

poor reviews from their agency can claim to be a whistleblower, and therefore, they will be on the Federal payroll for the rest of their career. Then they can retire and draw a pension for the rest of their life.

This is unacceptable in the private sector. We care about whistleblowers. We welcome whistleblowers to come to the House Committee on Oversight and Reform to speak to the Republican minority members. They are and they will be protected because we have good whistleblower laws on the books.

These proposed amendments make our good whistleblower laws worse, and we need to oppose them.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

The underlying bill is both landmark legislation for freedom of speech and for government accountability. I strongly urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this landmark legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, I move that the committee now rise.

The CHAIR. Will the gentlewoman withdraw her motion?

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. I withdraw my motion.

The CHAIR. The motion is withdrawn.

The question is on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentlewoman from New York will be postponed.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER) having assumed the chair, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2988) to amend title 5, United States Code, to modify and enhance protections for Federal Government whistleblowers, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

A FAIR AND ACCURATE CENSUS ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 8326.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1339 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 8326.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1642

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 8326) to amend title 13, United States Code, to improve the operations of the Bureau of the Census, and for other purposes, with Mr. BLUMENAUER in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Reform or their respective designees.

The gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) will each control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 8326, the Ensuring a Fair and Accurate Census Act.

The decennial Census is a critical part of our democratic system. In fact, it is required by the Constitution. The results of the Census determine the distribution of over \$1.5 trillion in Federal funds, apportionment of the House of Representatives and State legislative districts, and public and private sector investments.

□ 1645

It is critical that the Census count is complete, fair, and accurate. The Ensuring a Fair and Accurate Census Act will help make sure that it is.

This bill is informed by the Oversight Committee's multi-year investigation into political interference by the previous administration during the 2020 Census, including the effort to add a citizenship question despite strong opposition from expert statisticians and demographers at the Census Bureau.

In fact, the Census Bureau's top data scientist warned that the citizenship question "harms the quality of the Census count."

The Supreme Court ruled in favor with the Democrats and ultimately stepped in to block the citizenship question, ruling that the rationale for adding it to the Census "seems to have been contrived."

The previous administration took other steps that risked undermining the independent, nonpartisan nature of the Census. They appointed an unprecedented eight political appointees where there were previously only three, and they tried to rush the processing of the Census data, despite repeated warnings from career staff that this would compromise the integrity of the Census count.

Partisan manipulation of the Census is simply wrong. My bill would protect the Census and ensure this cannot happen again, regardless of which party is in power.

We are considering this legislation at a critical time. While the 2030 Census is years away, the design and planning began at the Bureau even before the 2020 numbers were released.

As our Nation's largest peacetime mobilization, the Census requires detailed and thorough planning. However, even the best plans face challenges in the field, and the 2020 Census faced unprecedented obstacles.

In the runup to the 2020 Census, the Bureau was consistently denied the appropriations—the funding that it needed—to execute its operational plans. Among other impacts, this uncertainty forced cutbacks in outreach to communities that are considered hard to reach.

The coronavirus pandemic forced the Census Bureau to suspend field operations at the most critical time; and most damaging, the previous administration demanded a last-minute, untested question on citizenship, and installed a record number of political appointees with unclear duties to get that done.

This legislation would vest key decision-making authority over the Census in the appropriate Senate-confirmed official, the Census Director. It would limit the number of political appointees within the Bureau to no more than four, which is consistent with historical precedent.

This bill would also require that new Census questions be thoroughly researched and analyzed, certified by the Secretary of Commerce, evaluated by the GAO, and shared with Congress before being added to the Census questionnaire.

This bill will also increase transparency and support long-term planning by requiring the Bureau to submit its projected 5-year budget estimates to both the President and Congress.

Finally, the bill codifies existing advisory committees charged with engaging with hard-to-count communities and advancing best practices in the field of data science. It also establishes an advisory committee aimed directly at ensuring the 2030 Census is successful.

I am proud that my bill has the support of four former directors of the Census Bureau, who served under administrations led by both Democrats and Republicans. These former directors have 15 years of experience serving

as Census Directors supporting five decennial Censuses.

In a statement, they commended the bill's objective and said that it "protects the independence and integrity of the scientific mission of the Census Bureau." These former directors concluded, "trust in our Nation's official data is essential to the democracy and the economy, and this legislation will undergird" and build that trust.

Mr. Chair, I include their statements in the RECORD as well as an editorial from "The Washington Post" titled: "The Trump Administration's Assault on the Census Must Not Happen Again," along with two additional editorials, and a letter from Population Association of America and Association of Population Centers.

Mr. Chair, this editorial concluded, "The Trump administration's assault on the integrity of the Census should be an urgent warning. Too much rests on the decennial count to allow it to be exploited for partisan gain."

STATEMENT BY FORM U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
DIRECTORS—JULY 12, 2022

IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE LEGISLATION "ENSURING
A FAIR AND ACCURATE CENSUS ACT"

We applaud the legislation introduced this week by the Chair of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney (D-NY) that we believe will help preserve and protect the independence and integrity of the scientific mission at the U.S. Census Bureau.

Having helped to plan, execute or lead five decennial censuses serving nine Presidents of both parties, and having closely observed the 2020 Decennial process, we strongly feel the reforms in the "Ensuring a Fair and Accurate Census Act" would help build greater trust and confidence in the essential data the Census Bureau supplies to the nation. Collectively, the provisions of this bill strengthen the professional roles of career scientists, provide greater transparency into methods and processes across the 130 Census surveys and censuses, and enhance Congressional oversight over Bureau functions.

Trust in the nation's official data is essential to the democracy and the economy, and this legislation will undergird that trust.

