

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1504

COMMITTEES:

AGRICULTURE

JUDICIARY

SMALL BUSINESS

February 16, 2018

The Honorable Wilbur Ross
Secretary of Commerce
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

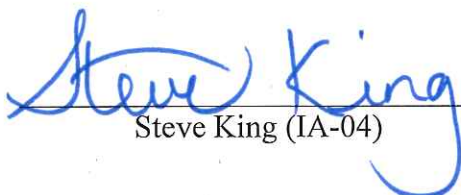
Dear Secretary Ross:

We write to demonstrate our strong support for requiring the decennial census to ask respondents about their citizenship status. Adding a citizenship question to the decennial census would result in American citizens being more accurately represented in Congress. In addition, such questions would finally provide for an accurate count of how many aliens, both legal and illegal, are residing in the United States.

For that purpose and in light of the vital role the decennial census plays in both representation and funding, I have introduced H.R. 3600, the Census Accuracy Act of 2017. Starting with the 2020 census, the bill would require a checkbox in any census questionnaire for respondents to indicate whether the respondent is: a citizen or national of the United States; lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States; an alien who otherwise has lawful status under the immigration laws; or none of these. This bill would also require that aliens be asked under which Federal program or provision of law they obtained legal status.

Members of Congress are not alone in their support for adding a citizenship question. It is our understanding that the Department of Justice recently requested that the Census Bureau add a citizenship question as a way to allow the department to better enforce the Voting Rights Act.

Again, we urge you to see that a citizenship question is added to the decennial census starting in 2020. Please let me know if you have any questions.


Steve King (IA-04)


Ralph Norman (SC-05)



Ralph Abraham, M.D. (LA-05)



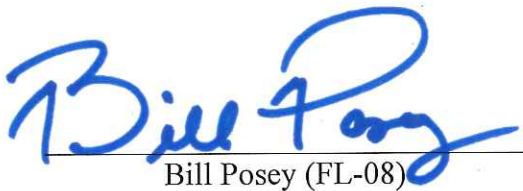
Mo Brooks (AL-05)



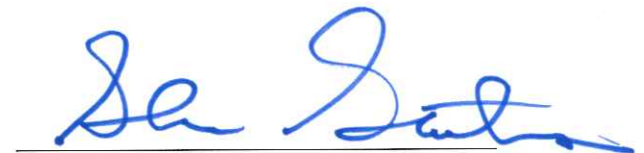
Tom McClintock (CA-04)



Andy Biggs (AZ-05)



Bill Posey (FL-08)



Glenn Grothman (WI-06)



Bob Gibbs (OH-07)



Mike Johnson (LA-04)