



August 7, 2018

Ms. Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer
Department of Commerce, Room 6616
14th and Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230
(sent via internet at PRAComments@doc.gov)

Dear Ms. Jessup:

On behalf of over 40 organizations that serve Asian Americans across the U.S., we, Asian Americans for Equal Rights (AAER), submit this letter in response to a recent Federal Register notice (83 FR 26643) regarding data collection activities related to the 2020 Census. The notice, in particular, solicits comments on “(c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents.” We consider the current proposed race question to be lacking in clarity while also imposing a burden on the Census Bureau and Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community members. More importantly, the current race question treats AAPIs differently from White, African American, and American Indian or Alaska Native respondents, which is discriminatory, alienating and potentially provoking racial trauma. Therefore, we suggest that the Census Bureau remove the AAPI origin boxes and replace them with two generic Asian/Asian American and Pacific Islander checkboxes and respective write-in areas.

The first AAPI origin box, Chinese, was added to the 1870 Census, which coincided with Sinophobic hysteria and passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act (1882). Later, all immigrants from Asian countries were barred from entering the U.S, having been sanctioned by the Immigration Act of 1924. More origin boxes, such as for Japanese (1890), Koreans (1930), and Filipinos (1930), were added during the Asian exclusion era. These place of origin boxes were created to count persons of Asian heritage, not as equal beings, but as unassimilable aliens. Another racist practice of the Census Bureau was to count blacks and whites separately, so that the Three-Fifths Compromise could be practiced in the slave holding states.

We acknowledge the importance of accurately counting the AAPI population. Indeed, being counted matters, but what matters even more is being counted as equal beings rather than as "others" or inferior beings. In the proposed 2020 Census questionnaire, the offensive and archaic term-Negro, which is associated with the long history of slavery, segregation, and discrimination that treated African Americans as inferior, was removed. The AAPI origin checkboxes are associated with immigration exclusion and segregation, and they already outlived their usefulness in soliciting detailed origin reporting according the Census Bureau’s 2015 National Content Test (NCT). Besides this, the current format lacks coherence and clarity in its format and wording, which will inevitably increase the burden on the community and census

bureau (Analysis see Appendix A). The Census Bureau should remove these checkboxes from the 2020 Census, so that the AAPI community may be treated as equal beings, rather than advising the community to wait for a "more convenient season."

We stress the role that government document plays in spreading and perpetuating harmful racial stereotypes. The AAPI community is haunted by "perpetual foreigner" prejudice. The Census in its current format is a powerful weapon of alienation in 2020 and beyond. The "perpetual foreigners" stereotype has a profoundly negative impact on AAPI people's life, including mental health, identity and career opportunities (Analysis see Appendix B). Being constantly questioned "where are you really from" or "What type of Asian are you" is a very disempowering experience, which carries the suggestion of "you are not American, not one of us." The perception of "other" deprives us of the much-needed benefit of the doubt in situations such as running for public office, social networking, and career promotions. In 2020, federal and state governments, as well as various community organizations, will spend millions to promote the Census questionnaire. The image of the race question will be on newspapers, social media, TV advertisement, basically, everywhere. It will effectively be a massive state-sponsored alienation campaign targeting persons of AAPI origin, and the damage will be irreversible.

The current proposed format has already caused outrage among AAPI community. An online petition titled "Remove sub-Asian boxes on Census Form 2020! Stop racist anti-Asian anti-immigrant legacy!" gathered near 30,000 signatures (Details see Appendix C). AAPI elected officials of different ethnic origins and party affiliations expressed their grave concerns (Details see Appendix D and E).

Our organization urges the Census Bureau to change the race question by removing the AAPI origin boxes and ensuring the uniformity across all racial categories. This change will enhance the quality and clarity of the race information to be collected and minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents and the census bureau.

We enclose the following appendixes.

Appendix A: Assessment of the quality of the current race question, Frank Sloan, Ph.D.

Appendix B: Assessment of the negative psychological impact, Myra Zhang, Ph.D.

