On Monday, Jul 20, 2015 at 3:43 PM, David McCluskey <davidmccluskeyct@gmail.com>, wrote:

I write in response to the U.S. Census Bureau’s Federal Register Notice on the Residence Rule and Residence Situations [ 80 FR  28950 (May 20, 2015)]. I strongly urge your office to count incarcerated people at their last home address instead of the current practice of using the correctional facility they happen to be in when the Census is counted.

As a former State Representative for the City of Hartford, a Vice President of the Greater Hartford Labor Council and as a Board Member of the Capital Community College Foundation\*, I know the impact that undercounting city residents has for our Capital City.  Most correctional institutions in our state are located in very rural, very Caucasian towns.  Most Connecticut inmates come from our state’s three biggest cities – Bridgeport, Hartford and New Haven. They are disproportionately African American and Latino.  By using the current method of counting these inmates, the political power of our economically-depressed cities is significantly reduced.

This is especially egregious because Connecticut has never fully addressed the inequities that stem from mal-apportionment of State Representative and State Senate districts from World War II to the mid-1960s.  In 1964, ninety-six towns with an aggregate population of 303,086 (12 percent of the people) elected a majority of the State Representatives (148 of the 294). It was the most mal-apportioned lower house in the country. However, by the time the CT General Assembly had enacted a redistricting plan which withstood legal scrutiny, the population and power had shifted from the cities to the suburbs.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue affecting the people of Connecticut.

Sincerely,

David McCluskey

Vice President of the Greater Hartford Labor Council

Board Member of the Capital Community College Foundation

former State Representative (1999-2008) former Deputy Speaker (2009-2010)

\*Capital Community College (CCC) has the 2nd highest percentage of minority students among 252 New England Schools and Colleges.  Over 60% of the student body is African-American or Latino/a and CCC is the ONLY College in CT designated as a Hispanic Servicing Institution.

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