



ORGANIZATIONAL STATEMENT

For Immediate Release

October 1, 2018

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NFALA Submits Comment in Opposition of Citizenship Question in the 2020 Census

San Francisco - The Secretary of Commerce recently announced that the United States Census Bureau was directed to include in the upcoming census a question regarding citizenship. NFALA submitted a comment to the Census Bureau, pursuant to the administrative rulemaking process, opposing the inclusion of a citizenship question in the 2020 Census.

A fair and accurate census is important for Filipino Americans because the federal government uses census-derived data to direct at least \$800 billion annually in federal assistance to states, localities, and families. The data guides important community decisions affecting schools, housing, health care services, business investment, and more. In 2015, 7.5% of Filipino Americans were living in poverty, and the unemployment rate of Filipino Americans was 6.2%. Meanwhile, approximately 247,304 Filipinos in the United States are undocumented. Should the citizenship question appear in the census, Filipinos Americans risk being underrepresented and underserved.

“Census data is critical to ensuring the equitable distribution of public services throughout our nation. We are concerned that the citizenship question will discourage participation in the census and negatively impact the accurate collection of data on Filipino Americans and other communities,” said NFALA president David Mesa. “We also have cause to be skeptical about the motivations of this administration in including this question, but we remain hopeful that the census and the data it collects will be used in good faith.”

NFALA is the national voice for the Filipino-American legal profession. It advocates for justice, civil rights, and equal opportunity for the Filipino-American community. It cultivates high standards of integrity and professionalism among its members and strives for the advancement and success of Filipino-Americans within the profession. NFALA is a family, comprised of members throughout the United States, with the shared goal of increasing its national growth, impact, and visibility while also celebrating its members' cultural heritage.

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