Appendix C: Online petition- Remove sub-Asian boxes on Census Form 2020

Appendix D: Open letter from State Senator Dean Tran of Massachusetts

Appendix E: Open letter from State Representative William Tong of Connecticut

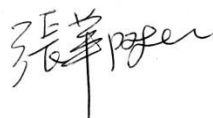
Sincerely,



Yuan Li, Chairperson

Asian Americans for Equal Rights

yuan.li@asianamericans4equalrights.org



Ye Zhang Pogue, Director of Research

Asian Americans for Equal Rights

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Appendix A: Assessment of the quality of the current race question



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August 4, 2018

Ms. Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer
Department of Commerce, Room 6616
14th and Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230
(sent via internet at PRAcomments@doc.gov)

Dear Ms. Jessup:

I am J. Alexander McMahon Professor of Health Policy and Management and Professor of Economics Emeritus at Duke University having just officially retired in June 2018. I am writing in response to the recent Federal Register notice (83 FR 26643) regarding data collection activities related to the 2020 Census. In particular, I want to express my concern regarding the current proposed race questions' instruction and format on the 2020 Census. I have conducted research in health, labor, and public economics for over 50 years with various primary and secondary datasets, many of which collect information on race and ethnicity. The proposed race question is worded and formatted in a way which is confusing and culturally insensitive, which is likely to result in a lower response rate.

First, the current format is not equitable to people of different racial identities. It treats persons who self-identify as Asian and Pacific Islanders (APIs) differently than those who self-identify in other broad categories. The U.S. Census Bureau is mandated to adhere to the 1997 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) standards on race and ethnicity, which classify race into five major categories-- White, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native (AIAN), Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (API). The proposed question has uniformity in its designated labels and checkboxes for White, African American, and AIAN. However, APIs are subdivided into nine race/origin checkboxes, such as Chinese, Asian Indian and Native Hawaiian. In addition, it provides two "Other" checkboxes and write-in areas for API persons falling outside the nine origins. However, there no parallel for forcing White, Black or AIAN persons into an "Other" group.

Second, the instructions are not applicable to APIs who have one or more national origins listed in the nine API checkboxes. The instruction on the paper version of questionnaire is "Mark one or more boxes AND print origins" (Figure 1). For those APIs for whom one or more of the nine race/origins apply, it is not possible to follow the "AND print origin" part of the instruction. Similarly, the instruction on the internet version is to "select one or more boxes AND enter

origins.” This makes the question even more confusing, since race origin labels and checkboxes are presented in a parallel manner (Figure 2). The instruction is particularly confusing for multiracial individuals for whom more than one broad category applies. The instruction is worded so as to apply to all groups except for persons of Asian origin.

Participation in and truthful answers to the census are mandatory for all persons who reside in the U.S. on the census date. Research ethics specified in the Belmont Report require that researchers and research organizations respect all human subjects. The decennial census questionnaire is an important research instrument and an official government document, which should be formatted and worded in a manner that respects all participants. The current race question format will confuse respondents, and result in delayed responses, and increased workload for call centers’ assistance.

I urge the Census Bureau to change the race question format to a form that provides greater simplicity and uniformity across racial groups. The simplest way to achieve this objective would be to remove the specific API origin checkboxes and replace them with generic Asian/Asian American and Pacific Islander labels and checkboxes, combined with a Write-in response area. The Census Bureau’s 2015 National Content Test (NCT) data (Figure 3) showed that the race question with “Write-in Response Areas” (middle column) elicited detailed origin reporting as well as the current proposed question (left column). Even though this test result was based on a combined race and ethnicity question, it provides sufficient information on how API persons would respond to the question format I am proposing. There is no need for another full testing cycle. For researchers who really worry about the loss in the detailed reporting rate between the current formatted and the suggested change, I refer to the NCT report. That report states “The 2015 NCT was not carried out in a decennial census environment, which is difficult to replicate without a large-scale communication and partnership program. Because of this and other factors such as increased public awareness and trust in the decennial census, the 2015 NCT likely had a lower overall self-response rate than will be seen in the 2020 Census.”

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank A. Sloan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Frank" being the most prominent.

