

105TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 246

Expressing the sense of the Congress with respect to the collection of demographic, social, and economic data as part of the 2000 decennial census of population.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 17, 1998

Mrs. MORELLA (for herself, Mr. SAWYER, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. HILLIARD, Mr. FILNER, Mr. BALDACCI, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. ENGEL, and Mr. DINGELL) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Government Reform and Oversight

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress with respect to the collection of demographic, social, and economic data as part of the 2000 decennial census of population.

Whereas the decennial census of population is the only source of accurate, reliable, and comparable information on the demographic, social, and economic characteristics of the people of the United States and the communities in which they live, for all geographic levels, including rural areas and census tracts;

Whereas the Bureau of the Census, in response to a mandate from Congress to reduce the reporting burden on the Nation's residents, has proposed to include on the long-form

census questionnaire only those subjects that have specific Federal legislative justification;

Whereas the demographic and socioeconomic data collected in the decennial census helps policymakers assess population changes, housing conditions, ancestry, and other patterns of mobility and achievement for different regions and governmental jurisdictions, as well as for different population subgroups;

Whereas independent analysis by a panel convened by the National Academy of Sciences determined that there are “essential public needs” for information gathered by the long form and that “the extra cost of the census long form, once the census has been designed to collect limited data for every resident, is relatively low”;

Whereas the National Academy of Sciences has concluded that the long form does not significantly affect the overall mail response rate to the census;

Whereas independent analyses of the decennial census have found that the long form does not increase the undercount in the census or the differential undercount of racial, ethnic, and low-income populations to any significant extent;

Whereas administering a traditional long form at a later point in time, instead of as part of the 2000 decennial census of population, would substantially increase the cost of collecting the data, place the quality of the data at risk, and jeopardize the availability of reliable and timely data for rural and small geographic areas;

Whereas the General Accounting Office has found that over \$170,000,000,000 each year in Federal program funds are distributed to State and local governments on the

basis of data collected in the census, including data available only from the long form; and

Whereas the collection of demographic, socioeconomic, housing, and transportation data on the long form in the 2000 decennial census of population is supported by Federal, State, and local government officials and agencies, service providers, researchers, and other social scientists who help chart the direction of our Nation, private sector decisionmakers, and many other census stakeholders, as well as by a panel convened by the National Academy of Sciences at the direction of the Congress: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring),*

3 **SECTION 1. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.**

4 It is the sense of the Congress that the Secretary of
5 Commerce should ensure that—

6 (1) the 2000 decennial census of population in-
7 clude the administration of a long-form census ques-
8 tionnaire;

9 (2) the content of the long-form census ques-
10 tionnaire include, at a minimum, the subjects sent to
11 the Congress by the Bureau of the Census on March
12 31, 1997, in accordance with section 141(f)(1) of
13 title 13, United States Code; and

14 (3) a sufficient number of households receive
15 the long-form census questionnaire to ensure the

1 availability of reliable data for small geographic
2 areas, including rural communities.

3 **SEC. 2. TRANSMISSION TO THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.**

4 The Clerk of the House of Representatives shall
5 transmit a copy of this concurrent resolution to the Sec-
6 retary of Commerce.

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