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November 18, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
 Chairman
 Senate Appropriations Committee
 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
 Chair
 House Appropriations Committee
 Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby
 Vice Chair
 Senate Appropriations Committee
 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger
 Ranking Member
 House Appropriations Committee
 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Leahy, Chair DeLauro, Vice Chair Shelby, and Ranking Member Granger,

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to completing the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 appropriations process. Throughout the FY 2023 deliberations, the organizations we lead, [Population Association of America](#) (PAA) and [Association of Population Centers](#) (APC), have communicated our spending priorities both as individual organizations and as members of coalitions, such as the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research, Coalition for National Science Funding, Coalition for Health Funding, and The Census Project. As you enter the final stage of your deliberations, we urge you to support the following spending levels for our priority federal agencies:

Agency	Supported Funding Level
National Institutes of Health	\$47.5 billion
National Science Foundation	\$10.3 billion
National Center for Health Statistics	\$190.4 million
Institute of Education Sciences	\$844.1 million
Census Bureau	\$1.5 billion
Bureau of Labor Statistics	\$723.5 million
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality	\$385.4 million

As you may know, PAA and APC are two affiliated organizations that together represent over 3,000 behavioral and social scientists and over 40 federally funded population research centers nationwide. Population scientists include demographers, economists, sociologists, and epidemiologists who conduct research on population trends and the individual, societal, and environmental causes and consequences of population change.

Our members rely on the federal agencies highlighted in this letter for direct and indirect support of our scientific and applied research and training activities in the public and private sectors. The National Institutes of Health (National Institute on Aging and the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development in particular) is the largest source of competitive, discretionary federal funding for the population sciences, while the National Science Foundation and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality are two other important sources of federal support. Data produced by the federal statistical agencies, especially the Census Bureau, the National Center for Health Statistics, National Center for Education Statistics, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, are essential sources of indirect support for the field.

On a final note, we urge you to resolve the FY 2023 appropriations process without resorting to additional continuing resolutions (CRs). While CRs keep the federal government open, they impede progress in the field. For example, during past CRs we heard from population scientists whose approved grants were not awarded, while existing grant awards were reduced. In some cases, these funding delays compelled scientists to suspend survey research and precluded their ability to recruit survey participants, gather data, and hire graduate students and administrative staff. These examples illustrate the harmful, unintended effects of CRs and underscore why completion of the FY 2023 appropriations process is so important to the population sciences.

Thank you for considering our views as you negotiate the final FY 2023 appropriations bills.

Sincerely,



Dr. Sonalde Desai
President
Population Association of America



Dr. Sara R. Curran
President
Association of Population Centers