



## **OPPOSE BENNETT-VITTER AMENDMENT**

Adding a new question to the 2010 Census questionnaire less than six months before Census Day (April 1, 2010) would mean the Census Bureau could not complete the enumeration, processing, and delivery of census results by the statutory deadline of December 31, 2010.

### **It is too late to shift gears at this point in the process.**

- More than 300 million questionnaires that have already been printed would need to be reprinted. Current printing contracts would have to be halted and modified. This reprinting could not be completed in time to meet deadlines for preparing mail out questionnaires. Rewriting and reprinting would also be required for all the other operational materials that are dependent on the questionnaire.
- Even adding an errata sheet with additional questions would require the Census Bureau to make major modifications which include re-writing software code and reprogramming scanners to read hundreds of millions of forms. The magnitude of these changes would cost hundreds of millions of dollars, require significant modifications of Census Bureau contracts, and would introduce high risk of errors and system failures for the 2010 Census.

### **The exact wording of every question was made available to Congress and others in 2008.**

- The Census Bureau met its statutory responsibility by submitting the questionnaire subjects to Congress on April 1, 2007 and the exact planned question wording to the Congress by April 1, 2008.
- The Bureau conducts a multi-year effort to develop, test, and select the final questionnaire content and wording for the 2010 Census, involving extensive consultation with Congress and many decennial census stakeholders throughout the nation.
- A change will require using untested content in the actual census, which may affect both response rates and data quality and cannot be implemented in time to deliver apportionment counts by the statutory deadline of December 31, 2010.