VINCENT BARABBA,
(1973-76 & 1979-81).

ROBERT GROVES,
(2009-2012).

KENNETH PREWITT,
(1998-2001).

JOHN THOMPSON,
(2013-2017).

[From the Washington Post Editorial Board,
July 26, 2022]

OPINION: THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S AS-
SAULT ON THE CENSUS MUST NOT HAPPEN
AGAIN

The Trump administration engaged in a years-long, multi-pronged effort to sabotage the U.S. census, largely centered on adding a question on citizenship to the 2020 count. A new report, released last week by the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, paints a grim picture of what was happening behind the scenes.

A draft of an August 2017 memo, prepared by a political appointee in the Commerce Department, examined the idea of using citizenship data for apportioning seats in the House of Representatives, concluding it would likely be unconstitutional. Later versions omitted that language and came down in favor of including the question.

The newly released documents undercut the Trump administration's repeated claims that the citizenship question had nothing to do with apportionment. The Constitution plainly states: "Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State."

At the time, then-Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and other officials offered various unconvincing justifications for adding the question, most frequently that it would help enforce the Voting Rights Act. The Supreme Court blocked the move, with Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. calling the rationale "contrived." The House report reinforces that conclusion.

The census is a crucial tool, used not only for apportionment and redistricting, but also for allocating approximately \$1.5 trillion in annual federal aid to states and localities. Experts warned that a citizenship question would frighten immigrants and lead to the undercounting of minority communities.

Though the question was ultimately not included, the lengthy and public battle over it appears to have been enough: The Census Bureau reported that Black, Hispanic and Native Americans were undercounted at higher levels in 2020 compared with 2010—Hispanics by a statistically significant amount—while White and Asian Americans were overcounted. Never mind that this might have backfired on Republicans, with the bureau reporting it significantly undercounted populations in Florida and Texas—red states with large minority communities—and overcounted populations in blue states such as Rhode Island and Minnesota. The accuracy of the census depends in no small part on its credibility, which has been severely damaged.

The next census is in 2030, but—given the scale of the undertaking and importance of the results—Congress should work quickly to insulate it from political interference. A bill recently introduced by Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney (D-N.Y.), chairwoman of the House Oversight Committee, would do just that. The Ensuring a Fair and Accurate Census Act would restrict the number of political appointees at the Census Bureau, bar the removal of a bureau director without just cause and require new questions to be submitted to Congress ahead of time. It would also mandate new questions be "researched, tested and certified" by the commerce secretary and "evaluated by the Government Accountability Office."

Though it was not able to implement its most drastic plans, the Trump administration's assault on the integrity of the census should be an urgent warning. Too much rests on the decennial count to allow it to be exploited for partisan gain.

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 13, 2020]

OPINION: THE CENSUS IS ON THE VERGE OF
DISASTER

(By the Editorial Board)

Here is one of the least surprising revelations ever leaked from the federal government: According to an internal Census Bureau document, major, uncorrectable errors may result from forcing the bureau's enumerators and number-crunchers to rush through the decennial count. House Oversight and Reform Committee Chair Carolyn B. Maloney (D-NY) revealed the document this month, claiming it was a presentation for Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, who oversees the bureau. It shows that the decision of Senate Republicans and the Trump administration to give the bureau no more time to finish a count that started late and has encountered pandemic-related problems threatens to corrupt for a decade the process

of distributing congressional seats and doling out some \$1.5 trillion in annual federal aid.

"A compressed review period creates risk for serious errors not being discovered in the data—thereby significantly decreasing data quality," the document warns.

To be clear, this would not be the fault of the bureau's professionals, whom Republicans have put in an impossible position. They are facing a statutory deadline requiring that they deliver their count by Dec. 31. The bureau had previously asked for more time. House Democrats authorized a deadline extension. Senate Republicans failed to do so, and the Trump administration ordered last month that door-knocking conclude by Sept. 30, weeks earlier than the experts had hoped.

The newly revealed document shows that, at the time the short timetable was announced, the bureau knew that "abbreviated processes or eliminated activities . . . will reduce accuracy." Not only would door-knocking end weeks sooner, but also the number-crunching needed after the door-knockers finished their work would be compressed into 92 days. Since 1990, the number-crunching has consumed between 140 and 185 days, according to Ms. Maloney. "Serious errors discovered in the data may not be fixed—due to lack of time to research and understand the root cause or to re-run and re-review one or multiple state files," the document warns. "A compressed review period creates risk for errors being present in the data."

The only perspective from which this is not a potential disaster is that of Republicans seeking maximum partisan advantage. The Trump administration already tried once to skew the count by adding a citizenship question to the census form, which would have deterred immigrants, even legal ones, from responding. The Supreme Court halted that move. Yet rushing the census might help Republicans because poor and minority communities tend to be the ones undercounted, which would make many Democratic-leaning states appear to be less populous than they are—and therefore due less money and political representation.

The Senate should have passed a covid-19 relief bill months ago, with a census deadline extension in it. With the bureau up against a wall, senators should not wait to agree on the rest of a relief package to give the counters more time. The census needs clarity, now.

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND RE-
FORM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-
TIVES,

Washington, DC.

DEAR COLLEAGUE: I urge you to support H.R. 8326, the Ensuring a Fair and Accurate Census Act. The editorial board piece below appeared in the N.Y. Daily News today. The bill works to improve the operations at the Census Bureau and guards against political meddling.

The bill has the support of four former, bipartisan, Directors of the Census Bureau as well as the Population Association of America and the Association of Population Centers.

