



**VOICES FOR
RACIAL JUSTICE**

March 28, 2023

**Re: Supporting Grants Administration Proposals & the Addition of
Census-Related Priorities**

Dear Members of State and Local Government Finance and Policy Committee,

Voices for Racial Justice (VRJ) is a movement organization of leaders, organizers and culture workers who envision a world without racism that honors the wisdom and power of Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC).

We are a BIPOC lead organization that intentionally uses policy as a transformational tool to build power within our communities. VRJ knows how critical it is to have access to data to understand our realities and priorities when setting and moving our policy agendas. Since the beginning of our democracy, national and state demographic tracking systems have not been equipped or designed to follow and understand everyone's realities. Therefore, access to data has always been a huge challenge for our BIPOC communities. Through our involvement in census and redistricting efforts, we have had the opportunity to work with the State Demographer office, and we have experienced how critical its role is in making data more accessible and how limited their capacity is. For these reasons we are writing in support of the new allocation of funding for the State Demographic Center in the HF1830 omnibus bill.

We support fully funding the State Demographic Center to increase staff capacity to meet current and growing demand for their services. Thank you for including funding the State Demographic Center in the committee's omnibus bill".

We appreciate your consideration of this letter and all the efforts to increase the capacities of the state demographer's office.

Sincerely,

Monica Maria Hurtado

Policy Director

Voices for Racial Justice

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