

CENSUS AWARENESS MONTH

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(Extensions of Remarks - March 10, 2010)

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2010

- Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, the beginning of March marks the one-month process of one of the most important collective actions that our country partakes in, the national Census. Thus I want to express my support to House Resolution 1096, deeming this month designated as Census Awareness Month. The Census provides an opportunity to not only count how many people live in our great nation, but to also collect valuable data that will help to provide services to millions of Americans. According to information collected from the Census, over \$400 billion per year in federal funding is distributed to State and local governments. As a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, I want to ensure that all African Americans are counted as the Census has significant importance in the black community. The implementation and evaluation of programs like the Equal Employment Opportunity Act, the Civil Rights Act and the Fair Housing Act are based on Census data. In 2007 the Black community grew to 40.7 million from 33.5 million in the year 2000. Underrepresentation of minorities is the leading cause of underfunding programs that these communities utilize the most, such as education, health care, housing and transportation programs.

The myths that further discourage people from participating in the Census must be dispelled. The Census is not a long process; there are merely 10 questions to answer, making it the shortest Census form in history. By law the Census Bureau cannot share individual responses with anyone; that includes immigration authorities, IRS, FBI, CIA or any other government agency. The U.S. Census preferred method of participation is through forms sent through mail and returned through mail and Census workers will only visit households that do not return their forms. This snapshot of our nation also effects Congress itself; the distribution of U.S. House of Representative seats are based on the Census. In order to have proportional representation as well as programs and funding that directly serve the American people, everyone must participate in the 2010 United States Census. Underrepresentation of our population must be avoided; thus from March to April, I urge everyone to go to www.census.gov to find out more on how you can be involved in the 2010 U.S. Census.

