

**Written Testimony from U.S. Rep. Ed Perlmutter (CO-07) in support of *The Every Person Counts in Colorado Act* (HB19-1239)
Submitted: March 26, 2019**

The decennial census as required by the U.S. Constitution is critical to our state and communities. It is not a partisan issue – it's an issue of funding and resource allocation.

Colorado is poised to receive more than \$13 billion in federal funds per year based on data from the 2020 Census. An incomplete or inaccurate census could jeopardize significant funding for many of the priorities important to Coloradans. The census plays an important role in distributing federal funding for everything from highways and Pell Grants to Section 8 Housing programs and mental health services.

There is a lot at stake with every decennial census, but the 2020 Census is of particular importance given Colorado's rapidly growing population and the state's needs as it relates to healthcare and infrastructure. The reliability of information collected by the U.S. Census Bureau is crucial and the amount of resources it will take to ensure a complete count cannot be shortchanged.

That's why legislation introduced by Reps. Tipper and Caraveo is so important. *The Every Person Counts in Colorado Act* (HB19-1239) would provide crucial grant funding to nonprofit organizations and local governments with the sole purpose of educating and raising awareness about the 2020 Census. The educational outreach will be focused on hard-to-reach communities across Colorado, including rural areas, making it particularly important.

According to the most recent data, 25 percent of Coloradans are considered hard-to-count. And estimates show that even a one percent undercount could mean a loss of more than \$630 million in federal money to Colorado over a decade. Creating a strong, bipartisan well-funded grant program will go a long way to ensure all Coloradans benefit from federal funding dollars.

I want to thank Reps. Tipper and Caraveo for their leadership on this issue and I respectfully urge your support of HB19-1239. Thank you for the opportunity to address you and your colleagues on this critical funding issue for our state.

Sincerely,



Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress