Fiscal Year 2023 Testimony on behalf of the
Population Association of America/Association of Population Centers
Submitted to House Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations
In support of funding the NIH, NCHS, BLS, and IES
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Thank you, Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole for this opportunity to express support for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Institute of Education Sciences (IES), and Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). These agencies are important to the members of the Population Association of America (PAA) and Association of Population Centers (APC) because they provide direct and indirect support to population scientists and the field of population, or demographic, research overall. In FY 2023, we urge the Subcommittee to adopt the following funding recommendations for agencies under its jurisdiction: $49 billion, NIH; $210 million, NCHS; $815 million, IES; and $814 million, BLS. In addition, we urge the subcommittee to accept report language, previously submitted, regarding population research programs and surveys supported by the National Institute on Aging and Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute on Child Health and Human Development at the National Institutes of Health.

National Institutes of Health
Demography is the study of populations and how or why they change. The health of our population is fundamentally intertwined with the demography of our population. Recognizing the connection between health and demography, NIH supports population research programs primarily through the National Institute on Aging (NIA) and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD). PAA and APC thank Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole for their bipartisan leadership and for working together in recent years to provide the NIH with robust, sustained funding increases. As members of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research, PAA and APC recommend the Subcommittee continue to prioritize NIH funding by endorsing an appropriation of at least $49 billion for the NIH, a $4.1 billion increase over the NIH's program level funding in FY 2022. In addition, we urge the Committee to ensure that any funding for the new Advanced Research Project Agency for Health (ARPA-H), supplements the $49 billion recommendation for NIH's base budget, rather than supplants the essential foundational investment in the NIH. Finally, we urge that NIA and NICHD, as components of the NIH, receive commensurate funding increases (7.9%) in FY 2023.

National Institute on Aging
The NIA Division of Behavioral and Social Research (DBSR) is the primary source of federal support for basic population aging research. The NIA Division of Behavioral and Social Research (DBSR) supports a scientifically innovative population aging research portfolio that reflects some of the Institute's, and nation's, highest scientific priorities including Alzheimer's disease and social inequality in health and the aging process. With additional support in FY 2023, DBSR could expand its existing research portfolio to encourage more research on the short and long-term social, behavioral, and economic health consequences of COVID on older people and their families. The population research community is especially eager to see NIA use existing large-scale, longitudinal and panel surveys, such as the Health and Retirement Study, the

National Health and Aging Trends Study, and Understanding America Study, to facilitate scientific research on the complex, multifaceted effects of the pandemic on older, diverse populations. Further, the field believes NIA should sustain its support for developing data infrastructure to promote research on racial, ethnic, gender, and socioeconomic disparities in health and well-being in later life and the long-term effects of early life experiences. With additional funding in FY 2023, DBSR could support these activities as well as fully fund the NIA Centers on the Demography and Economics of Aging, which are conducting research on the demographic, economic, social, and health consequences of U.S. and global aging at 12 universities nationwide and proceed with plans to integrate the population sciences into the Institute's Geroscience research agenda.

Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute on Child Health and Human Development

Since the Institute's inception in 1962, NICHD has had a clear mandate to support a robust research portfolio focusing on maternal and child health, the social determinants of health, and human development across the lifespan. The NICHD Population Dynamics Branch meets this mandate by supporting innovative and influential population science initiatives, including: 1) large-scale longitudinal surveys, with population representative samples, such as The National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health and Fragile Families and Child Well Being Study; 2) a nationwide network of population science research and training centers; and, 3) numerous scientific research initiatives that have advanced our understanding of specific diseases and conditions, including obesity, autism, and maternal mortality, and, further, how socioeconomic and biological factors jointly determine human health. Given the dearth of data being collected regarding the short and long-term social, economic, developmental, and health effects of the COVID pandemic on children and families, the field of population research urges NICHD to consider expanding data collection through existing surveys and the NICHD Population Dynamics Centers Research Infrastructure Program. Population scientists support NICHD exploring the use of existing and new mechanisms to enhance research regarding the effects of COVID on fertility trends and reproductive health overall and developing informed frameworks for conceptualizing and measuring social determinants of health, including structural racism. With additional funding in FY 2023, the Institute could sustain its existing population research activities as well as pursue our field's recommendations regarding these additional research activities related to COVID and social determinants of health.

