To household of

Dear household member,

In the next few weeks you will receive a call from one of our interviewers asking you to participate in an important study called the Family Choices Study, which is being conducted by researchers at Pennsylvania State University. Your household has been randomly selected to be part of a study of life decisions, especially family decisions, and how they affect people’s well-being. We will be talking to people all over the country to determine how they make decisions about having (or not having) children and how these decisions affect and are affected by their work, their relationships, and their well-being.

Most people who have participated find the interview interesting and the questions easy to answer. The telephone survey itself may take as little as 2 or 3 minutes or as long as 35 minutes. Some people will be selected by the computer to answer more detailed questions than others. If you are selected for the longer interview and find it inconvenient to answer the questions in one call, we can easily arrange to have you complete the interview in shorter calls over a period of time.

We are enclosing a $2 bill to provide a small token of our appreciation for the time we are asking you to take for the study. We realize your time is valuable, and we hope this small gesture communicates our sincere appreciation for your cooperation.

We are writing because we have found that many people like to know ahead of time that they will be called. Please show this letter to other people in the household who may answer the telephone when we call. If you have any questions or concerns about this research, you can raise them when we call or you can talk to us before we call you. Additional information about the study, the sponsors, and how to contact us is provided on the back of this letter.

We look forward to talking to you and hope you will agree to participate in the Family Choices Study.

Cordially,

David R. Johnson, PhD
Survey Research Center
Pennsylvania State University