

February 21, 2017

The Honorable Mike Lee  
U.S. Senate  
361A Russell SOB  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Paul Gosar  
U.S. House of Representatives  
504 Cannon HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Lee and Congressman Gosar,

The undersigned organizations are writing with regard to S. 103 and H.R. 482, legislation you recently introduced regarding Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations.

As you know, this bill provides that “...no Federal funds may be used to design, build, maintain, utilize, or provide access to a Federal database of geospatial information on community racial disparities or disparities in access to affordable housing,” in addition to nullifying the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing regulation.

It is our belief that this legislation could foster racial discrimination and have far-reaching consequences on federally-sponsored research on racial disparities, as well as on federal human health programs; census issues; education programs, including services for children; federal housing programs; Department of Justice programs; and other critical programs. Our association members often conduct research or provide services – some of which is federally funded – using geospatial information related to racial and other disparities, and we fear that the enactment of this legislation could have a damaging effect on a wide range of Americans and their communities.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact John Wertman at the American Association of Geographers at [jwertman@aag.org](mailto:jwertman@aag.org) or (202) 234-1450 if you have any questions about this issue or

would like to set up a meeting with representatives from our organizations to discuss the policy implications of these restrictions to the use of and access to geospatial data and racial disparities information.

Sincerely,

American Association of Geographers  
American Anthropological Association  
American Educational Research Association  
American Geographical Society  
American Geosciences Institute  
American Psychological Association  
American Sociological Association  
Association of Research Libraries  
Cartography and Geographic Information Society  
Center for Global Policy Solutions  
ChangeLab Solutions  
Consortium of Social Science Associations  
Economic Policy Institute Policy Center  
Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice  
Institute for the Study of "Race" & Social Justice  
Midwest Political Science Association  
NAACP  
National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development  
National Collaborative for Health Equity  
National Latino Farmers & Ranchers Trade Association  
National States Geographic Information Council  
North American Regional Science Council  
Poverty and Race Research Action Council  
Rural Sociological Society  
Society for Research in Child Development  
The City Project  
University Consortium for Geographic Information Science