Frank A. Sloan
J. Alexander McMahan Professor of Health Policy and Management and Professor of Economics
Emeritus
Duke University
Durham, North Carolina

Figure 1: Paper Version

What is this person's race?
Mark one or more boxes **AND** print origins.

White – *Print, for example, German, Irish, English, Italian, Lebanese, Egyptian, etc.* ↴

Black or African Am. – *Print, for example, African American, Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Somali, etc.* ↴

American Indian or Alaska Native – *Print name of enrolled or principal tribe(s), for example, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe, Mayan, Aztec, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government, Nome Eskimo Community, etc.* ↴

<input type="checkbox"/> Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/> Vietnamese	<input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian
<input type="checkbox"/> Filipino	<input type="checkbox"/> Korean	<input type="checkbox"/> Samoan
<input type="checkbox"/> Asian Indian	<input type="checkbox"/> Japanese	<input type="checkbox"/> Chamorro
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Asian – <i>Print, for example, Pakistani, Cambodian, Hmong, etc.</i> ↴		<input type="checkbox"/> Other Pacific Islander – <i>Print, for example, Tongan, Fijian, Marshallese, etc.</i> ↴

Some other race – *Print race or origin.* ↴

Figure 2: Internet Version

What is [redacted]'s race?

Select one or more boxes **AND** enter origins.

- White
- Black or African American
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Chinese
- Filipino
- Asian Indian
- Vietnamese
- Korean
- Japanese
- Other Asian
- Native Hawaiian
- Samoan
- Chamorro
- Other Pacific Islander

What is [redacted]'s race?

Select one or more boxes **AND** enter origins.

White

Enter, for example, German, Irish, English, Italian, Lebanese, Egyptian, etc.

- Black or African American
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Chinese
- Filipino
- Asian Indian
- Vietnamese
- Korean
- Japanese
- Other Asian
- Native Hawaiian
- Samoan

Figure 3: 2015 National Centest Test Table

Table 10. Detailed Reporting for Major Race/Ethnicity Groups by Question Format for Internet
(Percentage providing detailed responses)

Alone or in Combination Groups	Separate Question	Combined Question with Write-In Response Areas	Combined Question with Detailed Checkboxes
White	75.2%(0.35)	87.0%(0.21)	93.3%(0.12)
Hispanic*	96.0%(0.19)	90.3%(0.30)	95.2%(0.25)
Black	72.5%(0.58)	83.8%(0.47)	96.6%(0.22)
Asian*	98.0%(0.18)	97.6%(0.18)	99.0%(0.11)
AIAN	72.1%(0.78)	67.5%(0.83)	73.0%(0.94)
MENA	91.1%(1.04)	91.8%(1.00)	94.2%(0.76)
NHPI*	85.4%(2.02)	82.5%(2.19)	89.9%(1.71)
SOR	66.9%(0.66)	92.0%(0.89)	91.7%(1.00)

*These are the only groups with dedicated detailed checkboxes in the Separate Questions format
Source: 2015 National Content Test data. Note: Estimates are weighted with standard errors in parentheses.

Appendix B: Assessment of the negative psychological impact

August 6, 2018

Ms. Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer
Department of Commerce, Room 6616
14th and Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230
(sent via internet at PRAcomments@doc.gov)

Dear Ms. Jessup,

As a Ph.D. consumer scientist who has worked in consumer cognition and perception for more than 10 years, I have seen overwhelming literature demonstrating the un-American biases toward Asian American that can be primed through simple questions such as “do you speak English” or “where do you come from”. I am writing this letter to testify and to strongly support the removal of the Asian and Pacific Islander (API) subgroup boxes.

The MSNBC’s headline 20 years ago in the 1998 winter Olympics - “American Beats Out Kwan” vividly illustrated the un-American biases Asian American have experienced. Even Michelle Kwan, who born and raised here, and a five-time world champion representing United States, suffered through the implicit rejection of her “Americanness”. This un-American/foreigner bias may not be explicit expressed due to unawareness of the individuals or social taboo, but can be readily measured by implicit methods such as the one demonstrated in Harvard’s Project Implicit Asian IAT

(<https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/selectatest.html>, an open self-administered test. Among 366,706 tested between 2004 and 2015, about 50% shown moderate to strong association of Asian with foreign).

