July 7, 2015



# NEW JERSEY

# ASSOCIATION

## ON CORRECTION

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Citizens Working Together for an Effective Criminal Justice Systems Founded in 1961 as The Morrow Association

986 South Broad Street, Trenton, New Jersey 08611

(609) 396-8900 FAX (609) 396-8999

Karen Holmes, Chief

Population Division

US Census Bureau

Room 5H 174

Washington, DC 20233

Dear Karen Hol,mes,

The New Jersey Association on Correction submits this comment in response to the Census Bureau’s federal register notice regarding the Residence Rules and Residence Situation 8FR 28950(May 20, 2015). The Association urges you to count incarcerated people at their home address rather than the particular facility that they happen to be located on Census day.

By desiginating a prison cell as a residence in the 2010 census, the Census Bureau concentrated a population that is disproportionally male, urban, and African American or Latino into just 5393 Census Blocks that are located far from the actual homes of the incarcerated people. When this data is used for redistricting prisons inflate the political power of those who live near them.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Bureau’s efforts to count everyone in the right place. The Association believes in a population count that is accurate. We urge you to count the incarcerated as residents of their home addresses and not the prison community they happen to be in on Census day.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

Angel Perez

Executive Director