****SAMPLE COMMENT LETTER: Please customize before submitting** Kentucky Nonprofit Network is sharing the comment we submitted to help other organizations get started. Please don't submit this text word for word. Comments carry more weight when they're unique and show how the proposed changes would affect *your* community and the people you serve. Update the organization name, add your own examples, and use the concerns that matter most to your mission.
Submit by November 2. **

Re: Docket No. 260903-0005, RIN 0607-AA75, Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Decennial Census of the Population of Americans; Proposed Residence Criteria and Proposed Regulations for Demographic Questions

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposal to revise several parts of the proposed regulation Docket No. 260903-0005, RIN 0607-AA75, Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Decennial Census of the Population of Americans; Proposed Residence Criteria and Proposed Regulations for Demographic Questions.

On behalf of Kentucky Nonprofit Network (KNN), I am writing to oppose the proposed changes to the 2030 Census residence criteria and demographic questions.

KNN is the statewide association of nonprofits in Kentucky. We work with thousands of charitable organizations serving communities in every corner of the Commonwealth, from rural Appalachian counties to Kentucky's largest urban areas. These organizations rely on accurate census data to understand community needs, advocate for resources, plan programs, pursue grant funding, and ensure services reach the people who need them most.

We are especially concerned because KNN led Kentucky's statewide nonprofit engagement efforts during the 2020 Census through the Count Me In Kentucky campaign. Through that work, we saw firsthand how difficult it can be to achieve a complete and accurate count, particularly among historically undercounted populations. Census data influences political representation, federal funding allocations, economic development decisions, community planning, and the work of nonprofit organizations for an entire decade.

The proposal's exclusion of certain populations from the count used for congressional apportionment and federal funding raises significant concerns about the completeness and accuracy of census data. The U.S. Constitution requires a census every 10 years to count "all persons" living in the United States. Community needs do not change because of

a person's immigration status, and communities still require resources to serve everyone who lives there. Kentucky schools, hospitals, emergency services, transportation systems, and nonprofit programs serve people living in our communities every day. An inaccurate count would distort the data that policymakers, funders, and service providers use to make decisions and could reduce resources for communities that already face significant challenges.

We are also concerned about proposed residence verification methods that could make it harder to accurately count people whose living situations do not fit neatly into government records. Students, seasonal workers, people living in multigenerational households, people in temporary housing situations, and others are already at risk of being undercounted. The proposed changes could also create confusion about where people should be counted, increasing the likelihood that individuals are counted incorrectly or missed altogether. Census policies should reduce barriers to participation and make the process easier to understand, not create additional uncertainty about who is counted and where.

In addition, we strongly oppose eliminating demographic questions related to race, ethnicity, and other demographic characteristics. Nonprofits, researchers, policymakers, and community leaders depend on this information to identify disparities, understand demographic trends, and target resources effectively. Demographic census data is critical for understanding community needs, enforcing civil rights protections, informing public policy decisions, and ensuring equal opportunity for all Americans. Without this information, it becomes more difficult to address disparities and ensure that underserved communities are seen, understood, and served. For nonprofit organizations, the loss of this data would hinder efforts to understand local needs, evaluate programs, advocate for resources, and fulfill their missions.

A fair and complete census is essential to public trust. The census exists to count people as they are, where they live, and in all their diversity. Proposed changes that reduce accuracy, exclude populations, or eliminate critical demographic information will weaken the usefulness of census data and diminish confidence in the results.

For these reasons, Kentucky Nonprofit Network urges the Department of Commerce and the Census Bureau to withdraw these proposed changes and preserve a fair, complete, and accurate 2030 Census. Ensuring a complete and accurate count is essential to fair representation, effective resource allocation, and informed decision-making.

Thank you for considering this input.

Sincerely,

NAME

TITLE

ORGANIZATION