

**Statement of Congressman Patrick McHenry  
Ranking Member**

Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census, and National  
Archives

*“Census 2010: Assessing the Bureau’s Strategy for Reducing  
the Undercount of Hard-to-Count Populations”*

March 23, 2009

Thank you, Chairman Clay, for holding this important hearing on reducing the undercount in the 2010 Census.

The Census Bureau’s Regional Partnership Program and advertising plan are part of an Integrated Communications Campaign aimed at reducing the 2010 undercount, reaching hard-to-count communities, and achieving a “full count” Decennial Census. Reaching these communities is not only important, but also required by the U.S. Constitution. A full count census – an actual enumeration – is specifically and firmly rooted in Article I.

The economic stimulus bill included \$1 billion in additional funding for the Census Bureau, with at least \$250 million of that amount specifically designated by Congress for the Partnership Program and outreach to traditionally hard-to-count communities. The Partnership Program for the 2000 Census involved more than 140,000 organizations and for 2010, the Bureau has already partnered with over 10,000 organizations and hired over 800 partnership staff. In order for such a large endeavor to succeed, rigorous oversight and transparency of funds and of participants are absolutely vital.

In hiring temporary enumerators, the Census Bureau has testified that it will conduct thorough FBI background checks that include fingerprinting. We must make sure the Bureau has comparable measures in place to hold organizations participating in the Partnership Program and their employees equally accountable for their actions.

Furthermore, the Bureau should have clear guidelines and standards for the selection of partner organizations. It is important to ensure that contracts are awarded through a competitive process and not simply doled out to anyone who applies, as well as monitor how and where money is spent by participating organizations. Accountability in the spending of these funds is essential.

Today's hearing presents an opportunity for the Bureau to describe the quality control measures it plans to implement during the hiring of all field workers and enumerators and the field work process in general.

As I've stated before, Chairman Clay and I share the goal of ensuring that every individual in America will be counted once, and only once, on Census Day in 2010. A transparent and accountable Partnership Program and a strong advertising campaign are fundamental to achieving it.

Again, thank you Mr. Chairman for holding this hearing and I look forward to the testimonies from our witnesses.