

the actual number could be as high as 173,000. A census is now under way to try to verify the figures.

In addition, in 2008, President Kikwete nominated Al-Shymaa Kway-Geer to represent the albino community at the national level. Ms. Kway-Geer is the first Minister of Parliament with albinism.

Yet, despite these improvements, people with albinism still live in fear. As Samuel Mluge, a Tanzania albino remarked to the reporter, "I feel like I am being hunted." No one should live in this state of fear. We must vocally denounce such killings, and do everything we can to prevent them from occurring in the future. I ask that my colleagues support this resolution. I also ask my colleagues for their continued support albinos in East Africa.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1088, 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. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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.

□ 1545

#### RECOGNIZING THE 189TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1107) recognizing the 189th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating Greek and American democracy.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

##### H. RES. 1107

Whereas the ancient Greeks developed the concept of democracy, in which the supreme power to govern was vested in the people;

Whereas the Founding Fathers of the United States, many of whom read Greek political philosophy in its original text, drew heavily on the political experience and philosophy of ancient Greece in forming our representative democracy;

Whereas the Greek national anthem (Hymn to Liberty) includes the words, "Most heartily was gladdened George Washington's brave land";

Whereas Greek Commander in Chief Petros Mavromichalis, a founder of the modern Greek state, said to the citizens of the United States in 1821 that "it is in your land that liberty has fixed her abode and . . . in imitating you, we shall imitate our ancestors and be thought worthy of them if we succeed in resembling you";

Whereas the people of the United States generously offered humanitarian assistance to the Greek people during their struggle for independence;

Whereas Greece played a major role in the World War II struggle to protect freedom and democracy through such bravery as was shown in the historic Battle of Crete, which provided the Axis land war with its first major setback, setting off a chain of events that significantly affected the outcome of World War II;

Whereas the price for Greece in holding onto our common values in their region was high, as hundreds of thousands of civilians were killed in Greece during World War II;

Whereas, throughout the 20th century, Greece was one of a few countries that allied with the United States in every major international conflict;

Whereas Greece is a strategic partner and ally of the United States in bringing political stability and economic development to the volatile Balkan region, having invested over \$20,000,000,000 in the countries of the region, thereby creating over 200,000 new jobs, and having contributed over \$750,000,000 in development aid for the region;

Whereas Greece was extraordinarily responsive to requests by the United States during the war in Iraq, as Greece immediately granted unlimited access to its airspace and the base in Souda Bay, and many ships of the United States that delivered troops, cargo, and supplies to Iraq were refueled in Greece;

Whereas Greece is an active participant in peacekeeping and peace-building operations conducted by international organizations, including the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the European Union (EU), and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE);

Whereas its Chairmanship of OSCE in 2009 underlined Greece's continued commitment to the trans-Atlantic community;

Whereas in August 2004, the Olympic Games came home to Athens, Greece, the land of their ancient birthplace 2,500 years ago and the city of their modern revival in 1896;

Whereas Greece received worldwide praise for its extraordinary handling during the 2004 Olympics of over 14,000 athletes and over 2,000,000 spectators and journalists, which it did efficiently, securely, and with its famous Greek hospitality;

Whereas Greece, located in a region where Christianity meets Islam and Judaism, maintains excellent relations with Muslim nations and Israel;

Whereas the Government of Greece has had extraordinary success in recent years in furthering cross-cultural understanding and has been consistently working for rapprochement with Turkey, as most recently demonstrated by Prime Minister George Papandreou's visit to Turkey in October 2009, just days following his election, his first diplomatic trip abroad;

Whereas Greece and the United States are at the forefront of the effort for freedom, democracy, peace, stability, and human rights;

Whereas those and similar ideals have forged a close bond between Greece and the United States and their peoples;

Whereas March 25, 2010, Greek Independence Day, marks the 189th anniversary of the beginning of the revolution that freed the Greek people from the Ottoman Empire and celebrates the aspirations for democracy that the peoples of Greece and the United States share; and

Whereas it is proper and desirable for the United States to celebrate this anniversary with the Greek people and to reaffirm the democratic principles from which these two

great nations were born: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) extends warm congratulations and best wishes to the people of Greece as they celebrate the 189th anniversary of the independence of Greece;

(2) expresses support for the principles of democratic governance to which the people of Greece are committed; and

(3) notes the important role that Greece has played in the wider European region and in the community of nations since gaining its independence 189 years ago.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1107.

