NORC
at the UNIVERSITY of CHICAGO

August 2, 2013

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce that I have been confirmed by the U.S. Senate as the Director of the U.S. Census Bureau. Unfortunately, this means I must also formally announce that I will be leaving NORC at the University of Chicago within the next week as I finalize my transition plans. I leave knowing that the quality and dedication of the organization's leadership and its staff are the strongest I have ever seen, and its financial picture is sound and stable. As I have said to many of my colleagues, the primary reason I came to NORC after leaving the Census Bureau in 2002 was the commitment of the staff to carrying out high-quality work directed at improving our society. This commitment remains and has grown stronger as we have been fortunate to attract a number of exemplary individuals sharing this same ethic. I will greatly miss working with the collegial and innovative people who represent NORC.

For those of you who are current clients or partners, rest assured that NORC will continue to provide the same level of quality survey research, data collection, statistical support, and analysis that you have come to expect from us. The NORC Board of Trustees has today announced that Dan Gaylin, NORC's current Executive Vice President of Research Programs, will be serving as the acting President while our Board of Trustees conducts a search for a new President. I have had the pleasure of working closely with Dan for over 11 years, and I can assure you that he is extremely well qualified and will provide excellent leadership for the organization during this period.

I should also say that the Census Bureau is one of the most important agencies within the Federal Statistical System, and I am extremely pleased to have the opportunity to serve as Director. My experiences at NORC will serve me well in directing the Census Bureau at a time in which both Federal and private sector organizations are facing new challenges in collecting and disseminating high-quality information. I have been focused on these issues during my years at NORC, and I am looking forward to continuing this work at the Census Bureau.

Sincerely,

John Thompson