

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 26

INTRODUCED BY F. MANDEVILLE

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO INCLUDE A CITIZENSHIP QUESTION ON THE 2020 CENSUS.

WHEREAS, congressional apportionment is calculated using the outcome of the decennial census; and
WHEREAS, current congressional apportionment is based on the number of persons living in a district, not the number of citizens; and

WHEREAS, states with high numbers of unauthorized immigrants (California, Texas, and Florida) gained 19 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives since 1980; and

WHEREAS, Montana lost its second U.S. House seat following the 1990 census, leaving Montana's 1.05 million residents with only one seat in the U.S. House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, the average size of a U.S. House district by population in 2018 was 747,184 residents, making Montana underrepresented in Congress; and

WHEREAS, California has a population of 39.54 million, but an estimated 2.2 million California residents are unauthorized immigrants, giving California three additional seats in the U.S. House of Representatives by counting persons instead of citizens; and

WHEREAS, Americans have a right to an accurate count of not only our nation's citizens but the number of lawful and unlawful immigrants living within our borders; and

WHEREAS, given that the U.S. Constitution requires the "actual enumeration" of "all persons" living in the United States, the decennial census is our best opportunity to count both citizens and persons; and

WHEREAS, a citizenship question appeared on the census until 1950 and appeared on the long-form census from 1970 to 2000 and on the American Community Survey that accompanied the census in 2010.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the United States Congress be urged to include a citizenship question on the 2020 Census.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send a copy of this resolution to the Majority

- 1 Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each
- 2 member of Montana's Congressional Delegation.
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