

## **Rep. Maloney Census Citizenship Documents Subpoena Statement**

I stand behind the chairman and his decision to issue this subpoena for documents related to Secretary Ross's decision to add the citizenship question to the 2020 census.

Even under the most transparent conditions, this decision would warrant congressional oversight, given the profound and lasting consequences the census count has on our ability to govern, grow our economy, and represent the American people.

But since this decision was announced, the administration has been withholding and

redacting critical documents related to its decision.

Secretary Ross and DOJ official John Gore have refused to answer countless questions about their conversations with other administration officials regarding the process by which this decision was made.

And evidence from the limited Administrative record makes clear, that this decision to add the citizenship question to the 2020 census was pretextual.

Those aren't my words, they are the words of two separate federal judges.

The question is why?

Why did Secretary Ross say that he responded solely to the Department of Justice's request to add the question, when his emails show that he decided to add the question in his first days on the job, and later asked multiple agencies to formally request it?

Why did Secretary Ross decide to add the question over the objection of his own census bureau professional statisticians who said it would lead to lower response rates?

Why did Secretary Ross feel it was necessary to violate federal law and procedure precedents to add this question?

Commerce is required to submit census topics to Congress 3 years before the census.

They are required to submit questions to topics 2 years before the census.

Secretary Ross violated these procedures and many others in his silent campaign to add the citizenship q

This committee has given the administration every chance and then some to voluntarily comply with our oversight efforts.

We've identified a limited set of priority documents, given the administration

additional time to produce them, and followed up no less than 25 times.

The administration has tried to hide their compliance behind a claim that this issue is subject to ongoing litigation but the Supreme Court has made clear multiple times that ongoing litigation cannot inhibit congressional oversight.

It is now clear that the administration has no intention of cooperating with this effort voluntarily, we have no choice left but to compel them to cooperate.

Our constituents, regardless of where they live, rely on accurate census data whether they know it or not. An undercount means

less federal money for programs that help Americans get by, and less representation at every level of government.

Failure to reconcile these inconsistencies, totally and completely, is not only an abdication of our authority to conduct oversight, it is a failure to represent the interests of the very people who elected us to serve them, and runs counter to our oath to uphold and defend the constitution.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this subpoena.

