

To: Karen Humes, Chief  
Population Division  
U.S. Census Bureau  
Room 5H174

Dear Ms. Humes,

As a tax paying U.S. citizen, I am EXTREAMLY disturbed, and OFFENDED that the Census Bureau has totally ignored the comments of 96% of the people who took the trouble to write to you last year regarding counting people who are incarcerated in prison rather than at their home address. I was one of those people who wrote to you.

I have to ask: If the 2020 Census Residence Rule Supporting the Counting of Incarcerated People at Their Home Address is not applied – then why bother taking a census at all in 2020?

We know right now that the Census methodology as it stands will be inaccurate, so the whole Census is going to be skewed. What a waste of my tax payer money. So why bother; just cancel the 2020 Census and put the funding into early childhood education where we know the money won't be a waste.

The planned inaccurate counting will perpetuate the false perception of democracy that results from padding the population counts of communities with prisons. When state and local officials use the Census Bureau's prison count data attributing "residence" to the prison, they give extra representation to the communities that host the prisons and dilute the representation of everyone else. This is harmful to rural communities that contain large prisons, because it seriously distorts redistricting at the local level of county commissions, city councils, and school boards.

And more if the incarcerated people in these areas were actually represented by the politicians who have prisons and jails in their catchment areas, it would at least be a hint of democratic representation. But they don't. In my 20 years plus of visiting a person close to our family in various facilities in the U.S. I NEVER once ever heard of a local elected representative coming in to talk to his/her constituents behind the walls.

Sincerely,

Rosaleen Crotty

P.S. I am very much hoping the logic of numbers and respect for democracy will win out in 2020. But if the Population Division, of the U.S. Census Bureau, were to go ahead in 2020 with taking a Census that we all know will be skewed if the present Census methodology were not to be corrected, I would ask as a tax payer that you respond to this e-mail and explain to me, why so much of my tax payer money will be spend on an end product that will be flawed; please include in the response the name of the end person/agency who would have be accountable for that decision.