[From New York Daily News, Sept. 14, 2022]
KEEPING THE CENSUS HONEST: REP. CAROLYN
MALONEY HAS THE RIGHT BILL TO STOP
POLITICIZATION OF THE COUNT

(By Daily News Editorial Board)

Donald Trump and his secretary of commerce, Wilbur Ross, tried to inject politics into the U.S. Census Bureau for the 2020 decennial count of every person in America. They did it by seeking to add a citizenship question to the 2020 census. But New York

led 18 states in suing and won before the U.S. Supreme Court in 2019, which blocked the Trump/Ross citizenship question.

That we know, but now Rep. Carolyn Maloney's Committee on Oversight and Reform has found even more evidence and proof that it was all a political ploy, not rooted in any legitimate demographic reasoning. To prevent future such manipulation, Maloney has a bill on the House floor today to protect the integrity of the Census Bureau. We hope that the measure passes with large majorities of both parties.

After Chief Justice John Roberts and the high court stopped the citizenship question, Trump and Ross tried again in the summer of 2020, after the count was completed, with a memorandum instructing the Census Bureau to exclude undocumented immigrants from the apportionment process which divides up the 435 House seats among the states based on population gains and losses in the prior decade. Again, the federal courts stepped in and the clearly unconstitutional maneuver was abandoned.

Still, the sustained efforts targeting immigrants undoubtedly had the intended effect to dampen the participation rate of non-citizens, documented or not, which was Trump's goal from the beginning.

Maloney's bill protects the director of the Bureau of the Census from meddling by secretary of commerce, an appointee and supporter of the president. Any new questions on the census forms must be submitted in advance to Congress and certified that they satisfy established statistical policies and procedures (not just because a president wants it). The Congress is also to receive a biannual report detailing preparations for the next big count.

We got lucky last time that the courts stopped Trump and Ross from trying to warp the census numbers. Next time we shouldn't have to take that risk. Pass the Maloney bill.

Sincerely,

CAROLYN B. MALONEY,
Chairwoman.

POPULATION ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA,
Alexandria, VA, September 12, 2022.

Hon. CAROLYN MALONEY,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN MALONEY: On behalf of the organizations we lead, the Population Association of America and Association of Population Centers, we are writing to express support for your efforts to enact constructive reforms at the U.S. Census Bureau. Your bill, H.R. 8326, Ensuring a Fair and Accurate Census Act, contains several provisions that would strengthen the Census Bureau as the nation's principal statistical agency.

We are pleased that the bill, for example, would empower the Census Bureau to communicate its annual funding needs more directly to the public and clarify the process by which the agency adds and approves questions on the decennial census. Further, we applaud provisions that reauthorize existing advisory committees, such as the Census Scientific Advisory Committee and the National Advisory Committee, both of which have served as effective forums for data users and experts, including population scientists, to engage with the Census Bureau.

H.R. 8326 is an important first step to ensure the Bureau can sustain its critical mission and operations while undergoing necessary adaptations in preparation for the 2030 Census. We congratulate you on your leadership and look forward to working with you

and your colleagues as it proceeds through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

DR. SONALDE DESAI,
President, Population Association of America.
DR. SARA R. CURRAN,
President, Association of Population Centers.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chair, this bill is sensible and is driven by facts uncovered in our investigation and input from both civil rights groups and professionals at the Census Bureau.

We must have a full, fair, and accurate Census count so that every American can have faith that they and their communities are receiving the representation and the services that they deserve. To do that, we need a non-partisan, expert-driven Census Bureau. This bill is a strong first step to meet that goal.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today, Americans continue to face several crises created by the Biden administration: Sky-high inflation, painfully high gas prices, and supply chain shortages.

President Biden's border crisis is allowing waves of illegal immigrants andentanyl shipments to flood across our southern border.

Our children are suffering from historic learning losses and a mental health crisis because this administration allowed radical teachers unions to keep schools closed.

Yet what are Democrats prioritizing today instead of these crises impacting Americans' everyday lives? The Democrats' Ensuring a Fair and Accurate Census Act.

This bill has nothing to do with the American people's priorities. In fact, it will do nothing to make the Census more fair and accurate. Instead, it places a great deal of power in the hands of unelected bureaucrats and hamstrings future Presidents.

During the prior Census, the President sought to include in the Census a question simply asking respondents whether they were American citizens. The Supreme Court found this was constitutional but that the Census Bureau had gone about it improperly.

This bill would prevent the inclusion of such a question in the future, a question key to upholding the principle of one citizen, one vote.

Now, under the Biden administration, there are questions about whether the Department of Commerce delivered accurate apportionment results derived from the Census. Those results were critical because they determined the apportionment of this body's 435 congressional districts among the several States. We still don't know for sure whether the apportionment results were fair and accurate.

But this bill does nothing to fix that problem or any of the other real problems associated with the 2020 Census.

Indeed, it will make it easier for future Census results to drive the apportionment of congressional districts unfairly to favor blue, Democrat-leaning States over red, Republican-leaning States.

Why is that?

Because the bill weakens the accountability of the Census Bureau to the President and the Secretary of Commerce, committing by statute all operational, statistical, and technical decisions about the Census to the Census Bureau's Director.

The bill makes it harder to overrule the Director even when the President, the Secretary, or Congress are concerned, the Director's decisions will yield an unfair or inaccurate Census.

Making matters worse, the bill allows only an unaccountable career employee to serve as acting director when no Senate-confirmed director is in place.

Finally, the bill severely constrains the ability of future Censuses to include important new questions, such as the citizenship question, which a majority of Americans want asked on the Census.

But it is precisely the counting of actual citizens that ensures Census results will produce congressional districts fairly, representing all citizens in Congress.