The un-American/foreigner bias can be reinforced by categorizing individuals based on their ethnic (rather than personal) identity and by drawing attention to the ethnic identity. A study by Devos and Ma in 2008 is one of the examples demonstrated this effect. The study is titled “*Is Kate Winslet more American than Lucy Liu? The impact of construal processes on the implicit ascription of a national identity*”. Contrast to study participants’ explicit knowledge of Kate’s European and Lucy’s American identity, Lucy was implicitly regarded as being less American than Kate. This bias to view Lucy as less American was particularly stronger after the study participants either completed the task to categorize the actresses’ ethnic identity or receive highlighted information about the actresses’ ethnic identity.

Asian Americans are well aware of the foreigner biases toward them, and are very sensitive toward the identity denial of their Americanness. “Identity denial” in this case is instantiated through questions such as what language one speaks or where one is originally from, reminding threatened group members that they do not fully belong in the group of “American”. In the face of such a threat, Asian Americans try hard to dispel this misperception of viewing them as foreigner and reassert their identity as American. A study conducted in 2005 has shown that even for elite Asian American (students enrolled in Stanford University), a simple question of “Do you speak English?” doubled the amount of time Asian American students spent on answering trivial TV show questions to prove their familiarity with American culture. The same questions

had shown no significant impact on White students, likely because they have not experienced the identity denial of their Americanness (Cheryan and Monin, 2005).

Other than Asian Americans, many other ethnic minorities in United States, such as Latinos, also suffer a persistent cultural stereotype of them as foreigners even though they may consider themselves to be just as, if not more, American as their European American counterparts. Being perceived to be foreigner is associated with less life satisfaction and more depressive symptoms, and is indirectly associated with lower self-esteem via identity denial among of U.S.-born Asian Americans and Latinos (Armenta et al. 2013)

In summary, the foreigner perception and identity denial of Americanness toward Asian Americans and other ethnic minorities' is well documented and can be reinforced by categorizing individuals based on their ethnicity/nationality using simple questions such as "where do you come from". This reinforced bias and identity denial will negatively impact the psychological well-being of ethnic minorities.

The current proposed race question, in its effect, promotes the foreigner bias against API community. Providing national origin checkboxes for APIs, while not doing the same to people of other racial identity is questioning the Americanness of this community. Therefore, I urge the census bureau to implement a race question that had the consistent format for every racial group. The simplest way is to remove the API subgroup boxes and replace them with two Asian American, and Pacific Islander generic checkboxes and write-in areas.

Best Regards,

Myra Zhang, Ph.D.

Woodbridge, CT

haoxianmyra@gmail.com

List of Key Literature.

Harvard's Project Implicit Asian IAT: <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/selectatest.html>

Armenta et al. (2013) Where Are You From? A validation of the Foreigner Objectification Scale and the Psychological Correlates of Foreigner Objectification Among Asian Americans and Latinos. *Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology*, 19(2) 131-142.

Barlow, Taylor & Lambert. (2000). Ethnicity in American and feeling "American". *Journal of Psychology: Interdisciplinary and Applied*, 134: 581-600.

Cheryan and Monin, 2005, Where are you really from? Asian Americans and identity denial. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*. Vol. 89, No. 5, 717-730.

Devos and Banaji. (2005) American = White? *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 88(3), 447-466.

Devos and Ma (2008). Is Kate Winslet more American than Lucy Liu? The impact of construal processes on the implicit ascription of a national identity. *British Journal of Social Psychology*, 47(2): 191-215. Devos and Heng. (2009) Whites are granted the American identity more swiftly than Asians. *Social Psychology*, 40(4): 192-201.

Yogeeswaran and Dasgupta. (2010) Will the "Real" American please stand up? The effect of implicit national prototypes on discriminatory behavior and judgements. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 36(10):1332-45.

Appendix C: Online petition

Remove sub-Asian boxes on Census Form 2020! Stop racist anti-Asian anti-immigrant legacy!

