

**Statement
Of
Congressman Joe Baca
Thursday, July 10, 2008
2154Eayburn HOB
2:00 p.m.**

“2010 Census: Assessing the Census Bureau’s Progress”

- Thank you, Chairman for inviting me to be here and for holding this critically important hearing.
- As Chair of the Hispanic Caucus, I understand the profound impact of the 2010 Census on the Hispanic community.
- Working with our CHC Census lead, Rep. Gonzalez, we have had numerous discussions on the Census and reducing the undercount in our community.
- There 2000 Census uncovered several challenges with reducing the undercount of the Hispanic community.
- This time we have an opportunity to learn from the shortfalls and work to correct the undercount.
- The 2010 Census will take place in less than 2 years. The outcome will direct congressional representation and future funding at every level of the government. Will determine statistics that will be used by numerous states, government agencies, bureaus and organizations.
- Mr Chairman, for too long our communities have been shortchanged in federal support and in representation by a less than accurate count of our residents.
- It is important that the Census work with our community whether it is through:
 - working with Members with minority populations,
 - national organizations and experts,
 - or trusted local community leaders, and organizations.
- I’ve heard from my own constituents that:
 - That the Census forms are too long and confusing
 - That the Census takers are spies for other governmental agencies
 - That there are never enough Census takers that speak their language
 - That they will return with the cops or immigration officials after they count everyone.
- It is by relying on the Hispanic community and her leaders, that the Census can gain the trust of the Hispanic community.
- I commend the Members here for their work, thank you for inviting me to speak today. Through the work of those here today and those in the field tomorrow, we can work to achieve an accurate 2010 Census.

- Thank you.

-END-