



House Joint Resolution 6

Participation by Maryland Residents in the 2020 Census

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Rules and Executive Nominations Committee

Date: March 2, 2020

From: Kevin Kinnally

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HJ 6. This joint resolution affirms that all practical efforts should be made to ensure a full, fair, and accurate count of all Maryland residents on Census Day, April 1, 2020. Moreover, the joint resolution strongly encourages all Marylanders to participate fully in the 2020 census.

Census data is used to allocate billions of dollars in federal funding for education, health, transportation, housing, community services, and job training. Moreover, businesses and industries decide where to locate new facilities and services based on census data, creating new jobs and promoting economic growth.

The U.S. Constitution places the census at the foundation of our democracy by calling for a count of the nation's residents every 10 years. The results of the census determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives, and the data is used to draw congressional and state legislative districts. Further, approximately \$375 billion in federal funding will be allocated to states and communities across the nation based on census data. Maryland will lose approximately \$1,800 annually for every person not counted.

An accurate census count, or lack thereof, has a lasting effect on counties, particularly when it comes to the distribution of federal funds. An under-counted population may lead to a significant decline in federal funding flowing to county governments or to county residents.

HJ 6 supports a more accurate 2020 Census, paving the way for a fair and equitable flow of resources to the State and its local jurisdictions.

Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report for HJ 6.