During the Oversight and Reform Committee's consideration of this bill, Republicans offered amendments that would have cured these problems. These amendments would have made sure Census Bureau officials remained accountable to the voters through the President. They would have made sure a question on citizenship would have been included in future Censuses, guaranteeing a fair basis for the apportionment of congressional districts.

But were Democrats concerned then about ensuring a fair and accurate Census by supporting these amendments? No. Democrats voted them down on a party-line vote.

Mr. Chairman, the American people deserve better from this legislative body. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Government Operations for the Oversight Committee.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 8326, the Ensuring a Fair and Accurate Census Act.

When Democrats took majority in the House in 2018, I was asked what our top oversight projects were going to be. When I said, among them, the Census, it elicited surprise and even some laughs.

The Census is a huge dataset that underpins whether we fairly represent Americans and how we spend the entire Federal budget.

The Trump administration and its partisan Census Bureau undermined this critical task in March of 2018 when it planned to add a citizenship question

to the Census that would have violated the Constitution and reduced response rates, and they knew it.

I joined my colleague and friend, the late Chairman Elijah Cummings, in leading the fight against this question. I then partnered with Chairwoman MALONEY to block the Trump administration from cutting off the Census deadline early and excluding undocumented immigrants from the Census count.

Our committee's dogged oversight work prevented these illegal and immoral attempts to subvert our very democracy as enshrined in the Constitution. However, we need permanent reforms to ensure that no matter the President or political environment, the Census remains apolitical. That is why we must support this act.

This bill requires the Secretary of Commerce to certify that any new questions on the decennial Census must meet best practices standards, and it caps the Census Bureau at three political appointees, eliminating a President's ability to flood the Bureau with his acolytes and loyalists.

Congress must bolster the Census Bureau now, so we are prepared for a fair and accurate 2030 Census.

Mr. Chair, I thank Chairwoman MALONEY for her leadership and for sponsoring this bill.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS).

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this bill. The intention of this bill is clear: It is to prevent a future Republican President from adding a citizenship question to the United States Census.

And yet the question of citizenship was first offered by President Thomas Jefferson in 1800; and from its introduction in the Census of 1820 through 1950, that question was included on every Census.

Now, when you think about the language of the Constitution itself, it gives Congress the authority to call a Census to enumerate the population. And for what was the purpose? The main purpose, of course, was for apportionment, for representation of the citizens of the United States.

The reality, though, is it has become far more than that, and that seems to be permissible within certain limits of the Constitution itself.

Since 1950, there have been additional Federal surveys that have included some form of the question of citizenship, not necessarily included in the Census itself.

But in the recent case cited by Chairwoman MALONEY just moments ago, where she said that they threw it out and said you can't ask that question, it was not because of the question. In fact, the Supreme Court specifically said in *Department of Commerce v. New York* that Congress has the right to ask that question, and the Department of Commerce has the authority to include the question of citizenship.

The decision states, "The enumeration clause permits Congress, and by extension the Secretary, to inquire about citizenship on the questionnaire."

□ 1700

That rationale does not work from the chairwoman. I realize a lot of my colleagues don't realize and understand and appreciate what is happening on our southern border. From October of last year through the end of July, Border Patrol has reported nearly 2 million encounters along our southern border, that does not include who entered and have gotten away.

Nearly a quarter of the encounters feature a person who had at least one prior encounter in the past 12 months. We, as policymakers, if we are going to get policy and data, which was just alluded to by Mr. CONNOLLY, we should have some of the most important data, and that is who is in this country illegally and who is a citizen and who is not.

Whether someone is a citizen is an important datapoint that should be recorded on the Census and on other Federal surveys. It is well past time that Congress direct the Census Bureau to ask this question like it did for over 100 years.

This bill is, instead, an attempt to cynically block the inclusion of the citizenship question on the Census and seeks to insulate career staff at the Census Bureau from any accountability. This is not—this is not a good bill.

This bill does not help us get to where we need to get in terms of understanding what is going on in this country so we can make policy that is good.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, this bill does not address Congressional apportionment. It is about making the Census fair and accurate.

Nevertheless, our Census count has never been limited based on citizenship and there is no doubt that doing so would violate the Constitution. The 14th Amendment says seats in Congress are based on the whole number of persons in each State. Persons, not citizens.

Last Congress, I chaired a hearing with four former Census directors who served under both Democrats and Republicans. All four agreed that excluding undocumented immigrants from the apportionment count violated the Constitution. That is also the position taken by previous administrations, including under Republican Presidents.

In fact, my committee recently uncovered a draft internal legal memo from the Trump administration about the citizenship question. That memo admitted that using citizenship data to exclude immigrants from the apportionment counts would violate, "over 200 years of precedent." That damning language was removed from the final memo used to push the citizenship question.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS).

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairwoman for her outstanding leadership of this committee. It has been a pleasure to serve with you and under you and know that your interests go far beyond anything that I have heard this evening.

As a matter of fact, the Census is very important for far more reasons than just apportionment or just for looking at one issue or looking at immigration. I guess I have been involved in Census-taking for about 40 years, and every 10 years we go through this angst in my community, whether or not we are going to get a fair and accurate count, whether or not the people who are there are going to be counted so that resources which come as a result will flow back to the area.

Well, that has not happened. And even after the expressions of the last round, it was determined that there were undercounts, that there were people missed. And so everything that we can do to try and make sure that the Census taken is fair, accurate, and comprehensive, we need to do that.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chairman, I have no more speakers on the underlying bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to close, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, the U.S. House of Representatives should focus on helping the American people survive economic turmoil and defending our borders and national security.

