



**New York State Complete Count Commission Hearing  
March 11, 2019  
Make the Road New York**

My name is Monica Robles. I am a staff member of Make the Road New York and I need your help to make sure that the Trump Administration is not successful at intimidating and undercounting the many communities I support, work and volunteer with. I'm here because we need New York to step up to make sure that our communities are counted in the Census in 2020.

Every 10 years the Census measures how many people live in each city, county and state. Our communities nationwide rely on this source for political representation and the allocation of critical resources that will impact their ability to survive.

The Trump Administration has made a request to add a citizenship status question to the upcoming Census, which is clearly intended to undercut and silence our communities, and it will have a great impact on families I work with who are citizens as well as undocumented immigrants.

Make the Road New York, along other organizations, have taken this issue up to the court. Two court decisions have now rejected the Trump's citizenship question request—and now is up to the Supreme Court to do the same. However, New Yorkers cannot wait until the Supreme Court makes a decision, our state needs to prepare for the 2020 Census now. Besides the citizenship question, we know that the under-funding, under-planning, and under-staffing at the federal level will hurt the Census.

New York State's leadership will be critical in making an impact on whether our communities are counted or not. We know through a report by the Fiscal Policy Institute that to get a full, fair count, NY must include \$40 million for community-based outreach for the Census in our state budget this year, in addition to funds for state and local government outreach. This cannot wait for next year's budget we need to do the outreach work now.

New York needs to properly fund community based outreach because our communities trust us and we will help maximize participation across the state to ensure a full and accurate count of our immigrant communities and working class people of color.

As an immigrant, a teacher, and a coordinator of immigrant volunteers in the city I know that our communities are one of the hardest-to-count communities in the country. If we do not prepare for the 2020 Census, New York's political representation in Congress and critical survival resources are on the line.

The Administration continues to attack our communities relentlessly, it is our duty and responsibility to lead in this issue and make sure everyone is counted.

Every community deserves to be counted, the Bronx deserves to be counted, New Yorkers deserve a full, fair and accurate count. And New York needs to invest the resources to make it happen.

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