

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

October 26, 2020

Dr. Steven Dillingham
Director
United States Census Bureau
4600 Silver Hill Road
Washington, DC 20233

Dear Dr. Dillingham:

Thank you for your response¹ to our letter² addressing the use of college and university directory information to ensure a full and accurate enumeration of college and university students in the 2020 Census.

We appreciate your stated commitment to use directory information “to assist in enumeration of addresses for which we have received neither a completed self-response nor an interview with a census taker that would indicate the address was occupied on April 1, 2020.”³ However, this statement leaves open a number of unanswered questions and concerns, as detailed by Secretary William Galvin in his October 14, 2020, letter to you.⁴ Given the Census Bureau’s recent decision to end self-response and field data collection operations on October 15, 2020,⁵ and the risk of undercounting college and university students in the 2020 Census, it is especially important to use all available data sources in concert to create a full and accurate count. We ask that you promptly respond to Secretary Galvin’s letter and answer his questions.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts relies greatly on a complete count in the 2020 Census. The accurate enumeration of college and university students living in communities across the Commonwealth is vital to ensuring the people of Massachusetts have access to the federal funding, representation, and resources that they deserve. While the COVID-19 pandemic has increased the difficulty of counting college and university students, the use of the directory information provided to you by institutions of higher education can help to mitigate the effects of the pandemic on data collection for both on and off campus students.

¹ Letter from Dr. Steven Dillingham to Senator Elizabeth Warren, October 8, 2020, <https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Oct.8.CensusResponse.pdf>.

² Letter from Senator Elizabeth Warren to Dr. Steven Dillingham August 12, 2020, <https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2020.08.12%20Letter%20to%20Census%20Bureau%20re%20using%20directory%20information%20for%20off%20campus%20students.pdf>.

³ Letter from Dr. Steven Dillingham to Senator Elizabeth Warren, October 8, 2020, <https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Oct.8.CensusResponse.pdf>.

⁴ Letter from Massachusetts Secretary of State William Galvin to Dr. Steven Dillingham, October 14, 2020, <https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Oct.14.SecGalvinLettertoCensus1.pdf>.

⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, “Statement on 2020 Census Data Collection Ending,” press release, October 13, 2020, <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2020/2020-census-data-collection-ending.html>.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. We look forward to your response to Secretary Galvin.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress

William R. Keating
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Lori Trahan
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton
Member of Congress

Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress

Katherine Clark
Member of Congress

Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress