



Dear Friends,

Over the next few months, the U.S. Census Bureau will start collecting data for the 2010 Census. The census is performed every 10 years and the data collected is used to determine how resources are allocated throughout our towns, cities and states. I have included a timeline and some background on the census, as well as some tips on how to protect yourself and ensure that you speak only with an authorized census worker. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

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www.housedems.ct.gov/Cook



State Representative

MICHELLE COOK

Representing Torrington
65th House District

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The 2010 U.S. Census Will Begin Soon

Timeline:

March: A census form will be mailed to you. If you fill out the form and mail it back by April 1, 2010, no census taker will need to contact you.

April-July: Census workers will then visit the homes of people who have not returned their forms in order to collect the census information.

Background:

When you fill out the census form, you are making a statement about what resources your community needs. Accurate data reflecting changes in your community are crucial in apportioning seats within the legislative branch of government and in deciding how money is allocated for things like hospitals and schools. The Census Bureau is prohibited from disclosing individual, personal information to anyone. Census employees take an oath of nondisclosure and are sworn for life to protect the data.

Safety Tips:

Protect yourself. Be alert. Don't be a victim of fraud or identity theft. Make sure you are speaking with an authorized census worker. Here are some ideas from the Better Business Bureau:

- Before sharing information, ask to see the census worker's identification badge and confidentiality notice.
- Do not share information such as your social security number, credit card number or banking information. An authorized census worker will not need or ask for this information.
- Authorized census workers will not ask for donations.
- A census worker will not contact you via email.
- Do not let anyone you do not know into your house, even a census worker.
- Please report any suspicious behavior to the Torrington Police Department at **860.489.2000**.

Privacy and Security:

Census employees face harsh fines and jail time for sharing any personal information collected during the census. You can feel confident that your information will not be shared with the FBI, CIA, IRS, local police or any other agency. If you receive a visit from a census employee, first check their identification, and then stand up and be counted. You'll be helping your town, your state, schools, hospitals and emergency services to receive the funding they deserve.

If you need additional assistance or have questions, contact Michelle Cook at:

Email: Michelle.Cook@cga.ct.gov

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