

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1611

By Senators Tyson, Alley, Braun, Goddard, Hilderbrand, Kerschen, Lynn,
Masterson, Olson, Pilcher-Cook, Rucker, Suellentrop and Wagle

4-4

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the United States Census
2 Bureau to conduct a complete and thorough 2020 census by collecting
3 data on residency and citizenship.

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5 WHEREAS, The U.S. Constitution requires an "actual enumeration"
6 of the population every 10 years to determine representation in Congress,
7 the allocation of federal dollars, and other crucial decisions; and

8 WHEREAS, The framers envisioned the concept of representative
9 government as the foundation for our nation, a government governed and
10 selected by its people; and

11 WHEREAS, The United States has a long history of inquiring about
12 citizenship and tracking its citizens. The question concerning citizenship
13 originated with the 1820 census, the question concerning place of birth
14 originated with the 1850 census, and the question concerning year of
15 entry originated with the 1890 census; and

16 WHEREAS, The U.S. Census consistently inquired about citizenship
17 between 1890 and 1950. In 1970, the U.S. Census developed long and
18 short forms to distribute. The long form, which inquired about
19 citizenship, was sent to approximately 1 in 6 U.S. households,
20 significantly fewer people than those who received the short form; and

21 WHEREAS, The U.S. Census inquired about citizenship on its long
22 form from 1970 until 2000, but the long form was discontinued in 2010.
23 The short form was then used, but it never inquired about citizenship.
24 Today, the only tool used by the U.S. Census Bureau to inquire about
25 citizenship is the annual American Community Survey, which surveys
26 only 3.5 million households each year; and

27 WHEREAS, Because the U.S. Census does not ask about citizenship
28 status, the data that is used to determine congressional seats and electoral
29 college votes includes noncitizens and unauthorized immigrants; and

30 WHEREAS, All information collected by the U.S. Census is
31 statutorily mandated to remain confidential. Any answer regarding
32 citizenship cannot be disclosed to law enforcement or to any other party
33 for any other purpose and, therefore, would not result in deportation or
34 any other adverse action to an individual; and

35 WHEREAS, Census data can shape and determine political and social

1 structures. The next census will impact the future of the United States
2 especially in the next decade. Therefore, it is imperative to understand
3 and collect data on citizenship status to make decisions and appropriate
4 government representation for lawful residents and citizens; and

5 WHEREAS, When the U.S. Census does not collect this data, it places
6 citizens at risk of losing representation in the political process: Now,
7 therefore,

8 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we urge the
9 United States Census Bureau to conduct a complete and thorough 2020
10 census by collecting data on residency and citizenship; and

11 *Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the State shall send
12 enrolled copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the
13 Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of State, each member of the
14 Kansas delegation in the Congress of the United States, the Director of
15 the U.S. Census Bureau, and Senator Tyson.