

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.304

Reps. Tyrone Carter, Tate, Love, Peterson, Garrett, Koleszar, Cynthia Johnson, Chirkun, Stone, Hope and Brixie offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to oppose to the U.S. Census Bureau's decision to
2 end field data collection by September 30, 2020.

3 Whereas, The U.S. census, which is a decennial count of the
4 population of the U.S., is used to determine the amount of federal
5 funds, grants, and support apportioned to states, counties, and
6 communities. Accurate census counts ensure that communities
7 receive a fair share of the more than \$675 billion per year in
8 federal funds spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works, and
9 other vital programs. The data is also used to decide the
10 boundaries of legislative districts and is essential to maintaining
11 equal representation; and



1 Whereas, Under normal circumstances, the census usually
2 requires some level of in-person interaction with Census Bureau
3 employees. Those who do not respond by mail receive a visit from
4 employees in their homes, libraries, community centers, or other
5 gathering places to help boost the response rate; and

6 Whereas, Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, in-person data
7 collection was halted in March 2020. In April 2020, the Trump
8 Administration asked Congress to extend the deadlines for data
9 collection to compensate for the time lost due to the Pandemic.
10 Under the revised plan for the extended deadlines, the Census
11 Bureau reopened field offices in June and extended the window of
12 data collection to October 31, 2020; and

13 Whereas, In August 2020, the President abruptly changed his
14 views on the deadline extension and announced that door-knocking
15 and other field activities for data collection would end September
16 30, 2020 - a month earlier than the original plan; and

17 Whereas, Critics of this decision, which include the American
18 Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and other civil rights groups, argue
19 that this will result in inaccurate reporting of minorities and
20 immigrants. Communities of color, people living in rural areas,
21 high-poverty neighborhoods, immigrant communities, and places where
22 distrust of the government is high are less likely to be counted in
23 the census. In-person visits help to get a more accurate count,
24 which is important for maintaining adequate funding and services
25 for these communities; and

26 Whereas, Some Michigan communities are particularly vulnerable
27 to being undercounted. According to the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, it
28 is estimated that two million children under five were not counted
29 in the 2010 census, resulting in limited resources and programs for

1 children and families. In addition, the Michigan League for Public
2 Policy estimates that the state would lose \$1,800 per year in
3 federal funding for each person who goes uncounted in 2020; now,
4 therefore, be it

5 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we oppose the
6 U.S. Census Bureau's decision to end field data collection by
7 September 30, 2020; and be it further

8 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
9 Director of the U.S. Census Bureau, the U.S. Secretary of Commerce,
10 and the President of the United States.