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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES NINETIETH SESSION H. F. No. 3362

03/05/2018

Authored by Maye Quade, Liebling, Lee, Schultz, Franke and others The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Government Operations and Elections Policy

1.1	A resolution			
1.2 1.3 1.4 1.5 1.6	memorializing the United States Secretary of Commerce to reject a request to include a citizenship question on the 2020 Census; urging the President and Congress of the United States to take necessary steps to prevent a citizenship question or other actions that could undercount the whole number of persons in each state in the 2020 Census results.			
1.7	WHEREAS, the United States Constitution requires the federal government to conduct an			
1.8	enumeration of the whole number of persons in each state, every ten years; and			
1.9	WHEREAS, the next decennial enumeration of persons is scheduled to be conducted by the			
1.10	United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, on April 1, 2020; and			
1.11	WHEREAS, it is the mission of the Bureau of the Census to serve as the "leading source of			
1.12	quality data about the nation's people and economy"; and			
1.13	WHEREAS, collecting quality data about the whole number of persons in each state requires			
1.14	a system of data collection that ensures an accurate and complete count; and			
1.15	WHEREAS, all states, including Minnesota, rely on the Bureau of the Census to collect			
1.16	accurate and complete data to ensure equity in implementing federal and state programs, including			
1.17	programs supported by federal funds; and			
1.18	WHEREAS, all states, including Minnesota, additionally rely on the quality of the Bureau			
1.19	of the Census' data to ensure an accurate and equitable apportionment of representation in the United			
1.20	States Congress; and			
1.21	WHEREAS; the United States Department of Justice has requested that a question related			
1.22	to a respondent's citizenship status be included as part of the 2020 Census questionnaire; and			
1.23	WHEREAS; adding a citizenship question at this late date would fatally undermine the			
1.24	accuracy of the 2020 Census by depressing participation, causing a population undercount that			

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2.1	would disproportionately harm states and	d cities with large im	nigrant communities,	including
2.2	Minnesota; and			
2.3	WHEREAS; adding a citizenship of	question would addition	onally hamper the goals	s of the federal
2.4	Voting Rights Act, including the goal of	ensuring fair and effe	ective representation for	or all
2.5	communities; and			
2.6	WHEREAS; adding a citizenship	question is inconsiste	nt with the Bureau of	the Census'
2.7	obligation under federal law to ensure th	at the information the	ey disseminate is "accu	urate, reliable,
2.8	and objective"; and			
2.9	WHEREAS; the Bureau of the Cen	usus' own information	quality guidelines disfa	avor questions
2.10	that diminish response rates; NOW, THE	EREFORE,		
2.11	BE IT RESOLVED by the Legisla	uture of the State of M	linnesota that it respec	tfully urges
2.12	the United States Secretary of Commerc	e to reject the request	by the Department of	Justice to
2.13	include a citizenship question on the 202	20 Census.		
2.14	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED th	at the Legislature of t	he State of Minnesota	respectfully
2.15	urges the President of the United States	and the Congress of th	ne United States to tak	e necessary
2.16	steps to prevent the Bureau of the Census	from including a citiz	enship question on the	2020 Census,
2.17	or taking any other action that could resu	ılt in lower response r	ates or a population ur	ndercount that
2.18	does not accurately reflect the whole nur	mber of persons in eac	ch state.	
2.19	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that	t the Secretary of State	e of the State of Minnes	sota is directed
2.20	to prepare copies of this memorial and tr	ansmit them to the Ur	nited States Secretary	of Commerce,
2.21	the President of the United States, the Pr	resident and the Secre	tary of the United Stat	tes Senate, the
2.22	Speaker and the Clerk of the United Stat	tes House of Represer	ntatives, and Minnesot	a's Senators

2.23 and Representatives in Congress.