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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8015

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Senators Frockt, Wellman, Conway, Hunt, Cleveland, Chase, Hasegawa, Mullet, Kuderer, Ranker, Takko, Saldaña, Billig, Keiser, Rolfes, Pedersen, Nelson, Darneille, McCoy, Liias, and Van De Wege

1 TO THE HONORABLE DONALD J. TRUMP, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,  
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
4 THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of  
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled,  
7 respectfully represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, The federal decennial census is mandated under Article  
9 I, Section 2 of the United States Constitution and serves as a  
10 foundational element of our representative form of democracy; and

11 WHEREAS, The federal census also is a tool for providing complete  
12 and accurate statistical information for many critical public and  
13 private functions and services; and

14 WHEREAS, Voters across the country, including the state of  
15 Washington, count on a complete and accurate census to ensure fair  
16 representation and districting at every level of government; and

17 WHEREAS, Washington receives federal dollars for critical  
18 services based on our population and has seen explosive growth since  
19 2010, which must be accurately and equitably distributed based on  
20 census data; and

21 WHEREAS, Washington state and local government agencies rely on  
22 census data for planning and delivering education, economic  
23 development and employment, health, and transportation services; and

1       WHEREAS, Washington state businesses depend on census data for  
2 strategic planning and investment decisions, and civic organizations  
3 rely on census data to identify community needs, request and fund  
4 programs, monitor trends, and assess program effectiveness; and

5       WHEREAS, The federal census bureau is currently underfunded and  
6 in jeopardy of not being fully prepared to administer the upcoming  
7 census in 2020, which could lead to an incomplete or inaccurate  
8 census; and

9       WHEREAS, Wilbur Ross, the secretary of the United States  
10 Department of Commerce has reported to Congress on the need for  
11 funding and has requested increased funding to the census bureau to  
12 complete preparations for the 2020 census; and

13       WHEREAS, John Thomson, director of the United States census  
14 bureau resigned from office in 2017 and a permanent replacement has  
15 not yet been appointed;

16       NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully urge that the  
17 Congress of the United States immediately fulfill Secretary Ross's  
18 request to provide adequate funding for the 2020 census and that a  
19 new director of the census bureau be nominated and appointed.

20       BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
21 transmitted to the Honorable Donald Trump, President of the United  
22 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the  
23 House of Representatives, each member of Congress, and the Secretary  
24 of the United States Department of Commerce.

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