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United States Senate

March 1, 2021

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Dr. Ron Jarmin
Acting Director
United States Census Bureau
4600 Silver Hill Road
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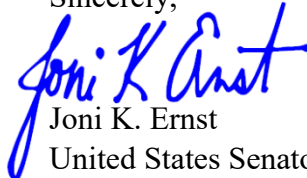
Dear Acting Director Jarmin,

I write to you concerning a matter of vital importance for the State of Iowa. As you are certainly aware, the availability of census data is crucial for every state. In Iowa, that importance is of a constitutional imperative. Pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Iowa, the General Assembly must complete the apportionment of state legislative districts prior to September 1 of this year.¹ Prior to that, Iowa's nonpartisan Legislative Services Agency is required to deliver the first proposed redistricting plan to the General Assembly by April 1.²

The availability of timely census redistricting data is essential to fulfilling this constitutional requirement. However, the Census Bureau has announced that it will deliver data to states by September 30, 2021.³ This date does not allow Iowa to fulfill its constitutional duty, let alone enough time to draft and debate a proper redistricting plan.

The United States Supreme Court has mandated that congressional and legislative districts be drawn to effectuate the constitutional mandate to provide equal weight to every person's vote.⁴ Without proper census data, this mandate cannot be fulfilled. I ask that you expedite your release of Iowa's census data or make preliminary data available as soon as possible. If you have any questions about this request, please contact my chief counsel, Corey Becker, at corey_becker@ernst.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator

¹ I.A. Const. art. III, § 35.

² Iowa Code § 42.3(1)(a).

³ United States Census Bureau. (2021, February 12). *Census Bureau Statement on Redistricting Data Timeline* [Press release]. <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2021/statement-redistricting-data-timeline.html>.

⁴ *Baker v. Carr*, 369 U.S. 186 (1962).