



HR0837

LRB100 17492 MST 32661 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The United States Department of Justice has requested that the U.S. Census Bureau reinstate a question on citizenship to the 2020 census, claiming that the data is critical to the Department's enforcement of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act and the important protections it provides against racial discrimination in voting; and

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WHEREAS, The Department of Justice stated that it needs a reliable calculation of the citizen voting age population in localities where voting rights are alleged or suspected; and

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WHEREAS, Experts agree that since the same question is included in the American Community Survey it is adequate to fulfill the Department of Justice's stated purpose of enforcing the Voting Rights Act; and

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WHEREAS, Reinstating this question could lead to comprehensive inaccuracies, including how congressional districts are drawn and how government funds are distributed; and

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WHEREAS, U.S. senators have asked the current presidential administration to reject the request since it could depress or hinder census turnout due to fear that the government could use

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1 the information against the participants and since the question  
2 has not been asked since 1950; and

3 WHEREAS, Reinstating this question may have the unintended  
4 effect of increasing the Census Bureau's costs and budget to  
5 conduct the census, as the Bureau must send out enumerators to  
6 interview the occupants of any address that did not respond;  
7 therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
9 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
10 strongly urge the U.S. Census Bureau to not reinstate the  
11 citizenship question to the 2020 census; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
13 delivered to U.S. Census Bureau Director Ron Jarmin.