I would like to begin by thanking my good friend and ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Ms. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, for her leadership in introducing this important resolution which marks the 189th anniversary of Greek independence.

I am pleased to announce that, moments ago, the administration accepted Greece as a participant in the Visa Waiver Program.

As the birthplace of democracy, Greece stands alone among nations in its influence over our modern American Government. Our Founders fashioned our society based in significant part on the political experience and philosophy of the ancient Greeks.

Today, we stand here in a room surrounded by images of some of the greatest thinkers of world history, many of them Greek. We stand in a building inspired by ancient Greek architectural designs. We continue to legislate today under Greek ideals of democratic governance.

The Greek contribution to world culture is hardly limited to politics. From the ancient works of Homer, Plato, and Aristophanes, to the sculpture of Praxiteles, to the ethical sensibility of Hippocrates, to the mathematical insights of Archimedes and Pythagoras, we are indebted to the Greek nation for its scientific, philosophical, and artistic contributions to the development of the finest aspects of civilization.

The Greek-American bond, inspired by the ancients, remains vibrant today. Throughout the modern era, Greece has been one of the United States'

strongest allies, supporting us in every major international conflict. Today, our two nations express their mutual commitment to safeguarding democracy and freedom through a partnership in NATO and through bilateral defense cooperation.

Situated at the crossroads of three continents, Greece holds a strategic position in the Mediterranean region. Over the past decade, Athens has pursued path-breaking diplomacy that has resulted, for example, in meaningful rapprochement with neighboring Turkey.

In that regard, we especially want to welcome to Washington Prime Minister George Papandreou, who is visiting us this very week. As foreign minister in the 1990s and in the first years of this century, Mr. Papandreou was essentially the architect of that rapprochement with Turkey. Thanks largely to his vision, the threat of war in the Aegean, a near constant for many decades, has now diminished. In a remarkable gesture of friendship and reconciliation, Prime Minister Papandreou, newly elected last fall, made Turkey the site of his very first Prime Ministerial trip abroad.

As we commemorate today the 189th anniversary of Greek independence, we would be remiss if we failed to acknowledge the rich contributions of Greek immigrants and their descendants to the United States. Their accomplishments are a testament to the greatness of their land of origin.

Madam Speaker, I extend anniversary congratulations to Greece, an ancient country of noble traditions. I join with all Americans and democracy lovers throughout the world in celebrating Greek heritage and our thriving Greek-American friendship. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, the greatest aspect of Greek influence on our country has its roots in the classical era of ancient Greece—that point in time when the Greek political philosophy of democracy was born. In our political debates today, we can easily see the continuing influence of that classical age in our lives.

How different would the world be today if the Greeks of that day had not stood up to the invading armies of the Persian Empire? Unfortunately, although the ancient Greek political philosophers first conceived of democratic self-government, after their time passed, the Greek nation, itself, in fact, became a part of larger empires.

It was ruled for centuries by men with unquestioned and arbitrary power over life and death—the antithesis of democracy. By the start of the 1800s, however, the signs were clear. The Greek people saw the opportunity and were determined to win back their independence and to live in liberty once again.

The most eloquent advocate for liberty in the nation of Greece in the early 19th century was a freedom fighter and a poet, who, before perishing in the struggle, penned the immortal line, “Better 1 hour of free life than 40 years of slavery and prison.” After the Greek Revolution was declared on March 25, 1821, this poem became a patriotic call for liberty and the motto for the freedom fighters of Greece.

Our Founding Fathers shared that same passion for liberty, as evidenced by Patrick Henry’s famous statement just a few decades earlier, “Give me liberty or give me death”—a brave statement which is so familiar and so similar to the rallying cry of the Greek people during their historic struggle.

Such are the shared ideals, the common values upon which the friendship between Greece and America was founded, and that friendship has, indeed, become a formal alliance.

During the 20th century, in every major international conflict, Greek soldiers stood beside American soldiers in the fight for freedom and liberty.

To this day, Greece supports our reconstruction and stabilization missions in Iraq and Afghanistan. Greece has deployed an operational mentor and liaison team to assist NATO efforts to train the Afghan army. Further, the Souda Bay naval base on Crete has been a valuable support for the coalition forces in Iraq. During the brutal fighting in 2005 alone, this Greek base supported over 11,000 U.S. military ships and planes on their way to Iraq.

Greece has also contributed significant financial and diplomatic support to continuing stabilization efforts in the Balkan region, and it has effectively promoted such efforts in that region during the 2009 chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

I was honored to have met with the Greek Prime Minister earlier today to discuss these issues and to discuss ways to continue strengthening our bilateral relationship.

Greece continues today as a valued partner and as a strong friend of the United States. It is my pleasure to offer this resolution which recognizes the 189th anniversary of the independence of that great nation.

With that, Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to my friend, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES).

Mr. SARBANES. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, today, I rise to honor the 189th anniversary of Greek Independence Day. We are also celebrating today Greece’s entry into the U.S. Visa Waiver Program, which is a strong affirmation of the close ties between our two nations.

The American people and the people of Greece have been united by common values from the very beginning. De-

mocracy, liberty, freedom, and the idea that the individual should have a say in the workings of society are the values we share and are the foundations upon which both of our great nations have been built and have prospered.

It is no coincidence, therefore, that Greece and the United States have stood by each other’s side in every major struggle. After all, our two great nations are the historical pillars of democracy: Greece as creator and America as promoter.

By passing this resolution today, we commemorate the struggle of the Greek people to secure their freedom and to establish the modern Hellenic Republic.

Today, as we know, Greece is facing particularly difficult challenges. Yesterday, as part of his 4-day visit to the United States, the Prime Minister of Greece, George Papandreou, delivered an address at the Brookings Institution in which he described those challenges and emphasized the important role the United States can play in ensuring that global speculators do not take further advantage of what remains a very fluid situation.

America and Greece must stand together to ensure that the global economic system is restored, to support European democracy, and to foster peace and prosperity around the globe. We are strong allies and are up to the task. In that spirit, our country today congratulates Greece on the celebration of its independence, and we look forward to strengthening our mutual ties in the days to come.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to my friend, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY).

Mrs. MALONEY. Thank you, my dear friend, for your leadership and for yielding to me.

Madam Speaker, as an original cosponsor of H.R. 1107 and as co-chair and cofounder of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, I rise today to celebrate the entrance of Greece into the Visa Waiver Program and to celebrate the 189th anniversary of Greece’s declaration of independence from the Ottoman Empire.

Against incredibly difficult odds, the Greeks defeated one of the most powerful empires in history to win their independence. Following 400 years of Ottoman rule, in March 1821, Bishop Germanos of Patras raised the traditional Greek flag at the monastery of Agia Lavra, inciting his countrymen to rise against the Ottoman army.

The bishop timed this act of revolution to coincide with the Greek Orthodox holiday celebrating the archangel Gabriel’s announcement that the Virgin Mary was pregnant with the divine child. Bishop Germanos’ message was clear: A new spirit was about to be born in Greece.

The following year, the Treaty of Constantinople established full independence for Greece.

