

In my bill, tax credits are targeted for small business job creation. While we're suffering from high national unemployment, States like Michigan are being hit especially hard. That is why my bill gives bigger tax credits to employers that create jobs in high unemployment States like Michigan. My bill goes to the heart of our economy, helping small businesses, the engine of job creation in America.

BLACKLIST BLACKWATER

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great concern that the Department of Defense is considering awarding a \$1 billion contract to Blackwater, now known as Xe Services, to train the Afghan National Police. Blackwater-Xe is synonymous with abuse, unprovoked violence, and a "shoot first" attitude. Their personnel are directly responsible for killing dozens of innocent men, women, and children in Iraq. Clearly, they are not deserving of a U.S. contract to train the Afghan police.

Hiring Xe may irreparably damage our efforts to work cooperatively with the Afghan people and will serve as a propaganda tool for our enemies. They will be seen as representing the American people, which they do not. Given Xe-Blackwater's past performance, our government should not be doing business with Xe, and Secretary Gates should prevent this contract from going forward.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

CENSUS AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1096) encouraging individuals across the United States to participate in the 2010 Census to ensure an accurate and complete count beginning April 1, 2010, and expressing support for designation of March 2010 as Census Awareness Month, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1096

Whereas the Constitution requires an actual enumeration of the population every 10 years;

Whereas an accurate census count is vital to the well-being of communities in the

United States by helping planners determine where to locate schools, daycare centers, roads and public transportation, hospitals, housing, and other essential facilities;

Whereas businesses in the United States use census data to support new investments and growth;

Whereas census data ensure fair Federal, State, and local representation in the United States and help determine the composition of voting districts at each level;

Whereas census data directly affect how more than \$400,000,000,000 in Federal and State funding is allocated to communities for neighborhood improvements, public health, education, transportation, etc.;

Whereas census data help identify changes in a community and are crucial for the distribution of adequate services to a growing population;

Whereas the 2000 Census determined the United States had a total population of 281,421,906 and current estimates project the population has grown to 308,573,696;

Whereas the 2010 Census is fast, safe, and easy to complete, with just 10 questions, and requiring only about 10 minutes;

Whereas the 2010 Census data are strictly confidential and Federal law prevents the information from being shared with any entity;

Whereas the individual data obtained from the census are protected under United States privacy laws, cannot be disclosed for 72 years, or used against any person by any government agency or court;

Whereas neighborhoods with large populations of low-income, minority, or rural residents are especially at risk of being undercounted in the 2010 Census;

Whereas, in the 2000 Census count, Hispanics, African-Americans, Asian Americans, and rural Americans were the most difficult to count;

Whereas the goal of the 2010 Census is to count every person in the United States, including Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, and any other territory or possession of the United States once, and only once, and in the right place;

Whereas the goal of the 2010 Census is to eliminate undercounts and overcounts of specific population groups, problems that were apparent in the 2000 Census; and

Whereas the month of March 2010 would be an appropriate month to designate as Census Awareness Month: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) encourages individuals across the United States to participate in the 2010 Census to ensure an accurate and complete count beginning April 1, 2010;

(2) urges State, local, county, and tribal governments, as well as other organizations to emphasize the importance of the 2010 Census and actively encourages all individuals to participate; and

(3) supports the designation of Census Awareness Month.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and add any extraneous materials.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am proud to present House Resolution 1096 for consideration. The resolution encourages individuals across the United States to participate in the 2010 Census to ensure an accurate and complete count beginning April 1, 2010, and it expresses support for designation of March 2010 as Census Awareness Month.

House Resolution 1096 was introduced by my friend and colleague, Representative SILVESTRE REYES of Texas, on February 23, 2010, and it enjoys the support of over 50 Members of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, article I, section 2 of the United States Constitution requires an actual enumeration of the population of the United States every 10 years. The Founding Fathers deliberately placed this requirement in the Constitution in order to ensure fair and accurate Federal, State, and local representation, and the Census serves the same purposes today by establishing the composition of voting districts at every level of government. Accurate Census data is vital to the well-being of every person in the United States.

Census data directly affects how more than \$400 billion in Federal and State funding is allocated throughout our Nation. The information obtained in the Census assists planners in determining where schools, daycare centers, health centers, roads, public transportation, hospitals, housing, and other essential infrastructure should be located.

Businesses in the United States use Census data to support new investments, and Census data also helps determine how funds are distributed to communities for neighborhood improvements in public health, education, and transportation initiatives.

Census data also helps identify changes in community makeup and is essential for distribution of adequate services to our continually growing population. In fact, the Census currently estimates that the U.S. population has increased by over 27 million people since the 2000 Census.

The 2010 Census is extremely fast, safe, and easy to complete. It consists of just 10 questions and only requires about 10 minutes to fill out. 2010 Census data is strictly confidential, and Federal law prohibits the personal information from being shared with any entity. Individual data obtained from the Census is protected under United States privacy laws and cannot be disclosed for 72 years or used against any person by any government agency or court.

