A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the United States Census Bureau to conduct a complete and thorough 2020 census by collecting data on residency and citizenship.

WHEREAS, The U.S. Constitution requires an "actual enumeration" of the population every 10 years to determine representation in Congress, the allocation of federal dollars, and other crucial decisions; and

WHEREAS, The framers envisioned the concept of representative government as the foundation for our nation, a government governed and selected by its people; and

WHEREAS, The United States has a long history of inquiring about citizenship and tracking its citizens. The question concerning citizenship originated with the 1820 census, the question concerning place of birth originated with the 1850 census, and the question concerning year of entry originated with the 1890 census; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Census consistently inquired about citizenship between 1890 and 1950. In 1970, the U.S. Census developed long and short forms to distribute. The long form, which inquired about citizenship, was sent to approximately 1 in 6 U.S. households, significantly fewer people than those who received the short form; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Census inquired about citizenship on its long form from 1970 until 2000, but the long form was discontinued in 2010. The short form was then used, but it never inquired about citizenship. Today, the only tool used by the U.S. Census Bureau to inquire about citizenship is the annual American Community Survey, which surveys only 3.5 million households each year; and

WHEREAS, Because the U.S. Census does not ask about citizenship status, the data that is used to determine congressional seats and electoral college votes includes noncitizens and unauthorized immigrants; and

WHEREAS, All information collected by the U.S. Census is statutorily mandated to remain confidential. Any answer regarding citizenship cannot be disclosed to law enforcement or to any other party for any other purpose and, therefore, would not result in deportation or any other adverse action to an individual; and

WHEREAS, Census data can shape and determine political and social
structures. The next census will impact the future of the United States especially in the next decade. Therefore, it is imperative to understand and collect data on citizenship status to make decisions and appropriate government representation for lawful residents and citizens; and

WHEREAS, When the U.S. Census does not collect this data, it places citizens at risk of losing representation in the political process: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas: That we urge the United States Census Bureau to conduct a complete and thorough 2020 census by collecting data on residency and citizenship; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of the State shall send enrolled copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of State, each member of the Kansas delegation in the Congress of the United States, the Director of the U.S. Census Bureau, and Senator Tyson.