

Good evening,

I am writing to submit a comment to the New York State Complete Count Commission to express my concern that New York is at serious risk of an undercount in the 2020 Decennial Census due to a lack in state funding for needed outreach and education.

If New York is not accurately counted, I am concerned that my community will lose political representation and power in redistributing. I am concerned that my school will be underfunded and unable to provide the necessary, quality education that students like me need. Without sufficient funding, communities that have been historically undercounted, specifically immigrant, communities of color, and low income communities will be undercounted again and lose out on essential resources. I am concerned that programs like Medicaid, SNAP, and WIC will be underfunded putting already marginalized people at risk of losing the services they need and deserve.

I ask that the commission work to provide an additional \$20 million in funding, totaling \$40 million in state funding as was originally requested, and that these funds be allocated to trust community organizations to implement outreach and education programs to ensure a complete count.

Sincerely,
Saba Mehrzad