



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 28th, 2024

OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF THE ADOS ADVOCACY FOUNDATION, INC. ON OMB UPDATES TO SPD 15, RACE AND ETHNICITY DATA STANDARDS

Today, the White House's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) announced the results of their formal review of how federal agencies collect and report on data on race and ethnicity.

We at the ADOS Advocacy Foundation (ADOS AF) and ADOS Empowerment Project (ADOS EP) are deeply disappointed with the OMB's Notice of Decision. In it, the OMB agreed to require the disaggregation of data on other groups. Yet, the Bureau has called for "more study" on whether ADOS have the right to see their collectively tumultuous lived experience belied by the data.

For our group especially, the implications of such a punt are profound. We recommended that the OMB disaggregate the category of "Black" and introduce a new ethnic designation — "American Descendant of Slavery," or "ADOS" — to refer to and distinguish the descendants of chattel slavery in America from Black people whose families came to the U.S. via immigration.

Though the Bureau conceded that "[t]he majority of the public input on this subject expressed support for adding a category or question to identify descendants of persons enslaved in the United States," undisciplined and self-serving splinter groups ensured that "there was [a perceived] disagreement about which term is preferred." Ultimately, it was the mission creep of our old guard "civil rights groups" who killed disaggregation for ADOS as they "opposed the collection of these data...express[ing] concern about...the usefulness of the data..."

Despite over a thousand comments submitted in support by ADOS activists across the country and over 14,000 hours of laser-focused organizing by ADOS AF, the OMB has disappointingly sided with legacy "civil rights" organizations who would much rather obscure the plight of ADOS than face

the failure of their advocacy.

This is a failure of leadership by both those so-called "civil rights" organizations leading our group off an economic cliff and the meddlesome vanity projects of the thoughtless few. It is apparent that these legacy organizations have abdicated their responsibility. We at ADOS AF will not. The fight continues: we've got your back even if no one else does.

Join ADOS AF today!