

Rep. Hoogendyk offered the following concurrent resolution:

House Concurrent Resolution No. 17.

A concurrent resolution to memorialize the Congress of the United States to adopt and present to the states for ratification an amendment to the United States Constitution that would provide that only citizens may be counted for purposes of determining congressional representation among the states.

Whereas, One of the cornerstones of our democratic republic is the decennial census, which is the basis for congressional representation and the apportionment process. The data gathered through the census is used to determine how the 435 members of the United States House of Representatives are divided among the states; and

Whereas, With growing numbers of illegal immigrants concentrated in a small number of states, especially California, states with few illegal immigrants suffer a commensurate reduction in the number of their members of the United States House of Representatives. This is true for Michigan, which has experienced a steady decline in congressional representation over the past few decades. Projections for the next reapportionment, after the 2010 census, include the loss of more seats for Michigan and other states with few illegal immigrants; and

Whereas, While estimates of actual illegal aliens in our country are higher, the 2000 federal census found 7 million illegal aliens. It seems wrong for illegal aliens to have as profound an impact on our political environment as they presently do. While immigration is a very complex issue that must be addressed, it seems clear that including illegal immigrants in the calculation of congressional representation is wrong; and

Whereas, A measure has been introduced in the United States House of Representatives to propose an amendment to the United States Constitution that would provide that only citizens may be counted for purposes of apportioning congressional representation among the states. This legislation, H.J.R. 53, is long overdue; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That we memorialize the Congress of the United States to adopt and present to the states for ratification an amendment to the United States Constitution that would provide that only citizens may be counted for purposes of determining congressional representation among the states; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.