I urge House Democrats to get back to what the American people elected us to do: Conduct oversight over the Federal Government and the Biden administration, which is on a path to destroy America.

We need to hold hearings, conduct oversight, and pass legislation addressing the crises affecting America today. That is our constitutional responsibility. But instead, we are spending valuable resources and time on divisive political messaging bills.

I am just amazed that the Democrats advocate for legislation on the House floor pertaining to the Census, which would ask a question about your sexual preference, but they want to pass legislation to oppose asking the question whether you are a legal citizen or not. That is just another example of tone-deaf leadership. That is not what the American people want.

Mr. Chairman, I oppose H.R. 8326, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I stress the urgency and importance of this legislation. The United States Census Bureau is a foundational institution and one that we must take all necessary steps to protect.

The Census is for all people and should count every person. Efforts to politicize the Bureau have real consequences that can reduce response rates and thereby lessen the representation and resources available to communities.

I thank my colleagues for speaking in support of this bill, the former directors and advocates that have lent their support, and I encourage us all to vote in favor of ensuring a fair and accurate Census count.

No matter the party affiliation, every one of us has an interest in providing our best services to our constituents.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 8326 and the underlying amendments, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 8326, the Ensuring a Fair and Accurate Census Act, and thank you for bringing this vital legislation to the floor today.

I applaud the Committee on Oversight and Reform for this necessary and thoughtful bill. By establishing structural and functional standards, H.R. 8326 would insulate the Census Bureau from the type of tactics and abuse it encountered in the few years preceding the 2020 decennial census count.

Among its key provisions are the statutory codification of the Director's and Deputy Director's roles. Doing so would improve the Census Bureau's operational effectiveness, accountability, and transparency.

Specifying their duties also provides the opportunity to establish responsibilities that will enhance the work product of the Census by improving the fair and accurate counting of all Americans.

In that context, I offered an amendment to H.R. 8326, and I would like to thank the Rules Committee for making my amendment in order, and the Committee on Oversight and Reform for including it in the En Bloc amendment.

By reforming the operations of the Census Bureau, this bill enables us to ensure that racial and ethnic equity in the decennial count will be a priority in future decennial counts.

My amendment would enhance the bill's operational impact.

It would specify that the deputy director appoint an official with responsibility to optimize racial and ethnic equity in the Census count. To ensure that equity be a priority, this official would report directly to the director and deputy director.

My amendment directs the equity official to engage and collaborate with organizations that have influence with racial and ethnic groups, develop strategies and tactics to maximize participation of these populations, and rectify the undercount that has been typical of recent Census counts, especially among immigrants and homeless people.

The status of the efforts to optimize racial and ethnic equity will also be included in the Census Bureau's biannual reports to Congress, to ensure accountability and bolster the likelihood of progress.

Optimization of racial and ethnic equity in the Census count requires designation of a high-ranking official with direct responsibility for achieving this goal and reports directly to the Census leadership.

My amendment establishes that function, makes racial and ethnic equity in the decennial count a priority, specifies key strategies that must be undertaken, and ensures that Congress receives regular reports about the progress toward the goal.

H.R. 8326 is an excellent bill with vital reforms that are aptly augmented by my amendment's use of this opportunity to, at the same time, advance equity in the Census count.

In light of the decennial count's extremely consequential impact in terms of funding allocation formulas, political district apportionment, and other uses, it is imperative that the Census Bureau elevate racial and ethnic equity to a top priority in its counting strategies and procedures.

My amendment would create a framework for achieving this objective.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. CARTER of Louisiana). All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Oversight and Reform, printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee print 117-464, modified by the amendment printed in part D of House Report 117-464, shall be considered as adopted.

The bill, as amended, shall be considered as an original bill for purpose of further amendment under the 5-minute rule and shall be considered as read.

The text of the amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 8326

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 "Ensuring a Fair and Accurate Census Act".

SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN BUREAU OF THE CENSUS AUTHORITIES.

(a) BUDGET REQUESTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 1 of title 13, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 13 the following:

"§ 14. Budget requests

"(a) With respect to the budget request of the Bureau for fiscal year 2027 and each fiscal year thereafter submitted to the President for inclusion in the annual budget submission under section 1105(a) of title 31, the Director shall include in such request to the Secretary the estimated costs of carrying out the duties of the Bureau during the five-year period beginning on the fiscal year covered by such request.

"(b) On the date that the estimate of costs is submitted to the Secretary under subsection (a), the Director shall submit such estimate to the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, the Committees on the Budget of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate."

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for such subchapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 13 the following new item:

"14. Budget requests."

(b) DUTIES.—Section 21(c) of the title 13, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"(c) DUTIES.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall perform such duties as may be imposed upon the Director by law, regulations, or orders of the Secretary. The Director shall report directly to the Deputy Secretary of Commerce.

"(2) DECENNIAL CENSUS.—Any operational, statistical, or technical decision for any decennial census of population may be made only by the Director."

(c) ADVISORY COMMITTEES; DEPUTY DIRECTOR.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 21 of title 13, United States Code, as amended by subsection (b), is further amended—

(A) in the section heading, by striking "duties" and inserting "Deputy Director; advisory committees"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(d) DEPUTY DIRECTOR.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—There shall be in the Bureau a single Deputy Director of the Bureau, to be appointed by the Director. The position of Deputy Director shall be a career reserved position (as that term is defined in section 3132(a)(8) of title 5). The Deputy Director shall be selected from among any career appointee (as that term is defined in section 3132(a)(4) of such title) at any agency. The individual appointed to the position of Deputy Director shall be made from individuals who have a demonstrated ability in managing large organizations and experience in the collection, analysis, and use of statistical data.

