

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

CITY OF LOWELL

In City Council

RESOLUTION

To support Congresswoman Trahan's efforts to urge US Census Bureau include Khmer, Hmong and Lao among the languages supported by the Internet Self-Response and Census Questionnaire Assistance options for the 2020 Census.

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The City of Lowell, through its City Council, wishes to go on record to support the inclusion of Khmer, Hmong and Lao among the languages supported by the Internet Self-Response (ISR) and Census Questionnaire Assistance (CQA) options for the 2020 Census; and

Among the largest refugee populations to resettle in America in the past 50 years, these communities face unique barriers to being counted, such as poverty and limited English proficiency.

Offering these additional language support tools is a necessary step to ensure an accurate count of some of these hard to reach populations, which will bear upon the availability of vital public resources for local communities in the coming years.

According to the 2017 American Community Survey, Cambodian, Hmong, and Laotian communities number nearly 780,000 in the United States. By comparison, the average Congressional District has a population of 710,000. The same ACS dataset indicates that 39.5 percent of Cambodian households, 32.9 percent of Hmong households, and 37.6 percent of Laotian households speak English less than "very well." In addition, more than 14 percent of these communities live in poverty. It is crucial that all reasonable measures be taken to reduce language barriers that might otherwise prevent an accurate count from being performed.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOWELL as follows:

That we, the members of the City Council of the City of Lowell jointly and severally, wish to be recorded in support of Congresswoman Trahan's efforts to urge US Census Bureau include Khmer, Hmong and Lao among the languages supported by the Internet Self-Response and Census Questionnaire Assistance options for the 2020 Census.

Submitted by:

CITY COUNCIL - CITY OF LOWELL

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Mayor William Samaras

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Edward J. Kennedy

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