



March 29, 2018

Honorable Lori Swanson  
Minnesota Attorney General  
1400 Minnesota Street  
Saint Paul, MN 55101

Attorney General Swanson:

The purpose of this letter is to communicate support for your involvement in the federal lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Commerce and the Trump Administration filed yesterday by California Attorney General Xavier Becerra over the decision to add a citizenship question to the 2020 U.S. Census Bureau questionnaire. We thank you for using your voice as Minnesota Attorney General to join the plaintiffs and stop the actions of the Trump Administration in federal court. We must act to prevent an undercount that would harm all Minnesotans.

The U.S. Constitution mandates an accurate population count of all individuals every ten years – regardless of their citizenship status. An accurate count of all persons is essential for several reasons, including: determining Congressional representation; distribution of federal funding, identifying the need for critical local government services, disaster relief, infrastructure projects, public health assistance, school funding, and police and fire protection.

It is imperative to the economy, health, safety and well-being of all Minnesotans that every effort be made to include all Minnesotans in the 2020 U.S. Census, including those who do not have documented status. As state legislators who work with local government officials at many levels, we need real and dependable population statistics in order to plan for the future and do our jobs well. That planning must include every Minnesotan, no matter their status.

The sad truth is that this President and his administration would like to think our neighbors who are undocumented will become invisible if they are not counted in the U.S. Census. They are not invisible, and their families will continue to be part of the fabric that make our communities a diverse and wonderful place to live. They need to be counted, but many will not be counted if they fear retribution from federal officials after taking the Census questionnaire.

We are receiving regular reports of highly-skilled and productive members of American society, including U.S. military service members, community leaders, and parents of US citizens being deported and sent back to countries they no longer know as home. This has caused great harm to many Minnesota communities, and if our state's population is undercounted because of immigrant fear, we will all be harmed even further.

We are grateful for the action your office is undertaking to make a stand against Wilbur Ross and President Trump, and to make a statement about the basic human rights that Minnesotans value, uphold and celebrate. Minnesota is a welcoming place where no one should live in fear of federal action from taking the U.S. Census questionnaire.



Sincerely,



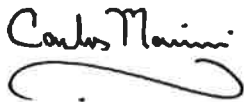
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Rep. Ilhan Omar (District 60B – Minneapolis)



Rep. Rena Moran (District 65A – St. Paul)



Rep. Carlos Mariani (District 65B – St. Paul)



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Rep. Duane Sauke (District 25B – Rochester)

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