

By Senator Wilson

33-03589-08

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## Senate Memorial

A memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging Congress to make forms for the United States Decennial Census of 2010 available in the Creole language for the Haitian population of Florida.

WHEREAS, results from the United States Decennial Census of 2000 show that there were 419,317 foreign-born persons from Haiti in the United States when the census was taken, and

WHEREAS, the state with the largest population of foreign-born persons from Haiti in 2000 was Florida with 182,224, which represented 6.8 percent of Florida's total foreign-born population of 2.7 million, and

WHEREAS, in conducting the federal decennial statewide census in 2000, the United States Census Bureau used a variety of methods to communicate with people who could not speak English, and

WHEREAS, households that received the census form in the mail had the option of requesting the form in Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, or Korean, and

WHEREAS, individuals who believed that they were not included on a form or did not receive a form could use the "Be Counted" questionnaires that were available in public areas and printed in English, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and Korean, and

WHEREAS, the Census Bureau also published a short-form and a long-form language assistance guide in 49 different languages, one of which was Creole, to assist respondents, and

WHEREAS, however, given the considerable size of Florida's Haitian population, in the interest of equity and obtaining the

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30 | most accurate information possible from the next federal  
31 | decennial statewide census, the United States Census Bureau  
32 | should make forms for the United States Decennial Census of 2010  
33 | more accessible to the Haitian population of Florida by making  
34 | the census forms available in the Creole language, and

35 |       WHEREAS, in addition, the census forms for the United States  
36 | Decennial Census of 2010 should be prepared in a manner that will  
37 | allow a respondent to indicate whether he or she is a Haitian  
38 | national or of Haitian descent, NOW, THEREFORE,

39 |

40 | Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

41 |

42 |       That the Congress of the United States is urged to require  
43 | the United States Census Bureau to make census forms for the  
44 | United States Decennial Census of 2010 available in the Creole  
45 | language to provide for optimal accessibility by the Haitian  
46 | population of Florida and to prepare the census forms in a manner  
47 | that will allow a respondent to indicate whether he or she is a  
48 | Haitian national or of Haitian descent.

49 |       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
50 | dispatched to the President of the United States, to the  
51 | President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the  
52 | United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the  
53 | Florida delegation to the United States Congress.