

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 24, 2019

The Honorable Wilbur L. Ross, Jr
Secretary of Commerce
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

The Honorable Matthew G. Whitaker
Acting Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

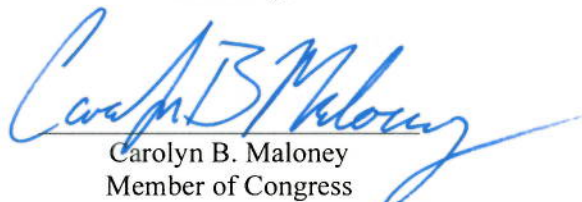
Dear Secretary Ross and Acting Attorney General Whitaker,

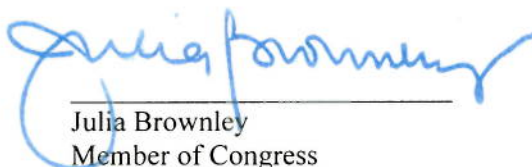
As you know, on January 15, 2019, Judge Jesse Furman of the Southern District of New York, issued a ruling in *New York et al. v. Department of Commerce* striking down the decision to add a citizenship question on the 2020 Decennial Census. On January 17, the administration announced its intent to appeal this ruling. We believe, as a matter of both legality and timing, that it is neither in the nation's, nor the American people's interest to continue the appellate process. We believe that the administration should devote its resources to preparing for the 2020 Census without the cloud of the citizenship question hanging over the process.

Judge Furman's decision was clear and comprehensive. Not only did he find that the Department of Commerce violated numerous provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act and the Census Act when it added the citizenship question, he also agreed with the concerns that many of us have raised about the impact this question would have on Census participation. Citing the Department of Commerce's own documents and expert witness, the judge confirmed that "adding a citizenship question will result in a significant reduction in self-response rates among noncitizen and Hispanic households...which means that hundreds of thousand--if not millions--of people will go uncounted in the census if the citizenship question is included."

With the Census questionnaire set to go to print in June, we urge the Administration to dedicate its efforts and resources to the remaining matters of decennial preparation that have been subject to this decision. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress


Julia Brownley
Member of Congress


David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress


Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress


Jim Cooper
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier

Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

Tulsi Gabbard

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Jesús G. "Chuy" García

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Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Steven Horsford

Steven Horsford
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

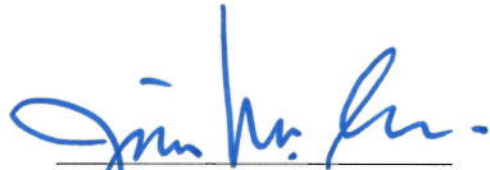
Ted W. Lieu

Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress

Sean Patrick Maloney

Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress


James P. McGovern
Member of Congress


Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress

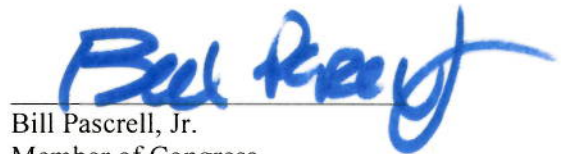

Grace Meng
Member of Congress

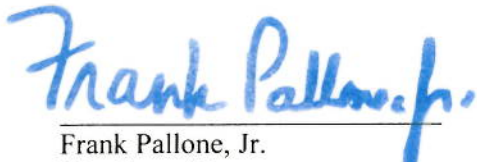

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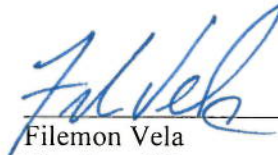

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