



**NEWS RELEASE**  
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### **The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Issues Statement and Letter Regarding Important Civil Rights Issues**

Washington, DC – Today, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, by majority vote, issued a [statement](#) denouncing the imposition of immigration judge quotas by the U.S. Department of Justice. Although addressing the substantial immigration case backlog is critically important, imposing quotas is the wrong approach and will do little to address the problem. Quotas will negatively affect the quality of immigration decisions and increase judicial errors that have life-or-death consequences and will only create inefficiencies on the appellate level. In addition, measuring judges by the number of cases they close rather than the quantum of justice they deliver and the soundness of their decisions badly misses the mark for actual access to justice. Chair Catherine E. Lhamon stated: “The fair administration of justice requires that each individual who comes before a judge has the assurance that his or her case is not hastily judged, merely to meet a quota requirement. Anything less is an attack on the necessary independence and impartiality of the judiciary.”

In addition, the Commission, by majority vote, issued a [letter](#) to Commerce Secretary Ross criticizing the inclusion of a question on citizenship status on the 2020 Census Questionnaire. Our country relies on the Census in determining essential questions of our democracy, from a state’s number of seats in the House of Representatives to critical enforcement of civil rights laws. This depends in part on a true and fair count of all Americans, not a process that is jeopardized by a rushed decision without the benefit of sufficient testing and analysis to ensure that the integrity and accuracy of the Census is undamaged. The Commission urged Secretary Ross to reconsider his decision.

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The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, established by the Civil Rights Act of 1957, is the only independent, bipartisan agency charged with advising the President and Congress on civil rights and reporting annually on federal civil rights enforcement. Our 51 state Advisory Committees offer a broad perspective on civil rights concerns at state and local levels. The Commission: in our 7<sup>th</sup> decade, a continuing legacy of influence in civil rights. For more information about the Commission, please visit <http://www.usccr.gov> and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).