S. CENSUS 2020 -



The Current Version is Racially **Discriminatory**:

What is this person's race?
Mark one or more boxes **AND** print origins.

White – Print, for example, German, Irish, English, Italian, Lebanese, Egyptian, etc.

Black or African Am. – Print, for example, African American, Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Somali, etc.

American Indian or Alaska Native – Print name of enrolled or principal tribe(s), for example, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe, Mayan, Aztec, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government, Nome Eskimo Community, etc.

Chinese Vietnamese Native Hawaiian

Filipino Korean Samoan

Asian Indian Japanese Chamorro

Other Asian – Print, for example, Pakistani, Cambodian, Hmong, etc.

Other Pacific Islander – Print, for example, Tongan, Fijian, Marshallese, etc.

We Demand Racial **Equality**:

What is this person's race?
Mark one or more boxes **AND** print origins.

White – Print, for example, German, Irish, English, Italian, Lebanese, Egyptian, etc.

Black or African Am. – Print, for example, African American, Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Somali, etc.

American Indian or Alaska Native – Print name of enrolled or principal tribe(s), for example, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe, Mayan, Aztec, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government, Nome Eskimo Community, etc.

Asian or Asian Am. - Print, for example, Asian Indian, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, Hmong, Laotian, Thai, Pakistani, Cambodian, etc.



56,279 have signed. Let's get to 75,000!



Swan Lee started this petition to **Representative Keith Ellison** and 354 others

Dear fellow Americans for justice, brothers and sisters against racism,

The glaringly racist legacy of sub-Asian boxes on the Census form was started in 1870, after the Burlingame Treaty of 1868, which eventually led to the infamous, racist, and inhumane Chinese Exclusion Act spanning from 1882 to 1943, which among other terrible abominations, banned U.S. residents of Chinese descent from having children or getting married; their family members in Asia were forbidden from entry to U.S. and reuniting as families. The Census form has no "Asian/Asian American" category. In its place are a group of boxes signifying foreign nationalities in Asia as if Asian Americans were all "perpetual foreigners." It intrusively identified and collected data on which U.S. residents were of Chinese, Filipino, Indian, Vietnamese, Korean, Japanese...descent. While the Chinese Exclusion Act ended in 1943, did these racist, humiliating, dehumanizing sub-Asian boxes get removed from the Census form? No, they were kept on the Census form by the U.S. government even until today, and if we don't fight back and boycott the Census form with sub-Asian boxes, it will stay on the 2020 Census form and beyond, prolonging a racist American legacy, a shame to all Americans.

This legacy treats Americans of Asian descent as perpetual foreigners, and collects intrusive personal ancestral origin data used in many kinds of racial discrimination and persecution. In one example, the U.S. government used information from the Census Bureau to identify native born Americans of Japanese descent and sent them to Internment Camps during the World War II. There were also discriminatory laws against Americans of various Asian descent, such as Filipino. Such horrendous trampling of humanity will happen again unless you and I act now to boycott a 2020 Census form with sub-Asian boxes. We demand these sub-Asian boxes be removed and replaced with one description--"Asian/Asian American." Injustice to one human being is injustice to all human kind. If we don't stop this racist and anti-immigrant legacy, its

“logic” and mentality will be repeated in current and future policy-making. Let's keep fighting against racism and improve the human condition step by step. Please join the good fight to make this historically significant change happen for now and forever, by signing this petition and sharing it on social media and by email, word of mouth. Power to the people!

Fighting on,

Americans against racism and anti-Asian anti-immigrant legacy



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

SENATOR DEAN A. TRAN

Worcester and Middlesex District

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 312D
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The Honorable Maura Healey
One Ashburton Place
Boston MA, 02108

July 26, 2018

Dear Attorney General Healey:

As a member of the Massachusetts State Senate, and a member of the Asian Pacific American Community, I am writing to express my grave concern regarding the most recent US 2020 census form. I have spent my entire life fighting discrimination and segregation, and can say with certainty that the census question as proposed, about race identification, does nothing but remind me of my painful experiences.