New York City is home to the largest Hellenic population outside of Greece

and Cyprus. Western Queens, which I have the honor of representing, is often called "Little Athens" because of the large Hellenic population in that neighborhood. New Yorkers celebrate Greek Independence Day with a parade on Fifth Avenue, along with many cultural events and private gatherings. These events, hosted by the Federation of Hellenic Societies and other Hellenic and Philhellenic organizations and friends, remind us of the Hellenic American community's many contributions to our Nation's history and culture.

I am also pleased that President Obama is continuing the tradition of holding a White House celebration in honor of Greek Independence Day.

Relations between the United States and Greece remain strong with a shared commitment to ensuring stability in southeastern Europe.

I hope permanent solutions can be found for ending the division of Cyprus and for finding a mutually agreeable name for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Additionally, I have re-introduced legislation which urges Turkey to respect the rights and religious freedoms of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. It is time for this suppression of religious freedom to come to an end and for Turkey to move in the direction of freedom and democracy.

I, along with my colleagues, have worked to ensure that the process for Greece's entry into the Visa Waiver Program has continued to move forward. I have had legislation before this body for well over 6 years.

In September of 2007, Greece was formally nominated for the Visa Waiver Program by the U.S. State Department and was the only member of the original 15 European Union nations not to belong to the Visa Waiver Program. In light of this, I was very, very pleased to learn that, just today, Secretary Napolitano announced the inclusion of Greece into the program. This is a most welcomed and long overdue development for Greece, the birthplace of democracy and one of our Nation's closest allies.

I ask the Nation to join me in celebrating the Greeks' independence. I also join my colleagues in welcoming Prime Minister Papandreou, who is visiting this country for 4 days. It is also my sincere pleasure to pay tribute to New York's Hellenic American community and to its many contributions to our city and Nation.

Zeto E Eleftheria. Long live freedom.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues for their thoughtful comments on this important matter. I want to thank the ranking member, my friend from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), for her leadership on this matter.

Before I yield back the balance of my time, I also want to thank both the majority and minority staffs of the committee for their fine work, and I want to thank my own staff member, Hera Abbasi, for her fine work, especially on our albinism resolution.

Mr. McMAHON. Madam Speaker, today, I congratulate Greece on her 189th anniversary of independence.

Greece has long been a close ally to the United States and rightly so, given that our founding fathers formulated the American political philosophy from the Greek ideals that were first conceptualized in 500 BC.

Today, Greece is a partner in Afghanistan and continues to build bridges between cultures throughout Europe and the greater region.

Greece promotes peaceful dialogue and understanding through its own negotiations, particularly in regards to its divided neighbor, Cyprus.

Ending the occupation of Cyprus has long been a focus of my political career. Greece and Cyprus's steadfast commitment to finding peaceful people to people solutions to ending the occupation have touched and motivated my own work on the House Foreign Affairs Committee. In fact, Secretary Clinton described Cyprus as a strategic focal point in response to my questions on integrating the Island.

Today, thousands of Turkish and Greek Cypriots pass through various passageways between the occupied North and the Republic of Cyprus. There has not been one incidence of violence and many Turkish Cypriots escape the congestion of the occupation and enjoy education and health benefits in the Republic that they do not have in the North.

After over 35 years, it is time to bring peace to this island through a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation driven solely by the joint efforts of all Cypriots and Cypriots, only.

On a similar note, Greece has for years pursued the deserved rights of the leader of the Orthodox Christians, the Ecumenical Patriarchate. I will continue to advocate for the Patriarchate's recognition. I believe that this recognition would not only benefit the Patriarchate's legacy, but Turkey's multi-cultural history, as well.

Finally, I will work to make sure that a mutual agreeable name for the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, FYROM, is reached. After all, Macedonia is Greek!

Through its great history, Greece has always approached its own matters with grace. I am particularly proud of the Greek-Americans who, through, their advocacy and hard work, today heard the great news that Greece has finally been granted visa waiver status.

I cannot tell you how happy I am that families will finally be comfortably reuniting after years of a discriminatory status.