"(2) FUNCTIONS.—The Deputy Director shall perform such functions as the Director shall designate. During any absence or disability of the Director, the Deputy Director shall act as Director.

"(3) VACANCY.—In the event of a vacancy in the office of Director, or when the Director is absent or unable to serve, the Deputy Director shall act as Director until a Director is appointed. If no individual is serving as Deputy Director, the highest level career employee of the Bureau shall act as Director until a Deputy Director or Director is appointed. This paragraph shall serve as the exclusive means of designating an acting Director.

"(e) ADVISORY COMMITTEES.—

"(1) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.), and subject to paragraph (2), the Director may establish advisory committees to provide advice with respect to the mission of the Bureau. Members of any such committee, including a committee established under paragraph (2), shall serve without compensation, but shall be entitled to transportation expenses and per diem in lieu of subsistence in accordance with section 5703 of title 5.

"(2) SPECIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEES.—

"(A) BUREAU OF THE CENSUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON STATISTICAL QUALITY STANDARDS.—The Director shall appoint a committee, to be known as the 'Advisory Committee on Statistical Quality Standards', composed of five members to review and provide recommendations on the statistical quality standards of the Bureau that guide the production and release of all Bureau decennial census products.

"(B) NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—There are hereby established the Bureau of the Census Scientific Advisory Committee and the Census Bureau National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic, and Other Populations, as described in the charters for each such committee published on March 15, 2022, and March 23, 2022, respectively, or any subsequent charters. Such advisory committees shall operate under the terms and conditions set forth in the applicable charter.

“(C) 2030 CENSUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The Director shall appoint an advisory committee, substantially similar to the 2010 Census Advisory Committee, consisting of up to 20 member organizations to address policy, research, and technical issues related to the design and implementation of the 2030 decennial census and the American Community Survey.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subchapter II of chapter 1 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 21 and inserting the following:

“21. Director of the Census; Deputy Director; advisory committees.”.

(d) POSITION REQUIREMENTS.—Section 22 of title 13, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “All permanent” and inserting “(a) IN GENERAL.—All permanent”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) POSITIONS.—Each position within the Bureau shall be a career position within the civil service, except for the position of the Director and not more than three other positions.”.

SEC. 3. LIMITATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DECENNIAL CENSUS.

Section 141 of title 13, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (i); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (f) the following:

“(g) LIMITATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS.—

“(1) NOTICE TO CONGRESS OF SUBJECTS, TYPES OF INFORMATION, AND QUESTIONS.—In the 2030 decennial census of population and each decennial census thereafter, the Secretary may not include any subject, type of information, or question that was not submitted to Congress in accordance with subsection (f).

“(2) BIENNIAL REPORTS.—

“(A) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than April 1 of the calendar year beginning after the date of enactment of the Ensuring a Fair and Accurate Census Act and biennially thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that—

“(i) describes each component of the operational plan for the subsequent decennial census of population; and

“(ii) includes a detailed statement on the status of all research, testing, and operations that are part of the Bureau’s comprehensive plan for the decennial census.

“(B) INTERNET PUBLICATION.—On the date on which the Secretary submits a report under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall publish the report on the public internet website of the Bureau.

“(3) SECRETARY CERTIFICATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, upon the date of submission of the report required by subsection (f)(2), shall submit, to the committees of Congress having legislative jurisdiction over the census, a certification stating that any question that has not appeared on the previous two decennial censuses has been researched, studied, and tested according to established statistical policies and procedures.

“(B) GAO REVIEW.—Not later than 6 months after the Secretary submits a certification under paragraph (2), the Comptroller General of the United States shall review such certification and submit a report to Congress on whether the questions to be included in the census have been researched, studied, and tested according to established statistical policies and procedures.”; and

(3) in subsection (i), as so redesignated, by inserting “DEFINITION.—” before “As used in”.

SEC. 4. DECENNIAL CENSUS LIFECYCLE COST ESTIMATES.

Section 141 of title 13, United States Code, as amended by section 3, is further amended by inserting after subsection (g) the following:

“(h) LIFECYCLE COSTS.—

“(1) ESTIMATE.—Not later than January 1, 2026, and every ten years thereafter, the Director shall transmit to the chairs of the committees described in paragraph (3) a lifecycle cost estimate for the decennial census of population first occurring after the date of such transmittal. Such estimate shall include the following with respect to such lifecycle:

“(A) An estimate of costs by each fiscal year.

“(B) Estimates of capital versus operating expenses.

“(C) Staffing projections for each year.

“(D) Assumptions about response rates, wages, and other economic variables.

“(2) UPDATE.—On the date the President submits the annual budget under section 1105(a) of title 31 during any calendar year a decennial of census of population is taken under this section, and on the date such annual budget is submitted during the immediately preceding four calendar years, the Director shall transmit a report describing any changes to the applicable lifecycle estimate transmitted under paragraph (1). Such report shall include the following:

“(A) The basis for any such changes.

“(B) Projected impacts on response rates, staffing requirements, or costs throughout the lifecycle.

“(C) An explanation of any differences in budgetary resources between the amount requested in the President’s annual budget request and the lifecycle cost estimate, as updated by this paragraph.

“(3) COMMITTEES.—The committees described in this paragraph are the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, and the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.”.

The Acting CHAIR. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part E of House Report 117–464 and amendments en bloc described in section 8 of House Resolution 1339.

