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## **INDIANAPOLIS LEGISLATORS INTRODUCE RESOLUTION TO PROMOTE 2010 U.S. CENSUS**

*Bipartisan delegation notes importance of census in fostering economic development, funding social services and improving community overall*

INDIANAPOLIS – A delegation of Indianapolis area leaders in the Indiana General Assembly introduced a joint resolution in both the Senate and the House of Representatives this week promoting the 2010 Census and its importance to Indianapolis.

“We have one opportunity every 10 years to get an accurate count of the people of Indianapolis, Indiana and America,” said **Rep. Bill Crawford**, one of the resolution’s four co-authors. “An accurate census count is important to all of the people of Indianapolis, but especially for the historically undercounted minority community, and that importance is the reason for this bipartisan resolution.”

**Sen. Pat Miller** also co-authored the concurrent resolution promoting the 2010 Census, which is a vital source for determining levels of government funding and representation.

“My colleagues and I put forward this resolution to show our collective support for the 2010 Census and to promote awareness and participation here in Indianapolis and around the state,” said **Sen. Miller**. “Census data is vital to planning development for businesses and economic development, as well as directing funding and coordination of social services, grant programs, health care and more.”

The 2010 Census is one of the shortest in history, with just 10 questions that take about 10 minutes to complete. Census forms will arrive in mailboxes in mid-March, and people are asked to mail the forms back on or before Census Day, April 1.

“The census is unique in that it includes every living person in the United States – every man, woman and child,” said co-author **Rep. Mike Murphy**. “There are few, if any ways for the people of Indianapolis and all of Indiana to similarly impact the growth and development of their community.”

Each year, the federal government can allocate more than \$400 billion to states and communities based, in part, on census data. The data is also used to inform an array of local initiatives, from justifying the need for an after-school program to designating urban revitalization areas.

“Every person here in our Indianapolis community and across the state stands to benefit from increased participation in the 2010 U.S. Census,” said co-author **Sen. Greg Taylor**.

“From social service, education and health care programs to new businesses, new developments and the increase in commerce that comes with a vibrant, growing population, we all have something to gain.”

State legislators now join Indianapolis **Mayor Gregory Ballard** and **U.S. Congressman Andre Carson** as part of a historic level of bipartisan leadership and promotion of the census. Ballard and Carson have led multiple events this year to promote the census, including a recent event to encourage Indianapolis residents to pursue census jobs.

“What we have seen to this point is a great outpouring of excitement and support for the 2010 U.S. Census here in Indianapolis, where it will be incredibly important on many levels,” said **Indianapolis Complete Count Committee co-chair Amos Brown**.

Ballard created the committee, also co-chaired by **Indiana Health Care Association President Steve Smith**, to create awareness of the census and its importance to the people of Indianapolis.

“The support this effort receives from our community and its leaders is a sign of how important the census is here in Indianapolis, and creates a foundation for economic development, social services funding and overall community enhancement,” said **Mayor Ballard**. “It’s clear as we see elected leaders from both parties step forward that there is consensus on the census – and how important it really is.”

The 2010 Census form will arrive in the mail and also be made available at public locations throughout the city. The information in census forms is completely and entirely confidential.

To find out more about the Indianapolis Census effort and how the data is used, visit [www.indycensus2010.com](http://www.indycensus2010.com).

For more information about Census jobs, visit <http://www.census.gov/hrd/www/index.html>.

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