Given the ease and safety of the 2010 Census, every person in the United States, including individuals in Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the

Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, and all other U.S. territories should also take time to fill out the form and be counted. It is especially important that residents of predominantly low income, minority, and-or rural neighborhoods participate in the Census because these groups are at the center of greater risk of being undercounted in the Census. This is extremely troubling considering the fact that the Census officials estimate that every individual who is not accounted for in the Census loses about \$1,500 per year in Federal aid for their community. By taking just 10 minutes to complete the 2010 Census form, it can help ensure that everyone in America is properly represented and eliminate Census overcounts and undercounts.

Additionally, House Resolution 1096 expresses support for the designation of March as Census Awareness Month, which will raise public awareness about the importance of completing the Census.

Mr. Speaker, as Census Bureau Director Robert M. Groves has noted, "Taxpayers save \$85 million for every 1 percentage point increase in the national mail-back participation rate for the 2010 Census." With this in mind, let me take this opportunity to express my strong support for House Resolution 1096, which encourages individuals across the United States to participate in the 2010 Census and expresses support for designation of March 2010 as Census Awareness Month.

I urge passage of Mr. REYES' resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I concur with my colleague and fellow member of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee. I rise today in support of H.R. 1096, and I am proud to cosponsor this resolution encouraging full participation in the 2010 Census and expressing support of the designation of March as Census Awareness Month.

Our Constitution requires that every 10 years the Federal Government count every person residing in the United States once, and only once, and where they live. As a Nation, we have been doing this every decade since our very first Census in 1790. This is not new.

This week, the Census Bureau will begin the process of delivering the 2010 questionnaire from the Census all across America. By midmonth, the majority of the approximately 120 million households in the United States will receive their form by mail or by hand delivery from a Census Bureau employee.

The 2010 questionnaire is the shortest and simplest one the Bureau has ever sent out. There are only 10 easy questions that should take less than 10 minutes to fill out. And not only is it easy, but it's confidential, too. The individual information that respondents provide is protected by Federal law and cannot be shared with any other government agency.

Census data guides the distribution of more than \$400 billion in Federal funds, as my colleague mentioned, directs funds to State and local governments each year, and decides the makeup of representative districts from the United States Congress on down to the school board. Decisions to build new infrastructure such as roads, schools, and hospitals are dependent upon population counts derived from the Census. When people do not participate in the Census, they only short-change themselves and their communities. A poor response rate means people cannot be accurately represented in Federal, State, and local districts when they are drawn. It means that a community may lose its fair share of Federal and State funding. It means a road that should be built won't. A 10-minute response can help avoid 10 years of underrepresentation and underfunding.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, this very important resolution. The Census only comes around every 10 years. We have an obligation, as the people's representatives, to make sure that they know that this is going to happen.

Census day this year is April 1. Every American should get that form in the mail or hand-delivered. Simply fill it out, mail it back in, and you have done your patriotic duty.

Every individual in this country should respond. Let me make this clear: Every individual in this country should respond. It is a wonderful opportunity for you to simply do your patriotic duty. It is what the Founders insisted on. In order for us to have a representative democracy, we must know who we represent, how many people we represent, who's here. And that is our obligation to carry that message out, but it is the American people's obligation to share this message as well.

So with that, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, this very important resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate and thank the gentleman from North Carolina for his thoughtful remarks and for his support.

At this point, I would like to yield 5 minutes to the lead sponsor of this resolution, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES), the chairman of our Intelligence Committee.

Mr. REYES. I thank the gentleman for yielding time this morning.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1096, which designates March, 2010, as the Census Awareness Month. I want to thank subcommittee Chair CLAY and Ranking Member MCHENRY for their leadership in getting this through committee. I also thank the 59 bipartisan Members who co-sponsored this very important resolution.

I introduced this bill to urge communities across the country to raise awareness about the upcoming Census and to encourage individuals to fill out their Census form to ensure an accu-

rate and complete count beginning April 1.

Passage of this resolution will help raise awareness of the Census and its significance to communities all across the United States. Although the Census only happens every 10 years, it is extremely important that we get an accurate count because the data derived from the Census affects political representation and directs the allocation of billions of dollars in government funding.

Every year, more than \$400 billion in Federal funds is awarded to States and communities based on Census data. That is more than \$4 trillion over a 10-year period. An accurate Census count is vital to U.S. communities because it helps us to plan for new hospitals, new schools, and new community projects. It is also used to determine which places receive additional social services, including development block grants.

□ 1045

Throughout the years, the goal of the census has remained unchanged—to count every person accurately and to collect information that will help us to better serve the needs of our people. The 2000 census counted more than 281 million people.

The census only takes 10 minutes to fill out, and it is strictly confidential. Unfortunately, despite these facts, Hispanics, African Americans, Asian Americans, and rural Americans are among those groups most likely to be undercounted and to be, thereby, underrepresented.

I call on our communities—from churches, schools, nonprofits, big and small businesses, to local, State and tribal governments—to please help us to promote the 2010 Census and to urge everyone to fill out their census forms. Together, we can ensure a complete and accurate count.

