



Oregon Public Health Association  
Working together to make health happen

## **ACTION ALERT: Public comment opposing citizenship question on the 2020 Census**

**Public comment period open until August 7th, 2018**

The US Census Bureau plans to add a citizenship question to the 2020 Census. This is bad for public health and the communities we serve. The OPHA Board of Directors opposes the addition of this question and submitted [this letter](#) to the US Department of Commerce.

**[Let's lift the voice of public health in opposing a citizenship question.](#)**

As public health advocates, we must make our voices heard to ensure a fair and accurate Census. The public comment period is open until **August 7, 2018**. This is an opportunity to [establish a strong public record from a range of stakeholders](#) opposing the addition of a citizenship question and to make it clear that a citizenship question will harm our health, our communities, and the well-being of our country.

A citizenship question on the 2020 Census will discourage participation from immigrants (whether documented or not) due to fears that their information will be used to put them and their families at risk. This threatens the accuracy of the count.

Communities of color are already largely undercounted, which has a huge fiscal impact on agencies' ability to address disparities and uplift equity. The addition of this question would exacerbate the existing undercount and has real implications for diverse communities to have equitable opportunities to be healthy and well.

**[Use this public health template to submit public comment and make YOUR voice heard.](#)**

As public health practitioners, we rely on the US Census Bureau to provide us with accurate, wholly representative data of who's living in the US. When the accuracy of this data is at risk, we lose the basic ability to keep track of health and intervene on behalf of better health outcomes. Additionally, undercounting immigrant populations will have a profound effect on congressional districts and how federal funds are distributed.

After you submit your own, **share this link with your networks and on social media** using the hashtags #SaveTheCensus and #WokePublicHealth: <http://bit.ly/CensusCountsHIP>

### Learn more:

- [A coalition of 19 Attorney Generals](#) (including Ellen Rosenblum) oppose the census citizenship question.
- The [Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights](#) had 170 national and statewide organizations sign onto their letter.

### These articles describe the issue and its impact on public health:

- <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/02/14/us/politics/citizenship-question-census-public-health.html>
- [https://www.oregonlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2018/04/oregon\\_joins\\_states\\_cities\\_in.html](https://www.oregonlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2018/04/oregon_joins_states_cities_in.html)

### Instructions for submitting your own letter:

Direct all written comments to Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230 (or via the internet at [PRAComments@doc.gov](mailto:PRAComments@doc.gov)). You may also submit comments, identified by Docket number USBC-2018-0005, to the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: <https://www.regulations.gov/comment?D=USBC-2018-0005-0001>. All comments received are part of the public record. No comments will be posted to <http://www.regulations.gov> for public viewing until after the comment period has closed. Comments will generally be posted without change. All Personally Identifiable Information (for example, name and address) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. You may submit attachments to electronic comments in Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.