I thank President Obama and Secretary Napolitano for their decision and once again congratulate Greece on all that it has achieved and of course, all that it will achieve.

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1107, a bill recognizing the 189th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating Greek and American democracy.

I am proud to support a bill whose significance is so extensive and which has such great personal meaning to me and my family members.

I am extremely proud to call myself a Greek-American. My paternal grandfather emigrated from the island of Ikaria, Greece in the early 20th century and earned his American citizenship by fighting in World War I for the U.S. yet, he never let go of his roots. My fa-

ther served in the Marines during the Korean War and instilled in me a deep sense of patriotism and respect for our great country. My family, like so many other Greek-American families, has never forgotten that strong bond that exists between Greece and the United States.

Our Founding Fathers looked to ancient Greece and her political wisdom. They drew on the enlightenment of the ancient texts to build a new representative democracy, deeply rooted in the philosophy and ethos of Greek government. Greece and the U.S. have always been at the forefront of the effort for freedom, democracy, peace, stability and human rights, and those similarities are what have forged our enduring bond over the centuries.

The solidarity between our two great countries has served us both throughout the years. The Greek people fought alongside American soldiers in the historic battles of World War II and have lent aid to our troops fighting in Iraq and in battlefields around the world. Whether in war, or in peace, the U.S. and Greece have been able to stand strong, firmly anchored by the democratic principles from which both of these two great nations were born.

Today, as we celebrate the anniversary of this wonderful nation's independence, it is important that we continue to recognize the significance of Greek contributions to the global society. As an American, and as a Greek, I support H. Res. 1107 and ask my colleagues to do the same.

Ms. TSONGAS. Madam Speaker, as an original cosponsor of this resolution, and a member of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, I rise today in order to voice my heartfelt congratulations to the people of Greece on the 189th anniversary of their independence.

Massachusetts' Fifth Congressional District has deep roots in the rich Greek-American community, as does my family—my husband Paul's family emigrated from Greece to Lowell, Massachusetts when his father was 3 years old.

Our Nation has benefited tremendously from the contributions of the prominent Greek community that resides, works, and sustains a vibrant Greek heritage here in the United States.

The bond between the United States and the nation of Greece has always been an exceptional alliance, anchored in our common values, traditions, and passion for freedom and democracy.

President Obama has appropriately continued the tradition of holding a White House celebration in honor of Greek Independence Day, and I look forward to joining him this year to celebrate this historic occasion.

This measure expresses the House of Representatives' support for the important partnership and strong relations between Greece and the United States over the past 189 years. To this day, Greece remains one of our greatest allies.

I am proud to join the Greek-Americans of Massachusetts' Fifth District, and across our country, in celebrating the 189th anniversary of their independence day.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1107.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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.

□ 1600

## PREVENT DECEPTIVE CENSUS LOOK ALIKE MAILINGS ACT

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4621) to protect the integrity of the constitutionally mandated United States census and prohibit deceptive mail practices that attempt to exploit the decennial census, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4621

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Prevent Deceptive Census Look Alike Mailings Act".

### SEC. 2. REQUIREMENTS FOR MAIL BEARING THE TERM "CENSUS" ON THE ENVELOPE OR OUTSIDE COVER OR WRAPPER.

(a) MATTER SOLICITING PURCHASE OF A PRODUCT OR SERVICE.—Section 3001(h) of title 39, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), "or which bears the term 'census' on the envelope or outside cover or wrapper" after "such matter by the Federal Government";

(2) in paragraph (2), by redesignating subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) as clauses (i), (ii), and (iii), respectively;

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) as subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C), respectively;

(4) by inserting "(1)" after "(h)"; and

(5) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(2) In the case of matter bearing the term 'census' on the envelope or outside cover or wrapper, in addition to satisfying one of the exceptions contained in paragraphs (1)(A), (1)(B), or (1)(C), such envelope or outside cover or wrapper bears on its face an accurate return address including the name of the entity that sent such matter."

