
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4015

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Representatives Senn, McDonald, Hudgins, Eslick, Gregerson,
Valdez, Kagi, Graves, Ormsby, Riccelli, Goodman, and Frame

1 TO THE HONORABLE DONALD J. TRUMP, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
4 THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled,
7 respectfully represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, The federal decennial census is mandated under Article
9 I, Section 2 of the United States Constitution and serves as a
10 foundational element of our representative form of democracy; and

11 WHEREAS, The federal census also is a tool for providing complete
12 and accurate statistical information for many critical public and
13 private functions and services; and

14 WHEREAS, Voters across the country, including the state of
15 Washington, count on a complete and accurate census to ensure fair
16 representation and districting at every level of government; and

17 WHEREAS, Washington receives federal dollars for critical
18 services based on our population and has seen explosive growth since
19 2010, which must be accurately and equitably distributed based on
20 census data; and

21 WHEREAS, Washington state and local government agencies rely on
22 census data for planning and delivering education, economic
23 development and employment, health, and transportation services; and

1 WHEREAS, Washington state businesses depend on census data for
2 strategic planning and investment decisions, and civic organizations
3 rely on census data to identify community needs, request and fund
4 programs, monitor trends, and assess program effectiveness; and

5 WHEREAS, The federal census bureau is currently underfunded and
6 in jeopardy of not being fully prepared to administer the upcoming
7 census in 2020, which could lead to an incomplete or inaccurate
8 census; and

9 WHEREAS, Wilbur Ross, the secretary of the United States
10 Department of Commerce has reported to Congress on the need for
11 funding and has requested increased funding to the census bureau to
12 complete preparations for the 2020 census; and

13 WHEREAS, John Thomson, director of the United States census
14 bureau resigned from office in 2017 and a permanent replacement has
15 not yet been appointed;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully urge that the
17 Congress of the United States immediately fulfill Secretary Ross's
18 request to provide adequate funding for the 2020 census and that a
19 new director of the census bureau be nominated and appointed.

20 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
21 transmitted to the Honorable Donald Trump, President of the United
22 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
23 House of Representatives, each member of Congress, and the Secretary
24 of the United States Department of Commerce.

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