Each such further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

It shall be in order at any time for the chair of the Committee on Oversight and Reform or her designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of amendments printed in part E of the report not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the committee or their designees, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC OFFERED BY DANNY K. DAVIS OF ILLINOIS

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chair, as the designee of the gentleman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY), I rise to offer amendments en bloc.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

Amendments en bloc consisting of amendment Nos. 1 and 3 printed in part E of House Report 117–464, offered by DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois:

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE OF TEXAS

Page 4, after line 16, insert the following:

“(4) CENSUS EQUITY OFFICIAL.—The Deputy Director shall appoint an employee within the Bureau, who shall report directly to the Deputy Director, and who shall be responsible for optimizing racial and ethnic equity in the decennial census of population, including by—

“(A) enhancing outreach to, and collaborating with, organizations and stakeholders that have demonstrated their influence with racial and ethnic communities that historically have had census participation rates that are lower than those of the overall population;

“(B) maximizing participation among racial and ethnic demographic cohorts that have historically had census participation rates that are lower than those of the overall population;

“(C) rectifying the undercount of cohorts of the population that have been undercounted in recent decennial census counts; and

“(D) any other strategies, initiatives, activities, or operations that would optimize such equity.”.

Page 8, line 4, after “census” insert the following: “, and including a detailed statement on the status of any initiatives, developments, and operations within the purview of the official appointed by the Deputy Director under section 21(d)(4)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. CASE OF HAWAII

Add at the end the following:

SEC. 5. REPORT ON LOCAL-LEVEL DATA AND LOCAL FIELD OPERATIONS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Bureau of the Census shall submit to Congress a report that—

(1) reviews the Bureau’s current processes for consulting and engaging with jurisdictions and local partners in conducting the decennial census, including as it relates to preventing and addressing inaccuracies;

(2) provides an update on the Bureau’s progress in implementing several of the Government Accountability Office’s recommendations as it relates to the collection and utilization of local-level data and coordination of local field operations; and

(3) outlines additional resources needed to support and improve the Bureau’s capacity to conduct an accurate count of the Nation’s population.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1339, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I strongly support these

amendments. Black, Latino, and indigenous communities all were significantly undercounted in the 2020 Census.

One of the key provisions of this bill is to codify the Bureau's National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic, and Other Populations in order to help reduce these undercounts.

Ms. JACKSON LEE's amendment will enhance this objective by ensuring there is a senior employee within the Census Bureau who is dedicated to enhancing racial and ethnic equity in the decennial Census.

The Constitution requires an enumeration that is fair and complete, one in which all people are counted so that all communities obtain the representation and services that they deserve. This amendment will help achieve that.

I also support the amendment offered by Representative CASE, which requires the Census Bureau to submit a report to Congress on the agency's process for consulting and engaging with jurisdictions and local partners in conducting the decennial Census.

We know that certain communities are traditionally harder to count, including groups that are mistrustful of the government, students and transient populations, minority communities, migrant communities, and communities with unique geographic challenges.

Engaging with local stakeholders is essential to reaching these communities and ensuring that the Census counts everyone in the United States, regardless of where they live. This amendment will increase transparency around the Bureau's process for engaging with jurisdictions and local partners and ensure that Congress and the American people can support the Census Bureau in this crucial effort.

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Chair, I rise to oppose the amendments en bloc.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Kentucky is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the en bloc package of amendments offered by Chairwoman MALONEY.

Specifically, I am opposed to the amendments offered by Representative JACKSON Lee and Representative CASE and will address them each.

First, Ms. JACKSON LEE's amendment requires the Deputy Director of the Census to appoint a new employee within the Census Bureau whose sole responsibility is to, "optimize racial and ethnic equity in the decennial Census population."

The core mission of the Census Bureau, as it already stands, is to conduct an accurate count of all people residing in the United States on Census day when the decennial Census is being conducted.

This is the mission for every employee who works on the Census. This

new position is completely unnecessary and redundant of the Census Bureau's preexisting mission to count everyone in the United States regardless of their race or ethnicity.

Because this amendment appears to be an attempt to inject identity politics into the Census Bureau's work, and because it would duplicate efforts already underway at the Census Bureau, I must oppose.

□ 1715

I turn to Representative CASE's amendment, which requires the Census Bureau to create and submit yet another report to Congress, but it fails to require the Census Bureau to actually do anything substantive to improve.

The Census Bureau already conducts extensive engagement campaigns with local jurisdictions to ensure an accurate count of all people during the decennial Census. This report would require the Census Bureau to outline additional processes for engaging with local jurisdictions.

The amendment would also require that the Census Bureau report to Congress on progress in implementing open GAO recommendations, but it does not outline any deadlines for implementing those open recommendations.

Finally, the amendment contains an open-ended invitation for the Census Bureau to ask for "additional resources." This is Washington speak to throw even more taxpayer money at the Census Bureau in the near future.

I fear this amendment will merely waste precious Census Bureau time and resources with an additional report with the sole purpose of justifying future taxpayer expenditures.

Therefore, I must oppose both of these amendments.

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

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Illinois will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. HICE OF GEORGIA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part E of House Report 117-464.

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Strike section 2(b) (relating to for-cause removal and duties) and redesignate subsequent subsections accordingly.

Page 3, line 7, strike "DEPUTY DIRECTOR". Page 3, beginning on line 9, strike "as amended by subsection (b), is further amended—" and insert "is amended by adding at the end the following:".

Page 3, strike line 11 and all that follows through page 4, line 16.

Page 4, line 17, redesignate subsection (e) as subsection (d).

Page 6, in the matter following line 13, strike "Deputy Director;".

Strike section 2(d) (relating to position requirements).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1339, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. HICE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

With all due respect, this bill will do anything but ensure a fair and accurate Census. Instead, it threatens to produce an unfair and inaccurate Census.