(b) MATTER SOLICITING INFORMATION OR CONTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—Section 3001(i) of title 39, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), "or which bears the term 'census' on the envelope or outside cover or wrapper" after "such matter by the Federal Government";

(2) in paragraph (2), by redesignating subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) as clauses (i), (ii), and (iii), respectively;

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) as subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C), respectively;

(4) by inserting "(1)" after "(i)"; and

(5) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(2) In the case of matter bearing the term 'census' on the envelope or outside cover or wrapper, in addition to satisfying one of the exceptions contained in paragraphs (1)(A), (1)(B), or (1)(C), such envelope or outside cover or wrapper bears on its face an accurate return address including the name of the entity that sent such matter."

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DOYLE). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4621, as amended. I would like to thank Chairman TOWNS and Ranking Member ISSA of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and Congresswoman MALONEY and Congressman CHAFFETZ for working with me on this legislation. As chairman of the Information Policy, Census, and National Archives Subcommittee, this legislation is of particular importance to me.

This legislation would require certain mailings which have the term "census" on the outside of the envelope to also include an accurate return address and the name of the sender on the envelope. H.R. 4621 would also mandate that such mailings follow existing legal requirements to include disclaimers making it clear that the mailing is not from the Federal Government.

H.R. 4621 was introduced on February 9, 2010, and referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. The committee approved the measure with a manager's amendment by voice vote on March 4, 2010.

In recent months, mailings which have the word "census" on the envelope and contents that resemble official census forms have been sent by the Republican National Committee and other nonprofit organizations to citizens in several States. The RNC mailings were marked "DO NOT DESTROY. OFFICIAL DOCUMENT." The envelope used in these mailings did not include a return address or identify the sender. Using these terms on the outside of the envelope without a return address and the name of the sender creates an appearance of an official government document.

Later this month, the Census Bureau will begin conducting the decennial census through the U.S. mail. The decennial census is mandated by article I, section 2, of the U.S. Constitution. This official government function provides an accurate portrait of the Amer-

ican population. The decennial census serves as a basis for the distribution of hundreds of billions of dollars for schools, hospitals, job training centers, and transportation projects.

In addition to conducting the decennial census every 10 years, the Census Bureau conducts surveys throughout the decade. For example, under the previous administration, the Bureau started the American Community Survey, which is an annual survey sent to a sample of the public. This survey helps communities understand where and how their population lives and permits the community to allocate resources accordingly.

Because legitimate census mailings are used for such important purposes, it is critical that the Census Bureau is able to receive accurate information and that American citizens continue to have confidence in census mailings. Increased confidence in the census will save taxpayers money by improving the response rate.

The Director of the Census Bureau, Robert Groves, has said that the Bureau will save \$85 million for every 1 percent increase in the mail-back response from recipients of the decennial census.

This bill is narrowly tailored to address the specific problems caused by census look-alike mailings. This bill would not prevent the use of the term "census" in mailings altogether; H.R. 4621 would merely require the sender to identify itself and include language clarifying that the mailing is not from the Federal Government.

Mailings by private organizations which appear to be from the Census Bureau, without a proper clarification or disclaimer, create a risk of confusion on the part of citizens who will be receiving actual census mailings this year. H.R. 4621 will help to prevent such confusion.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank Mrs. MALONEY for her introduction of H.R. 4621, the Prevent Deceptive Census Look Alike Mailings Act. What this bill will do is seek to prevent the word "census" from appearing on mail that does not pertain directly to the national census.

Currently we do have laws to address sending deceptive or fraudulent mail, and the Postal Inspection Service currently has responsibility for investigating allegations of this nature and determining if a violation has been committed. However, what this bill will do is simply reinforce and reiterate existing law.

This bill would give postal inspectors an additional tool, if you will, in addressing mail sent by those seeking to capitalize on the importance people place on the U.S. census—mail that