

HM 439

2008

1 House Memorial

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

6
7 WHEREAS, results from the United States Decennial Census of
8 2000 show that there were 419,317 foreign-born persons from
9 Haiti in the United States when the census was taken, and

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

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

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

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

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

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29 WHEREAS, however, given the considerable size of Florida's
 30 Haitian population, in the interest of equity and obtaining the
 31 most accurate information possible from the next federal
 32 decennial statewide census, the United States Census Bureau
 33 should make forms for the United States Decennial Census of 2010
 34 more accessible to the Haitian population of Florida by making
 35 the census forms available in the Creole language, and

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

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

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

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