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October 14, 2022

The Honorable Arati Prabhakar
Director
White House Office of Science and Technology Policy
Eisenhower Executive Office Building
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20504

Dear Dr. Prabhakar,

On behalf of the organizations we lead, [the Population Association of America](#) and [Association of Population Centers](#), we are pleased to congratulate you on your new appointment as Senior Presidential Advisor for Science and Technology and Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP).

Our organizations jointly represent about 3,000 individual population scientists—including demographers, sociologists, economists, and epidemiologists—as well as approximately 40 federally funded interdisciplinary research centers. Population scientists study the individual, societal and environmental implications of population change—and thus contribute key findings that help inform evidence-based policy making in the public and private sectors. Population research centers facilitate interdisciplinary research on a range of topics including mortality, morbidity, fertility, adolescent health, aging, population forecasting, immigration, labor and workforce policies, family dynamics, and human-environmental interactions. They also play a key role in training emerging and early career scientists.

We are delighted that President Biden has chosen you to lead this critically important office at this pivotal time—given the recent enactment of the landmark CHIPS and Science Act, as well as the challenges our society is facing, from climate change to public health crises. Your decades of leadership promoting innovation and evidence-based solutions in both the public and private sectors have prepared you well to take on this role. We were pleased that earlier in his term President Biden embraced the important contributions of social science disciplines with the appointment of a Deputy Director at OSTP who brings an extensive background in social science and interdisciplinary collaboration. We are confident that you and your team will shape and implement a robust, forward-looking and impactful science policy that will benefit the American people in meaningful and far-reaching ways.

Population scientists and population research centers have particular expertise around questions of diversity, equity and inclusion, especially as they relate to societal concerns and the scientific enterprise itself. Furthermore, population scientists and population research centers are actively engaged with, and committed to, developing data and methodological resources for the broader public good. Importantly, a significant number of our research scientists are members of the National Academies and serve on NAS committees and advisory boards—including, for example, the National Academies' US Global Climate Change Research Program Advisory Committee. With this breadth and depth of experience our community of scholars is ready to provide assistance to your office.

Once again, congratulations on your appointment. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we may be of assistance. We invite you or your staff to contact Mary Jo Hoeksema, Director of Government and Public Affairs, at maryjo@popassoc.org.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sonalde Desai

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sonalde Desai".

President
Population Association of America

Dr. Sara R. Curran

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sara R. Curran".

President
Association of Population Centers