Keystone Counts Responds to SCOTUS Citizenship Case Decision

Harrisburg, PA (June 27, 2019) – Today, Keystone Counts and its coalition members issued the following statements on this morning’s U.S. Supreme Court ruling on a potential citizenship question on the 2020 Census.

Attributable to Jo Lin, Coalition Manager, Keystone Counts:

“Today’s Supreme Court ruling is a win for American democracy, and the fundamental principle that we should all count equally. Given the timeline for finalizing the Census, the Commerce Department should respect the court’s decision and continue preparations for a Census that does not include a citizenship question. Even without the citizenship question, there will still be fear around the Census, particularly in communities of color and immigrant communities, and we all must act together to ensure that every single Pennsylvanian is counted, and that our communities receive the representation and resources they deserve.”

Attributable to Arlette Morales, Board Member, CASA:

“With today’s court decision, justice has prevailed for immigrant communities. We will not be erased. Immigrants are vital and growing community of Pennsylvania and we will do everything in our power to make sure that ALL Pennsylvanians counted and are protected.”

An accurate 2020 Census count is critical for Pennsylvanians to receive accurate political representation, as well as funding for our communities.

On the federal level, we could lose one or more of our 18 Representatives in the U.S. House during congressional reapportionment. And on the state level, political representation could be skewed during the redrawing of state house and senate districts – especially if the 2020 Census misses key communities in the Keystone State such as kids, people of color, immigrants, and others who have been historically undercounted.

In terms of resources, Pennsylvania receives over $39 billion in annual funding from 55 of the largest federal programs guided by census data. That’s 35% of the Commonwealth’s total operating budget for the last fiscal year. Any undercount would not only shrink the budget – it would translate to fewer dollars for our communities’ needs – for an entire decade.
The census is a constitutionally mandated count of all persons in the United States, and the Keystone Counts coalition and its members continue to stand united for fair and accurate count of all Pennsylvanians.

For more information, visit: https://www.keystonecounts.org/

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