

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN SUPPORT OF SAMPLING FOR
2000 CENSUS

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 1998

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the importance and the need for a fair and accurate census count in the year 2000. The Constitution commands that a census of the nation's population be taken every ten years. Through its failure in accuracy, the 1990 census provided us with many valuable lessons, although better designed and executed than any previous census.

An accurate census is of the utmost importance, because the effects from inaccuracy can be detrimental to the population. As a result of inaccuracy, the 1990 Census caused many Americans to be denied an equal voice in their government. Federal spending employing population based formulas—for schools, crime prevention, health care, and transportation—were misdirected. The census provides the structure to base information and knowledge about the American population, and can only be done in an efficient, effective manner.

The census provides information for virtually all demographic information used by educators, policy makers, journalists, and community leaders. Census data directly affects decisions made on all matters of national and local importance, including education, employment, veterans' services, public health care, rural development, the environment, transportation and housing. Federal, state and local governments use census information to guide the annual distribution of \$180 billion in critical services. Congressional seats are reapportioned and legislative districts are drawn based on census data.

The 1990 census was a difficult undertaking, and in spite of unprecedented efforts to count everyone, accuracy in the 1990 Census fell short of the accuracy achieved in the 1980 Census. According to the Census Bureau, the 1990 Census missed 8.4 million people and double-counted 4.4 million others. In Texas alone, the 1990 Census missed more than 482,700 people, with children representing nearly half of Texas' undercount. Like the national results, a disproportionate number of the undercounted Texans were minorities—4% of African Americans were missed; 2.6% of Asians were undercounted; 5.4% of Latinos and persons of Hispanic origin were missed; and 2.8% of Native Americans were undercounted in Texas.

With all of the information we have gathered, regarding our past mistakes, it is of the greatest urgency that we utilize the most effective, efficient method for counting. Experts from the Census Bureau and three National Academy of Sciences panels concluded that lower accuracy and undercounts were caused through a number of societal trends. Congress

has already addressed the issue of inaccuracy in the Census through the Decennial Census Improvement Act of 1991, signed by President Bush, requiring the National Academy of Science to study "the means by which the Government could achieve the most accurate population count possible." Specifically considered was *inter alia*, "the appropriateness of using sampling methods in combination with basic data-collection techniques or otherwise, in the acquisition or refinement of population data for different levels of geography. . . ." The legislation passed in both the House and under suspension of the rules by unanimous consent in the Senate.

An accurate count in the 200 Census is far too important for partisan, political disputes. We need to ensure that we utilize the most scientific methods available. It is what every American deserves.

CONGRATULATING HIGH POINT
REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 1998

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate High Point Regional High School in Sussex Borough, New Jersey, on receiving the U.S. Department of Education's prestigious Blue Ribbon Schools Award.

This award recognizes that High Point Regional High School is one of the finest schools in our entire nation. This proves that public education works and that our young people in Sussex County are among the best and brightest. This honor is the result of hard work on the part of students, their parents, teachers and the Board of Education. Special congratulations go to Principal Barbara Miller. As a former teacher and school board member, I am proud of everyone associated with this accomplishment.

Of the thousands of middle schools and high schools across the United States, only 166 this year were found to be outstanding enough to receive this high honor. Recipients of the Blue Ribbon Schools Award have been judged particularly effective at meeting local, state and national goals. The award is presented to schools that have shown strong leadership, a clear vision and sense of mission, high quality teaching, challenging curriculum, a safe environment for learning, solid evidence of family involvement, evidence that the school helps all students achieve high standards, and a commitment to share best practices with other schools. These schools clearly display the quality of excellence necessary to prepare our young people for the challenges of the next century.

High Point serves more than 1,000 ninth-through-twelfth-grade students from the municipalities of Branchville, Frankford, Lafayette,

Sussex Borough and Wantage—an area of 123 square miles. The modern, two-story facility was built in 1965 to replace the former Sussex Borough High School and was expanded in 1975 and 1991 to accommodate steady increases in enrollment. The building includes a 7,000-square-foot library/media center, five computer labs with 105 work stations, a variety of comprehensive science labs, a modern television production studio, five physical education facilities, a vocational guidance center, and special education vocational training classrooms. Last year, a fiber optics system was installed to facilitate the expansion of future technology into every classroom. Outdoors, an outstanding rock climbing facility accentuates the extensive recreational opportunities of the region served by the school.

High Point's extensive and rigorous academic program spans more than 170 course offerings, including special courses in computers, engineering, law and cinema. Honors and advanced placement programs are offered in English, computer science, social studies, science, mathematics and foreign languages. Required courses for freshmen include English, mathematics, science, social studies and physical education. A rich and varied arts program is offered, with 25 percent of students participating in the music program and 30 percent in art. The Gifted and Talented program provides unique courses, independent study options, and many workshops and extracurricular activities such as Mock Trial and Model Congress. The fully functional Road Kill Cafe provides on-the-job training for vocational students while special education programs offer both departmental and mainstream classes. A program for autistic students was added during the 1997–1998 school year.

Recognizing that student attendance is essential to foster high student performance, High Point has a strict attendance policy that mandates summer sessions for students with excessive absences. The result is an attendance rate that exceeds 95 percent.

The excellence of High Point's academic program has been repeatedly recognized. The school was selected for the state Department of Education's Best Practices Award in recognition of its innovative Peer Leadership and Adventure Program. The *Star-Ledger* newspaper has ranked it No. 1 in New Jersey among schools of its class. The quality of the academic program is further proven by student test scores. More than 90 percent of students have passed the New Jersey High School Proficiency Test in the past three years, with passing rates of 91.3 percent in reading, 97.8 percent in writing and 98.9 percent in mathematics.

High Point students are well prepared by their teachers, parents and role models in the community. They can rest assured they will be able to handle whatever challenges they choose in life. Once again, congratulations to everyone involved in this impressive achievement.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.