

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 47th Legislature (2000)

HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION HJR1079__

By: Roberts of the House

and

Brown of the Senate

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution encouraging Oklahomans to complete and return census forms; beseeching Congress to stop giving certain advice; urging Congress to participate in the development of Census 2010 forms prior to distribution; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the results of the Federal Decennial Census are used by states to determine Congressional and legislative redistricting, the distribution of federal funds and fiscal planning; and

WHEREAS, annually, over One Hundred Eighty-five Billion Dollars in federal funds are allocated, based on the census, to state, local and tribal governments for education programs, housing and community development programs, health care for the elderly, job training, highway improvements, emergency services and many other programs; and

WHEREAS, private industry uses census data to locate new factories, retail outlets, apartment buildings, hotels, restaurants, shopping centers, banks and other commercial centers which create job opportunities and enhance the quality of life for Oklahoma residents; and

WHEREAS, the state, cities and counties use census information in long-range planning to determine the location of schools, highways, libraries, public transportation systems, police and fire

departments, hospitals and other public facilities vital to the well-being of Oklahoma and its residents; and

WHEREAS, Census 2000 demographic and socioeconomic data will assist the Legislature in preparing new legislative initiatives and effectively allocating state resources where they are most needed; and

WHEREAS, state and local governments across the nation including Oklahoma leaders, have been working in a bipartisan manner toward a full count for Census 2000; and

WHEREAS, Congress has had several opportunities over the last three years to provide input or object to the types of questions included on the census forms; and

WHEREAS, certain members of Congress have publicly encouraged their constituents to partially complete the census long forms and to refuse to provide census workers with information required to complete the census; and

WHEREAS, each question included on the census forms is mandated either directly by law or by some program put in place by Congress; and

WHEREAS, federal law protects the confidentiality of the information collected by the United States Census Bureau; and

WHEREAS, partially completed forms could boost costs of the 2000 Census due to an increase in the no-response follow-up of additional mailings and home visits by Census 2000 workers and have an adverse impact on the usefulness of the census for planning purposes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 47TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature encourages the citizens of Oklahoma to fully complete and return the census forms and recognizes that those who chose not to return the forms or send them back incomplete may be harming themselves and their communities.

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature beseeches the members of Congress to desist from advising constituents not to answer portions of the census long form.

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature strongly urges Congress to responsibly participate in the development of the Census 2010 forms by airing any concerns prior to distribution of the forms.

THAT copies of this resolution shall be distributed to the Governor, each member of the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation, the United States Census Bureau, and the Secretary of the United States Department of Commerce.

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