



The Ferguson Library New & Notable Sources of Government Information May 2019

Supreme Court



Transcripts of Hearing about Citizenship Question on 2020 Census

Department of Commerce v. New York

April 23, 2019

Docket Number: 18-966

Audio Version:

https://www.supremecourt.gov/oral_arguments/audio/2018/18-966

Transcript:

https://www.supremecourt.gov/oral_arguments/argument_transcripts/2018/18-966_5hek.pdf

A citizenship question hasn't been asked of the whole country on the decennial count since 1950. Because census data is an input to nearly all other economic data and reports, the 2020 count will have a wide variety of statistical ramifications for the next decade. Several lower courts have argued that the citizenship question is discriminatory and will lead to an inaccurate population count that would disadvantage immigrant-heavy communities. If significant numbers of immigrants refuse to fill out the census form, that could undercount the population in a state, potentially leading to lower federal funding or even a loss of a congressional seat.

The Commerce Department maintains that the question was added to the basic census form to improve compliance with the Voting Rights Act, which requires information on the number and location of minorities who are eligible to vote – and by definition U.S. citizens.

This transcript of the Supreme Court hearing reveals deep divisions among the Justices on this question. A decision is expected by the end of June. The census questionnaire needs to be finalized by then to be printed on schedule, according to the Justice Department.

News from the Federal Depository Library Program



The Mueller Report

<https://permanent.fdlp.gov/gpo119242/report.pdf>

This redacted report covers subjects ranging from questions about Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. presidential election to whether President Donald Trump obstructed justice. 448 pp. 12% of the report is blacked out (redacted).

The print version will be available soon.



Most viewed on Congress.gov

H.R. 109 (116th Congress) Recognizing the Duty of the Federal Government to Create a Green New Deal
(Introduced February 7, 2019)
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-resolution/109/text>

This resolution calls for the creation of a Green New Deal with the goals of

- achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions;
- establishing millions of high-wage jobs and ensuring economic security for all;
- investing in infrastructure and industry;
- securing clean air and water, climate and community resiliency, healthy food, access to nature, and a sustainable environment for all; and
- promoting justice and equality.

The resolution calls for accomplishment of these goals through a 10-year national mobilization effort. The resolution also enumerates the goals and projects of the mobilization effort, including

- building smart power grids (i.e., power grids that enable customers to reduce their power use during peak demand periods);
- upgrading all existing buildings and constructing new buildings to achieve maximum energy and water efficiency;
- removing pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation and agricultural sectors;
- cleaning up existing hazardous waste and abandoned sites;
- ensuring businesspersons are free from unfair competition; and

providing higher education, high-quality health care, and affordable, safe, and adequate housing to all.

H.R. 1044 (116th Congress) Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act of 2019
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1044/text>

This is a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the per-country numerical limitation for employment-based immigrants, to increase the per-country numerical limitation for family-sponsored immigrants, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1585 (116th Congress) Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019
(Introduced March 7, 2019)
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1585/text>

A comprehensive bill that includes, among other things, enhancing legal tools to combat domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking; improving services for victims; providing grants to healthcare systems that respond to violence against women; assuring economic security for victims; prevention of elder abuse/neglect in later life; making genital mutilation a federal crime, and other purposes.

<p>H.R. 5 (116th Congress) Equality Act (<i>Introduced March 13, 2019</i>) https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/5/text</p>	<p>This bill prohibits discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity in areas including public accommodations and facilities, education, federal funding, employment, housing, credit, and the jury system. Specifically, the bill defines and includes sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity among the prohibited categories of discrimination or segregation. The bill allows the Department of Justice to intervene in equal protection actions in federal court on account of sexual orientation or gender identity. The bill prohibits an individual from being denied access to a shared facility, including a restroom, a locker room, and a dressing room, that is in accordance with the individual's gender identity.</p>
<p>H.R. 420 (116th Congress) Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol Act (<i>Introduced January 19, 2019</i>) https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/420/text</p>	<p>Calls for the legalization and regulation of marijuana products.</p>
<p>On the Senate Floor</p>	
<p>S.R. 67 (116th Congress) A Resolution Expressing the Sense of the Senate on the Importance and Vitality of the United States Alliance with Japan and the Republic of Korea, and our trilateral cooperation in the Pursuit of Shared Interests (<i>Introduced February 12, 2019</i>) https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-resolution/67/text</p>	<p>The United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea are committed to working together towards a world where the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (in this preamble referred to as the "DPRK") does not threaten global peace and security with its weapons of mass destruction, missile proliferation, and illicit activities, and where the DPRK respects human rights and its people can live in freedom, and other purposes</p>
<p>Bills Presented to the President</p>	
<p>S.J. Res. 7 (116th Congress) A Joint Resolution to Direct the Removal of the United States Armed Forces from Hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been Authorized by Congress (<i>Introduced January 30, 2019; Vetoed April 16, 2019</i>) https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-resolution/67/text</p>	<p>This joint resolution directs the President to remove U.S. Armed Forces from hostilities in or affecting Yemen within 30 days unless Congress authorizes a later withdrawal date, issues a declaration of war, or specifically authorizes the use of the Armed Forces. Prohibited activities include providing in-flight fueling for non-U.S. aircraft conducting missions as part of the conflict in Yemen. This joint resolution shall not affect any military operations directed at Al Qaeda. The President must submit to Congress, within 90 days, reports assessing the risks that would be posed (1) if the United States were to cease supporting operations with respect to the conflict in Yemen, and (2) if Saudi Arabia were to cease sharing Yemen-related intelligence with the United States.</p>
<p>H.J Res 46 (116th Congress) Relating to a National Emergency Declared by the President, February 15, 2019 (<i>Introduced February 22, 2019; Vetoed March 18, 2019</i>) https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-joint-resolution/46</p>	<p>cf. April New and Notable. Failed to pass over President's veto.</p>
<p>H.R. 1839 (116th Congress) Medicaid Services Investment of Accountability Act of 2019 (<i>Introduced March 21, 2019</i>) https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1839/text</p>	<p>In general, it is to expand Medicaid services for children, and other purposes. (<i>On the President's desk</i>)</p>

New Electronic Titles from the FDLP



Addressing Housing Affordability in High Cost Metropolitan Areas in the U.S.

<https://permanent.fdlp.gov/gpo118416/Addressing-Housing-Affordability-High-Cost-Metropolitan-Areas.pdf>

This publication highlights a select number of approaches to address the affordability crisis. It examines the cost of renting in these metropolitan areas, and discusses challenges and possible solutions at the state and local level.

Dangers of a Nuclear No First Use Policy

<https://permanent.fdlp.gov/gpo118819/DANGERS-OF-A-NO-FIRST-USE-POLICY.PDF>

In the many decades that U.S. nuclear forces have deterred adversaries and assured allies and partners, the U.S. has never adopted a policy declaring it would not use nuclear weapons first in a conflict. Today, the U.S. continues its longstanding policy of retaining some degree of ambiguity regarding the precise circumstances that might lead to a U.S. nuclear response.

Healthy Oceans and Healthy Economies: The State of Our Oceans in the 21st Century

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CHRG-116hrg34955/pdf/CHRG-116hrg34955.pdf>

This publication addresses the historic cycle of global warming and discusses the economic and environmental dangers inherent if there is not more investment in healthy oceans.