

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
777 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, NE  
WASHINGTON, DC 20002**

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AN EXTENSION OF 2020 CENSUS OPERATIONS TO ENSURE COMPLETE,  
ACCURATE COUNT**

**WHEREAS**, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is comprised of the 24 jurisdictions of the National Capital Region's local governments and their governing officials, plus area members of the Maryland and Virginia legislatures and the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, and COG provides a focus for action on issues of regional concern; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Constitution – Article I, Section 2, clause 3, as modified by Section 2 of the 14th Amendment – requires a population census every 10 years for apportioning seats in the House of Representatives and to distribute an estimated \$675 billion annually in federal funds to states and localities; and

**WHEREAS**, state and local governments use census data to determine the best allocation of scarce fiscal and human resources in criminal justice, transportation, education, public health, and disaster management; to calculate annual limits in the growth of state government revenue and spending; and to redraw legislative districts; and

**WHEREAS**, achieving a complete and accurate count in the 2020 Census is essential to COG's local governments and their ability to support traditionally underserved communities and advance racial equity in our region; and

**WHEREAS**, COG has been working together with member local governments and nonprofit organizations to promote participation in the 2020 Census; and

**WHEREAS**, the administration's new proposal to rush major census operations will result in incomplete data and likely lead to an undercount of communities of color, immigrants, young children, low-income, and rural households; and

**WHEREAS**, Congress has a constitutional responsibility to ensure a complete and accurate census.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:**

The board (1) ratifies an Executive Committee letter urging the Senate to include language in its next COVID-19 relief package (HEALS Act) to extend the statutory reporting deadlines for the 2020 Census by four months, as the House of Representatives has done in its relief package and the Census Bureau has recommended, and provide adequate funding to address continued 2020 Census challenges brought about by the pandemic, and (2) authorizes the Executive Director to take other actions to support regional Census efforts.

**I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT the foregoing resolution was adopted by the COG Board of Directors on August 12, 2020.**

Patricia A. Warren, Executive Assistant