With that in mind, Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to join me in voting in favor of H. Res. 1096.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, this is not about partisanship. The census is important for every community across this country and for every State in this Nation. Every individual group within this country has something to gain or to lose in this census. It is not simply about how districts are drawn. It is about how Federal, State and local money is allocated. If you don't respond, if you don't mail your form back in, if you don't answer the door when somebody knocks to collect your census data, which is very basic information by the way, you are doing a disservice to yourself, to your family, to your community, to your State, and to your Nation by saying, I don't exist. So it is very important for individuals in this country to respond to the census.

Moreover, it is helpful to see that the President has recorded a PSA, encouraging folks to respond to the census. It shows the importance, from the White House on down to everyone else, for us to respond to the census.

Finally, I hope that the 2010 census is the most successful census we have ever had in our Nation's history. The Bureau has done a solid task of putting together the logistics of getting millions of folks in this country to respond to the census. It's a costly endeavor, but it's one that the Founders insisted on for us to have a functioning democracy. Especially when the House of Representatives is based on population, they wanted to make sure that the population count was correct and accurate.

I thank the Bureau and all of the folks who are working all across every community in this country. Those folks who are working for the Bureau are wonderful, patriotic people, and we want to say thank you for your service to your country and to your community.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. I thank the gentleman from North Carolina for his courtesy and for his support.

Mr. Speaker, I do have a copy of the census form here. You can't see it, obviously, because of the size of the type, but it's mostly check-the-box answers. I commend the Census Bureau for simplifying this. As the gentleman from North Carolina has stated, it is probably the simplest version of the form that we have had in our history.

I also want to express the concern that we get about 80 to 90 percent of the forms back in the mail, and this is the most efficient way and the cheapest way to conduct the census. The costly part of the census count is in actually going out and knocking on doors and in trying to get people to respond who have not responded through the mail. That's the costly part. So, to the degree that people can cooperate, can help us out and can mail these back, it's a good use of taxpayer money. It's much cheaper. So there is a dual purpose.

Also, as the gentleman from North Carolina mentioned, the allocation of resources and the representation aspect of this is very important as well.

We have no further speakers. Just in closing, I would ask Members on both sides to support Mr. REYES in his resolution in supporting the census and in designating March as the official Month of the Census.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H. Res. 1096, a resolution introduced by my colleague, Representative SILVESTRE REYES, which encourages individuals across the country to participate in the 2010 census to ensure an accurate and complete count beginning April 1, 2010.

Article I, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution requires that the enumeration of every individual residing in the United States, is taken every ten years. This month, every household across the nation will have received a 10-question census form known as the Decennial Census.

The importance of correctly filling out and returning this form cannot be overstated. First, data from the Census directly affects how

more than \$400 billion in federal funds are spent, at all levels of government, and thus, helps determine how and what resources are allocated to a community. Put another way, if our community members don't fill out the census, they will find they are not getting funding to support their needs. Census data is used to determine which schools receive funding for improvements, where new hospitals and roads are built, what new maps are needed for first responders, and where economic investment should be made.

Second, the data from the Census dictates how the U.S. House of Representatives is reapportioned, how each state is redistricted, and how the Electoral College is distributed. I don't need to remind all of my constituents of the importance of ensuring they are properly represented on the federal, state, and local levels.

Filling out the Census is fast (taking most just 10 minutes to complete), safe (the information is treated by law as confidential) and easy to complete (there are just 10, simple questions).

I hope that elected officials at all levels of government, across the country and in Michigan's 15th Congressional District will educate their constituents about the importance of completing the 2010 Census, and, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House to join me in supporting this resolution.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today in strong support of this resolution encouraging everyone across the United States to participate in the 2010 Census and recognizing the month of March as 2010 Census Awareness Month. Since 1930, we have undertaken the monumental task of counting the total U.S. population every 10 years on April 1st. I urge everyone across the Nation to join in the count and I applaud the actions of Representative SILVESTRE REYES from Texas for introducing this resolution.

Active participation in the 2010 Census is especially important in minority communities, which have been historically underrepresented in previous counts. It is important that we do all we can to spread the word about the upcoming census count in these groups. In the year 2000, 3 million of our friends, family and neighbors were not included in the census count. We can no longer afford such oversights which prevent these individuals and their communities from receiving funding. This count affects more than \$400 billion in Federal and State funding for public investments, help planners across the Nation in determining the location of schools, hospitals and senior citizen centers, and assists in determining the makeup of local and national voting districts.

Mr. Speaker, fewer things in life are easier than filling out census forms. Answering these 10 questions is vital to attaining an accurate count of the American people. Let's go to work and make sure that everyone is counted.

I urge my colleagues to support its passage. Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1096, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 52 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1230

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. MCCOLLUM) at 12 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4247, PREVENTING HARMFUL RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION IN SCHOOLS ACT

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1126 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1126

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 4247) to prevent and reduce the use of physical restraint and seclusion in schools, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and Labor now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions of the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Labor; (2) the amendment printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, if offered by Representative George Miller of California or his designee, which shall be considered as read, shall be separately debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question; (3) the amendment printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules, if offered by Representative Flake of Arizona or his designee, which shall be considered as read, shall be separately debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question; and (4) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.