Unlike all other ethnicities, the Census divides Asian-American and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) into several subgroups instead of one unified community. I firmly believe that these extra boxes are harmful to the AAPI identity in the following ways.

- 1 The format of these questions is rooted in prejudice. The census initially offered Asians the singular option of "Chinese," irrespective of their country of origin when they first added them to the census in 1870. In later censuses, ethnicities were added over the next sixty years. Unfortunately, each new category was initially used nefariously to further exclude immigrants and discriminate against them. The stain of that shameful period in our nation's history must be completely wiped clean with a question that places Asian Americans on equal footing with other communities.
- 2 It "otherizes" members of smaller AAPI communities. By only including few options, the question indirectly undervalues some ethnicities and groups. As a nation that values the inherent dignity and worth of every human being, we can't let that stand.
- 3 It prohibits the AAPI community from embracing the self-expression of ethnic and cultural identity. As currently formatted, residents who check off the box for "White" are then able to describe their potentially multi-racial history. Unfortunately, the options are different for those that check off Asian. The question then forces you to choose from a

pre-printed selection of options. For example, a person of Chinese and Vietnamese descent wouldn't consider themselves solely Chinese or Vietnamese. Unfortunately, they are pressured by the question to choose one box. This is insensitive to the identity of multiracial persons of Asian heritage.

I respectfully request that, as Attorney General of the Commonwealth, you fight as vigorously for the equal treatment of all groups as you did regarding questions about citizenship. Please urge the Census Bureau to enforce a uniform standard when asking this question. It reduces confusion, is sensitive to cultural identities, and will not lower the response rate as shown in the tests already done by the Bureau.

Sincerely,



Dean A. Tran
State Senator

Carbon Copy:

United States Senator Warren
United States Senator Markey
United States Congressman Kennedy
United States Congressman Capuano
United States Congressman Moulton
United States Congressman McGovern
United States Congresswoman Clark
United States Congressman Lynch
United States Congressman Keating
Governor Baker
Lieutenant Governor Polito
Secretary of the Commonwealth Galvin

Appendix E: Open letter from State Rep William Tong of Connecticut



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM TONG
147TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591
CAPITOL: 860-240-0532
TOLL FREE: 1-800-842-8267
E-MAIL: William.Tong@cga.ct.gov

CHAIRMAN
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

MEMBER
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP COMMITTEE

July 9, 2018

The Honorable Chris Murphy
United States Senator
136 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murphy:

As a State Representative, Chairman of our state legislature's Judiciary Committee, and a member of the Asian Pacific American community, I am writing to express outrage over the most recent U.S. Census Form, which my community and I believe is unfair and discriminatory to people of Asian Pacific descent living in the United States.

My primary concern regarding the census form is the section asking Asian Pacific Americans to check a box stating what their race is. Whereas Caucasians, African Americans, Hispanics and Native Americans can check a box stating a more general category of race and further specify their origins through a space for further comment, Asian Pacific Americans must check a box that lists their specific origins (*i.e.*, Vietnamese, Korean, Samoan, etc.). In the event that our specific origins are not listed among the check boxes, the census instructs us to further specify our origins in writing. We believe that these instructions are discriminatory and written in bad faith to disadvantage the Asian Pacific American community.

The discriminatory aspects of the U.S. Census are numerous. The requirement for us to list our specific origins rather than a general racial category represents an attempt to alienate and divide the general Asian Pacific American community. It forces us to identify with specific countries, thus representing a subtle attempt by the Trump Administration at alienating our race and labeling us as perpetual foreigners in this country.

The current format is an unnecessary measure that fails to improve the accuracy or turnout of the US Census. The section for Asian Pacific Americans on the U.S. Census should have the exact same format as the section used for other communities. An online petition asking for this change has already gathered more than 15,000 signatures. Many have pledged that they will not answer the census in the event that the Trump Administration's proposed section is added to the U.S. Census.

On behalf of the Asian Pacific American community, I urge you to compel the Trump Administration to make these changes on the U.S. Census form.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William Tong', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

William Tong
State Representative, 147th District