National Center for Health Statistics

NCHS is the nation's principal health statistics agency, providing data on the health of the U.S. population. Population scientists rely on large NCHS-supported health surveys, especially the National Health Interview Survey and National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, to study demographic, socioeconomic, and behavioral differences in health and mortality outcomes. They also rely on the vital statistics data that NCHS releases to track trends in fertility, mortality, and disability. NCHS health data are an essential part of the nation's statistical and public health infrastructure. In order for NCHS to continue monitoring the health of the American people and to allow the agency to make much-needed investments in the next generation of its surveys and products, PAA and APC, as members of the Friends of NCHS, recommend the agency receive $210 million in FY 2023, which is $30 million above its FY2022 appropriation, restoring the agency to its FY2010 inflation adjusted level. In addition, our organizations urge the Subcommittee to reiterate its support for the agency's participation in the Centers for Disease

Control (CDC) Data Modernization Initiative (DMI). NCHS should be benefitting from DMI funds, as the Committee intended, and applying them to make long overdue and necessary systematic and technological upgrades as well as facilitating enhanced use of Electronic Health Records. PAA and APC are especially supportive of NCHS using additional funding to improve the quality of vital statistics data to inform research regarding the underlying causes of mortality and health disparities across different population and geographies.

Bureau of Labor Statistics
Population scientists who study and evaluate labor and related economic policies use BLS data extensively. The field also relies on unique BLS-supported surveys, such as the American Time Use Survey and National Longitudinal Surveys, to understand how work, unemployment, and retirement influence health and well-being outcomes across the lifespan. As members of the Friends of Labor Statistics, PAA and APC are grateful to the Subcommittee for providing the agency with steady increases since FY 2018—especially after years of flat funding. We are also pleased that the Subcommittee included language in its FY 2022 report expressing support for a new youth cohort for the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY). As the Subcommittee knows, the current NLSY 1979 and 1997 cohorts cannot provide adequate information about teens and young adults entering the labor market. PAA and APC are enthusiastic about the new NLSY cohort and urge the Subcommittee to sustain its support for its development. We urge the Subcommittee to provide BLS with $814 million in FY 2023 and to adopt, once again, report language urging the agency to maintain its plans for a new NLSY cohort.

Institute of Education Sciences (IES)
The Institute of Education Sciences (IES) plays a critical role in supporting research used in developing and examining the effectiveness of education programs and curricula. The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), the statistical arm of IES, provides objective data, statistics, and reports on the condition of education in the U.S. Population scientists rely on NCES surveys to conduct research on an array of topics, such as linkages between educational access/attainment to health outcomes of specific populations, economic well-being, and incarceration rates. PAA and APC were pleased that Congress enacted a substantial, nearly 15% increase for IES in FY 2022, which, in addition to investments in other priorities, will allow the agency to finally address longstanding staffing shortfalls. We were disappointed that the President's Budget Request (PBR) would reverse that investment by recommending an overall cut of 10% at IES. Although the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) was not targeted for a cut per the PBR, we assume this is due to NCES not receiving an increase in FY 2022. Adoption of the PBR line item for NCES would represent three consecutive years of flat funding; the last increase, enacted in FY 2021, was less than 1% over FY 2020. We therefore urge the committee to provide IES with at least $815 million in FY 2023, an amount recommended by the Friends of IES, and to ensure that NCES receives an increase over its FY 2022 level, $291.5 million.

Thank you for considering our support for these agencies as the Subcommittee drafts the FY 2023 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill.