



ACCESS

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Dear Commissioners,

I am reaching out to request the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission submit a comment to the federal register in support of the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) proposed changes to Statistical Policy Directive 15 which would combine the race and ethnicity question with the inclusion of a MENA (Middle East and North African) category. As you all may know people from the Middle East and North Africa are currently counted as White. These changes would allow people to check multiple boxes that apply. For example, Black Arabs would be able to check both racial and ethnic categories in order to capture the varied and complex ways they experience the world as a Black person and an immigrant who is a part of a language minority.

We are asking the MICRC to submit a comment supporting the combined race and ethnicity with MENA (Middle East and North African) inclusion. Having this data would allow the commission to have the data to take into consideration our community of interest when creating new maps.

Lack of data has meant that our communities are not able to understand and capture health disparities, education disparities and furthermore do not have access to resources to address those disparities. Having disaggregated data on MENA communities would allow for a much better understanding of the needs of the community as well as allow the commission to better address them.

We would also like to ask the commission to pass a resolution calling on the federal government to implement OMB's proposed changes.

Please don't hesitate to reach out at 313-283-6559 or email at rmeroueh@accesscommunity.org.

Best Regards,

Rima Meroueh

Rima Meroueh
Director, National Network for Arab American Communities