October 23, 2026

Mr. Daniel Sweeney
Deputy General Counsel for Economic, Statistical, and Regulatory Affairs
Office of the General Counsel, Department of Commerce
4600 Silver Hill Road
Designation: ADDEMO/FRN
Washington, DC 20746

Re: "Decennial Census of the Population of Americans; Proposed Residence Criteria and Proposed Regulations for Demographic Questions" (Docket No. 260903-0005; RIN 0607-AA75)

Dear Mr. Sweeney:

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders ("AAPIP") is writing to oppose the Department of Commerce and the Census Bureau's proposed rule published on September 10, 2026, titled *Decennial Census of the Population of Americans; Proposed Residence Criteria and Proposed Regulations for Demographic Questions* (Docket No. 260903-0005).

AAPIP's mission is to expand and mobilize resources for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) communities to build a more just and equitable society. Our north star is to serve as a bridge between these communities and philanthropy. We strengthen AANHPI leadership, deepen connections across the philanthropic ecosystem, and help philanthropy understand, invest in, and show up for our communities. We envision a future where AANHPIs have the visibility, agency, relationships, and resources to shape their own futures and thrive in solidarity with Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and other communities, including those living at the intersections of multiple identities. As a membership-based and chapter-based organization, we advance this work through two interconnected pillars: Community Care and Philanthropic Advocacy.

We write to comment on the proposed rule due to its harmful impact on the communities we serve, as well as the broader threat to public data, representation, and equitable resource allocation that benefit every community. As a justice-centered philanthropic affinity organization providing unique spaces for AANHPIs and allies in philanthropy, we believe these proposed changes directly harm our communities and undermine our mission, programmatic work, and ability to measure our community impact.

For example, our research published last year found that for every $100 awarded by U.S. funders, only 34 cents goes to AANHPI communities–despite representing 7% of the U.S. total population (over 25 million Americans).[1] Furthermore, across more than 35 years of tracking, AANHPI funding has never exceeded 0.60% of total philanthropic dollars. Closing this stark funding gap is at the core of AAPIP's mission. Removing questions on racial and ethnic identity would make it virtually impossible to track ongoing

[1] https://aapip.org/resources/the-2025-aanhpi-funding-snapshot/

needs, measure reinvestment into AANHPI communities, or evaluate our impact accurately. Philanthropy's core purpose is to direct resources where they are needed most to improve human lives, yet we know that government investments far outweigh the total allocation of philanthropic investments. In 2024 alone, the total value of all private and community foundation assets totaled $1.466 trillion, while the U.S. federal government spent $6.75 trillion.[2] Philanthropy plays a critical role in supporting our communities, but it cannot compete with the scale of necessary federal resources and funding. An accurate census count informs how those government resources are allocated. Stripping away data on race, ethnicity, and sexual orientation renders the most impacted communities invisible. If people cannot track their racial and ethnic identities, we cannot accurately measure their distinct needs and the impact of our investments.

The proposal to revise the residence criteria for apportionment raises serious constitutional concerns and departs from the longstanding practice of counting residents regardless of immigration status, since the first census in 1790. It would severely undercount AANHPI communities, stripping them of fair political representation and federal resources. Many of our community members live in mixed-status households. Many arrived as children or refugees without a clear pathway to citizenship. Asian Americans are the only U.S. racial group that is majority foreign-born (65%), and as of 2022, at least 1.7 million of the nation's 11 million undocumented immigrants are AANHPI.[3] Furthermore, nearly 1.5 million Asians—accounting for almost 40% of the entire visa backlog—are still waiting for family visas.[4] Excluding undocumented immigrants, temporary visa holders, asylum applicants, and other non-permanent residents from apportionment counts unjustly erases and underserves millions of people living in limbo. Immigrants–whether documented or not–contribute to our society and economy in many meaningful ways.

Undocumented immigrants paid $96.7 billion in total taxes back to the government in 2022.[5] Most striking is that more than a third of tax dollars paid by undocumented immigrants toward payroll taxes is dedicated to funding social programs they are not even eligible to utilize like social security, medicare, and unemployment benefits. Immigrants had a buying power of $1.7 trillion and paid back $651.9 billion in taxes in 2023 alone.[6] Excluding this important group from the data count makes it harder for government, philanthropy, service providers, and other key stakeholders to effectively address community needs.

As leaders in philanthropy, we know what gets counted gets resources. The proposed rules threaten to undo decades of progress toward equity by rendering AANHPI and immigrant communities invisible in federal data and funding decisions. Excluding broad

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[2] https://johnsoncenter.org/blog/nonprofits-and-government-revenue-understanding-a-complex-relationship/
[3] https://aapidata.com/featured/by-the-numbers-immigration/
[4] https://aapidata.com/blog/evidence-matters-immigration-trends-among-asian-americans-and-pacific-islanders/
[5] https://itep.org/undocumented-immigrants-taxes-2024/
[6] https://map.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/locations/national/

swaths of people from the census count harms everyone. We firmly oppose these proposed revisions and call on the agency to uphold data integrity, fair representation, and basic equity for all who call this country home.

Given the above concerns, AAPIP respectfully urges the Census Bureau to withdraw both proposed Part 60 residence criteria and proposed Part 70 restrictions on demographic questions, and to preserve longstanding residence criteria and the collection of race and ethnicity data through the decennial census.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Connie Chung Joe
President and CEO
Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy (AAPIP)