

Dear Ms. Humes,

I am writing to urge you to count prisoners at their home residence rather than the location of their incarceration. By counting them at the prison location the Census Bureau is falsely representing the prison community populations. In most state constitutions and statutes, it explicitly states that incarceration does not change a residence. Including the incarcerated people in the population of the area they are confined leads to an imbalance of district population. Looking through the lens of State Democracy, districts with prisons receive enhanced representation and districts without prisons state representation is diminished.

The Census Bureau's decision to count incarcerated people in their area of confinement interferes with equal representation in virtually every state.

To date, over 200 communities have discovered and addressed this problem and to ensure equal representation, they have drawn districts that exclude prison populations. I urge the Census Bureau to adopt this fair and democratic approach to avoid further misrepresentation.

In the spirit of democracy,

Robin Casarjian
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