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San Benito & Santa Cruz Counties

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COMPANION FOR LIFE
Emergency Response Systems

SENIORS COUNCIL RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE 2020 CENSUS

WHEREAS, the U.S. Census Bureau is required by Article I, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution to conduct an accurate count of the population every ten years; and

WHEREAS, the next enumeration will be April 1, 2020 and will be the first to rely heavily on online responses; and

WHEREAS, the primary and perpetual challenge facing the U.S. Census Bureau is the undercount of certain population groups; and

WHEREAS, that challenge is amplified in California, given the size of the state and the diversity of communities; and

WHEREAS, California has a large percentage of individuals that are considered traditionally hard to count; and

WHEREAS, these diverse communities and demographic populations are at risk of being missed in the 2020 Census; and

WHEREAS, California receives nearly \$77 billion in federal funding that relies, in part, on census data; and

WHEREAS, a complete and accurate count of California's population is essential; and

WHEREAS, a complete and accurate count of California's older adults will impact policy decisions, local, and state funding of programs serving older adults; and

WHEREAS, a complete and accurate count of California's people with disabilities will impact policy decisions, local, and state funding of programs serving individuals with a disability; and

WHEREAS, the data collected by the decennial Census determines the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives and is used to distribute billions of dollars in federal funds to state and local governments; and

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WHEREAS, the data is also used in the redistricting of state legislatures, county boards of supervisors and city councils; and

WHEREAS, the decennial census is a massive undertaking that requires cross-sector collaboration and partnership in order to achieve a complete and accurate count; and

WHEREAS, California's leaders have dedicated a historic amount of funding and resources to ensure every Californian is counted once, only once and in the right place; and

WHEREAS, this includes coordination between tribal, city, county, state governments, community-based organizations, education, and many more; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Census Bureau is facing several challenges with Census 2020, including constrained fiscal environment, rapidly changing use of technology, declining response rates, increasingly diverse and mobile population, thus support from partners and stakeholders is critical; and

WHEREAS, California is kicking-off its outreach and engagement efforts in April 2019 for the 2020 Census; and

WHEREAS, Seniors Council of Santa Cruz & San Benito Counties, in partnership with other local governments, the State, businesses, schools, and community organizations, is committed to robust outreach and communication strategies, focusing on reaching the hardest-to-count individuals; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Seniors Council of Santa Cruz & San Benito Counties recognizes the importance of the 2020 U.S. Census and supports helping to ensure a complete, fair, and accurate count of all Californians.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this day, 15th of August, 2019.

Signed: 
Pam Arnsberger, Board President

8/15/19
Date Signed