with Census stakeholders to restore confidence in the Bureau’s privacy protections and encourage full participation in the 2020 Census.

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The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) is a nonprofit advocacy organization working to promote sustainable federal funding for social and behavioral science research and federal policies that positively impact the conduct of research. COSSA serves as a united voice for a broad, diverse network of organizations, institutions, communities, and stakeholders who care about a successful and vibrant social science research enterprise. The COSSA membership includes professional and disciplinary associations, scientific societies, research centers and institutes, and U.S. colleges and universities.

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