

STATEMENT OF SENATOR JOHN McCAIN  
CHAIRMAN, SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION  
FULL COMMITTEE HEARING  
ON THE YEAR 2000 DECENNIAL CENSUS  
MARCH 28, 2001

- C First, let me thank the witnesses for being here today. This morning's hearing will discuss the Year 2000 Decennial Census and issues relating to the Secretary of Commerce's decision to release unadjusted Census data to the states for redistricting and is being held at the request of Senator Hollings.
- C I am encouraged by news reports that the Year 2000 Census was the most accurate ever. I am pleased to hear that the Census was on time and under budget. It is important to note the improvement in this Census, which had only a 1.2% total undercount with a much lower undercount for minorities than the 1990 Census. The Census Bureau deserves our praise for its successful efforts.
- C However, reports also show that there is still room for improvement. According to the Census' own estimates, almost 3.3 million Americans were not included in the Year 2000 Census. This undercount will affect redistricting for the House of Representatives. In addition, the Secretary must decide whether or not to adjust the Census results for the allocation of federal funding. This decision will affect a number of states, including my state of Arizona.
- C Congress should examine the results of the Year 2000 Census to determine what was done correctly, and where there is room for improvement. The Supreme Court has ruled that the Census Bureau cannot constitutionally use sampling for apportionment of the House of Representatives. So we must look at ways to ensure the most accurate Constitutional count possible for the Year 2010 Census.
- C I thank the witnesses for their testimony today.