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Ways and Means Committee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 2, 2020

House Joint Resolution 6 Participation by Maryland Residents in the 2020 Census

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to present House Joint Resolution 6 Participation by Maryland Residents in the 2020 Census, which affirms that all practical efforts should be made to count every Maryland resident once and in the correct place for the 2020 Census.

As you may know, the decennial census is used to collect information used to determine how many seats a state has in the U.S. House of Representatives, and to redraw political boundaries that reflect changes in the population at the state and local level. Census data is also used in allocation of more than \$16 billion in federal funding to the state from over 300 federal programs, such as those used for highways, schools, housing vouchers, and Medicaid.

In Maryland, each person not counted equates to \$1,821 in lost federal funding every year, or \$18,210 per uncounted person over ten years. In 2010, the state's overall response rate was 76%, which required costly follow-ups to nonrespondents and a loss in resources for historically undercounted communities, which include people of color, low-income individuals, non-English speakers, and young children.

HJ 6 continues to build off the state's efforts to ensure a complete and accurate count by urging all Maryland residents to work with nonprofit organizations, community leaders, and trusted voices to make sure every resident is counted once and in the correct place according to where they live on Census Day, April 1, 2020.

It's critical that we make every effort to count everyone in the 2020 Census because the data will be used for apportionment, redistricting, and funding decisions that impact the state. For these reasons, I urge the committee to give a **favorable** report for **HJ 6**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jheanelle Wilkins'.

Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins