

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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<http://oversight.house.gov>

April 10, 2018

The Honorable Gene L. Dodaro
Comptroller General of the United States
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

We are writing to request a series of reviews by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to assist the Committee's ongoing oversight of the 2020 Census. In 2017, GAO added the 2020 Decennial Census to the GAO High Risk List stating:

The decennial census is an inherently challenging undertaking, requiring many moving parts to come together in a short time and be completed according to a prescribed schedule. To help control costs and maintain accuracy, the Bureau is introducing significant change to how it conducts the decennial census in 2020.¹

Some challenges facing the 2020 Census include the development of new information technology systems, the deployment of updated address canvassing and mapping processes, the increased use of administrative records, and budgetary challenges.

To help the Committee assess the Census Bureau's progress with respect to these challenges, the Committee requests GAO undertake census-related reviews to:

1. Review census work during the 2018 Census Test non-response follow-up (NRFU) implementation;
2. Review census hiring and recruiting practices, including the readiness of technology-assisted training and any modifications being made to previous practices given current economic conditions;

¹ High Risk Series: Progress on Many High Risk Areas, While Substantial Efforts Needed on Others, GAO-17-317 (Feb. 2017).

3. Analyze the Bureau's ongoing assessment of risk areas, including Version 3.0 of the 2020 Census Operational Plan, to ensure risks are adequately addressed in a timely manner;²
4. Assess the Bureau's readiness for peak enumeration operations;
5. Assess the currently projected 2020 Census response rate against the actual rate, including as a cost assumption; and
6. Assess 2020 operations following completion of the 2020 Census, including a review of operations designed to measure the accuracy of the Census and a retrospective review of Census goals presented in the first 2020 Operational Plan compared to execution during 2020 Census.³ Please include lessons learned and recommendations for future decennial censuses.

Please contact Ellen Johnson of the Majority staff at (202) 225-5074, or Mark Stephenson of the Minority staff at (202) 225-5051, with any questions about this request. Thank you for your attention to this matter.



Trey Gowdy

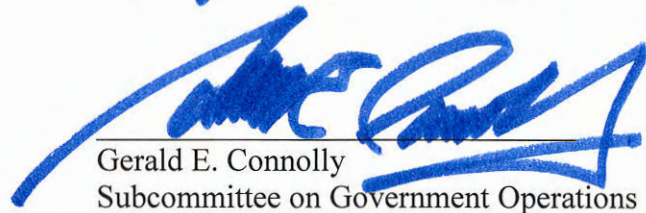
Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings



Mark Meadows
Subcommittee on Government Operations



Gerald E. Connolly
Subcommittee on Government Operations

² 2020 Census Operational Plan: A New Design for the 21st Century, version 3.0 (September 2017).

³ 2020 Census Operational Plan: A New Design for the 21st Century, Version 1.1 (November 2015).