



**A Message from the Director, U.S. Census Bureau:**

We are requesting your cooperation with the Health Insurance Cost Study, the insurance component of the **2017 Medical Expenditure Panel Survey**. Healthcare is one of the most important issues in the United States today. Policymakers and researchers need reliable and current information to guide our Nation's healthcare system.

The U.S. Census Bureau has conducted the insurance component of this survey annually since 1996 for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Accurate measurements of the current health insurance system and realistic assessments of proposed changes to that system can only be made when organizations like yours respond.

Please visit <http://www.meps.ahrq.gov> to learn more about the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and how they use the data you provide.

The requested information is not subject to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) privacy rules because it does not ask for any individually identifiable health information.

Please complete within 30 days. You may use the enclosed questionnaire as a worksheet prior to reporting online, or return the completed questionnaire in the enclosed envelope. Online reporting is encouraged due to cost savings and reduced processing times. Instructions for online reporting can be found on the front page of the questionnaire.

**YOUR RESPONSE WILL BE KEPT STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.** We estimate this survey will take 45 minutes, on average, to complete. Additional information about the authority, confidentiality, and burden of this data collection can be found on the back of this letter.

For assistance with completing this survey, please call us on 1-888-273-3878, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern time.

**Thank you** in advance for your time and cooperation. Your response makes a difference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John H. Thompson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John H. Thompson

Enclosures

### **OMB Number**

This collection has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The eight-digit OMB approval number is 0935-0110 and appears at the upper right of the survey form/login screen. Without this approval, we could not conduct this survey.

### **Authority and Confidentiality**

Title 13 United States Code, Section 8(b), and Section 913 of the Public Health Service Act (Title 42 United States Code, Section 299b-2(a)) authorize the Census Bureau and Department of Health and Human Services to conduct this collection and to request your voluntary assistance. The U.S. Census Bureau is required by Title 13 United States Code, Section 9, to keep your information confidential and can use your responses only to produce statistics. The Census Bureau is not permitted to publicly release your responses in a way that could identify your business, organization, or institution. Per the Federal Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015, your data are protected from cybersecurity risks through screening of the systems that transmit your data.

### **Burden Estimate Statement**

We estimate this survey will take 45 minutes, on average, to complete, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. If you offered more than two plans, we estimate an extra 11 minutes per additional plan.