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**Testimony, New York Complete Count Commission**

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony before the New York State Complete Count Commission. The Commission is doing critical work to prepare for the 2020 Census, ensuring that we get an accurate count.

The 2020 Census is a serious constitutional obligation that will shape how federal dollars are shared nationwide for the next decade. That means it determines how much each community receives for schools, roads, health care, and other public services that my constituents rely on daily. Particularly for our communities in New York, which as we know send more money to the federal government than we receive, it is essential that we get our fair share of federal support. For example, in Fiscal Year 2016, New York received more than \$73 billion through 55 federal spending programs guided by data derived from the 2010 Census.

In Washington I have opposed the Trump Administration's efforts to limit participation in the Census at every turn. In fact, before the Supreme Court ruled against the administration, as Chairwoman of the House Appropriations Committee I ensured that the House-passed funding bill supporting the Census blocked the citizenship question by law. Additionally, the House bill included a \$4.6 billion increase for the Census. We can't get an accurate count without adequate funding.

Unfortunately, this administration chose to play political football with a fundamental function of our government by attempting to add the nefarious citizenship question. It was an unnecessary addition and a clear attack on immigrant and other minority communities. Thankfully, through litigation and our efforts in Congress to keep the pressure on, this question will not be included.

While the absence of the citizenship question on the Census is a victory, we still have a long way to go, which makes the NYS Complete Count Commission so vital. So too is the work already taking place in my District, by the Rockland Complete Count Committee, the Westchester Complete Count Committee and those in some local communities including Port Chester. We must ensure that people feel safe enough to participate in the Census by coordinating with local stakeholders to get the word out and make sure groups that are vulnerable to underestimation are heard. I stand ready to support these important efforts in any way that I can.