As ranking member of the Government Operations Subcommittee, I have stressed time and time again that we need reforms that will ensure a more accountable Federal workforce. But time and time again, Democrats show that they want anything but accountability for civil servants.

In fact, it is as though they view Federal employees as a protected and privileged class, and when a Federal bureaucracy is unaccountable, well, that is when it is most likely to threaten the American people with rogue activity like, in this case, providing an unfair and inaccurate Census.

First, it makes the Director of the Census unremovable except for "inefficiency, neglect of duty, or malfeasance in office." Then, it commands that only the Director can make operational, statistical, and technical decisions about the Census.

Mr. Chairman, what is the Secretary of Commerce supposed to do if he or she believes that the Census Director is making decisions that will lead to an unfair or inaccurate Census? Further, what is going to happen if there is no Director in place? Under the terms of the bill, only a career Census Bureau official can serve as the Acting Director.

This bill is a perfect example of how Democrats think unelected civil servants should be running our government and, in essence, that civil servants should be the ones who are governing the American people. This bill literally is having them attempt to influence who represents them. That is not the way our system is supposed to work.

My amendment would strip those provisions out of the legislation. If we are to ensure a fair and accurate Census, then we must ensure an accountable Census Bureau.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the Hice amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I oppose the amendment proposed by Representative HICE of Georgia. His amendment would weaken the protections in this bill that safeguard the Census Bureau from partisan manipulation. His amendment eliminates two key provisions from the bill.

First, the amendment would remove the provision requiring that the Bureau have a single Deputy Director position, which would be filled by a career official with relevant knowledge and experience, including experience in collecting and analyzing data and a demonstrated ability to manage large organizations. Experts agree that a single, qualified Deputy Director is important for ensuring smooth operations within the Bureau, including when there is an absence of a Senate-confirmed Census Director. Having a single Deputy Director also avoids disruptions that can be caused when multiple Deputy Directors are appointed with unclear job descriptions.

That is exactly what happened in the last administration. In August 2020, while the Census count was already underway, former President Trump appointed his third Deputy Director to the Census Bureau. The unclear duties and qualifications of these appointees sparked an internal inquiry by the Commerce Department's Inspector General's Office.

The amendment would also remove the cap on political appointees at the Census Bureau. The bill caps that number at four, which is consistent with historical precedent. During the last administration, there were an unprecedented eight political appointees at the Census Bureau. That is far too many political appointees for a nonpartisan agency like the Census Bureau, and it makes the danger of political manipulation much greater.

I am committed to protecting the integrity of the Census Bureau and improving each decennial count. Unfortunately, this amendment would make these goals harder to achieve.

Mr. Chairman, I urge all Members to oppose Representative HICE's amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER), who is the ranking member of the House Oversight and Reform Committee.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Georgia for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment offered by the Government Operations Subcommittee ranking member, my colleague, JODY HICE.

I support this sensible amendment, which will preserve vital accountability mechanisms for the Director of the Census Bureau. The bill attempts to insulate the Census Bureau Director and empower an unaccountable career

Deputy Director. We should not be tying the hands of a future President to properly exercise executive oversight over the management of the Census Bureau.

Mr. Chairman, I encourage my colleagues to support the commonsense Hice amendment.

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. HICE).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia will be postponed.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. BOURDEAUX) having assumed the chair, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 8326) to amend title 13, United States Code, to improve the operations of the Bureau of the Census, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

REMEMBERING MOON LANDRIEU

(Mr. CARTER of Louisiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, today, I am honored to remember a groundbreaking public servant, personal mentor, and inspiring New Orleanian, the Honorable Moon Landrieu, mayor of the city of New Orleans.

A son, father, husband, grandfather, brother, and lawyer, Moon Landrieu first served in the Louisiana House of Representatives in 1960 and next on the New Orleans City Council. He was elected mayor of the city of New Orleans from 1970 to 1978, served as U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development from 1979 to 1982, and was a circuit court judge.

Throughout his career, he fought for equality and justice, opposing Jim Crow legislation and successfully outlawing segregation in public accommodations, standing as a shining light during our Nation's darkest times.

He passed away on September 5, but the Honorable Moon Landrieu and his indelible impact will never be forgotten in our world.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 1 of House Resolution

1230, the House stands adjourned until noon tomorrow.

Thereupon (at 5 o'clock and 27 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, September 15, 2022, at noon.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-5221. A letter from the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter authorizing Lieutenant General Bryan P. Fenton, United States Army, to wear the insignia of the grade of general, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 777(b)(3)(B); Public Law 104-106, Sec. 503(a)(1) (as added by Public Law 108-136, Sec. 509(a)(3)); (117 Stat. 1458); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5222. A letter from the Undersecretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter authorizing 16 officers to wear the insignia of the grade of major general or brigadier general, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 777(b)(3)(B); Public Law 104-106, Sec. 503(a)(1) (as added by Public Law 108-136, Sec. 509(a)(3)); (117 Stat. 1458); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5223. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Memorandum of Justification for a drawdown; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-5224. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting a legislative proposal aimed to help agencies recruit and retain a highly skilled federal workforce; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-5225. A letter from the Chief, Regulatory Coordination Division, USCIS Office of Policy and Strategy, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Public Charge Ground of Inadmissibility [CIS No. 2715-22; DHS Docket No. USCIS-2021-0013] (RIN: 1615-AC74) received September 14, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5226. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report for Fiscal Year 2017 entitled "Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program" per section 2610(b) of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 8629(b); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Education and Labor.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas: Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. H.R. 4819. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to revitalize existing university infrastructure relating to nuclear science and engineering and establish new university-based nuclear science and engineering facilities, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 117-466). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following