

February 11, 2019

Honorable Andrew Cuomo
Governor of New York
Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Re: 30-day Amendments and the Census

Dear Governor Cuomo:

We are child advocacy, immigration, social justice, health equity and faith organizations, and child care, child welfare, child health and family service providers, writing to urge you to allocate at least \$40 million for community-based groups to do the necessary outreach and education to encourage participation in the 2020 Census, along with additional funds to support essential work like translation and multilingual outreach, media ad buys and targeting, among other activities. An undercount could lead to a loss of federal funds for programs that New York children and families rely upon, as well as a loss of representation for New Yorkers in Congress and beyond, and distorted, inaccurate data that harms planning by state and local governments as well as private industry. Significant state funding is needed in this 2019-2020 budget; next year will be too late.

Every year, more than \$53 billion in federal funds are allocated to New York and localities based on Census data either directly or through Census population estimates or surveys that in turn rely on the Decennial Census. This includes billions for programs that benefit children, such as education grants, including Title I and special education, Head Start, and child care assistance. An undercount could lead to cuts to all of these programs in New York.

Indeed, in 2010, New York experienced a significant undercount, particularly in some “hard to count” communities, including immigrant communities, densely populated cities, and children under age five. Due to the current climate of distrust in the country, particularly among immigrants, along with other complicating factors, there is real concern that New York could experience an even greater undercount in 2020 than it did in 2010. It is widely understood that New York must mount a concerted and well-resourced education, outreach and mobilization effort to avoid another, possibly worse, undercount in 2020.

Many of the undersigned are child advocates and child-serving agencies, and we are particularly concerned about the potential for an undercount of young children. For many reasons, young children are historically undercounted in the Census. This trend of missing young children has been growing over the last several Decennial Censuses even as the count for other age groups has improved. In the 2010 Census, young children had by far the worst undercount of any age group, missing nearly 5% of children ages 0-4, or about 1 million

children. In 2010, New York had the third highest number of children ages 0-4 residing in areas at risk of being undercounted, and 43% of children in New York live in Census blocks at risk of going undercounted again.

Unfortunately, while last year's New York State budget included legislation to create a Complete Count Committee, the committee has not yet been convened. Further, neither last year's state budget, nor this year's Executive Budget contain any funding for Census efforts. By way of comparison, California invested \$90 million in its Census efforts last year. And, California's Executive Budget proposes \$50 million more in investment for this year.

In the 30-day amendments, we urge you to include at least \$40 million for Census outreach funding, along with additional funds to ensure a complete count of New Yorkers in 2020. The impacts of an undercount would haunt New York children, families and all New Yorkers for a decade.

Sincerely,

Albany City Treasurer
Center for Children's Initiatives
Child Care Coordinating Council of the North Country, Inc.
Child Care Council of Westchester
The Children's Agenda
Children's Defense Fund - New York
Citizen Action of New York
Citizens Committee for Children of New York
Citizens' Committee for Children of New York, Inc
Committee for Hispanic Children and Families (CHCF)
Community Capital New York
Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies
Cuba Cultural Center, Inc.
The Day Care Council of New York
Early Care and Learning Council
Early Childhood Alliance Onondaga
The Education Trust-New York
Erie Niagara Birth to 8 Coalition
Experiencing God Ministries
Goddard Riverside Community Center
Graham Windham
Hammondsport Children's Center
Hope's Door
IntegrateNYC
Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness and Housing
The Jewish Board of Family & Children's Services
Long Island Advocacy
Maternity and Early Childhood Foundation
Messiah Lutheran Church
National Center for Children in Poverty
New York Counts 2020

New York Disaster Interfaith Services (NYDIS)
New York State Association for Infant Mental Health
New York State Council of Churches
Plainview reformed church
Power of Two
Prevent Child Abuse New York
Reach Out and Touch Ministries
The Regional Synod of New York, Reformed Church in America
Rise
Schenectady Community Ministries
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy
SPCC Rochester Society for the Protection & Care of Children
St. John's Lutheran Church
United Neighborhood Houses
University United Methodist Church
Welfare Research, Inc.
Westchester Children's Association
Westchester National Organization for Women
Rev. Dr. William H. Hill
John Paarlberg
Margaret Rice
Linda Yannone

cc: Paul Francis
Deputy Secretary for Health and Human Services