



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

March 9, 2010

### **H.R. 4621** **Prevent Deceptive Census Look Alike Mailings Act**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
on March 4, 2010*

H.R. 4621 would require nongovernmental entities that send mail displaying the term “census” to include an accurate return address on the mailing and meet certain other conditions. Based on information from the U. S. Postal Service (USPS), CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4621 would have no significant enforcement costs. The bill could affect direct spending by the Postal Service, but because its costs are classified as off-budget, H.R. 4621 would not be subject to pay-as-you-go procedures. Enacting the bill would not affect revenues.

H.R. 4621 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

H.R. 4621 would impose a private-sector mandate, as defined in UMRA, on entities that use the USPS to solicit contributions, information, membership fees, or the purchase of goods or services. The bill would put limits on the use of the term “census” on mail delivered by the Postal Service. The cost of complying with the mandate would be the cost to purchase envelopes or covers without the term “census” printed on the outside or to otherwise make envelopes compliant with the provisions of the bill. According to the USPS, few private entities use the term census on mailings, and the cost to comply with the requirements in the bill would be small. Consequently, CBO estimates that the aggregate cost of complying with the mandate would fall below the annual threshold for private-sector mandates established in UMRA (\$141 million in 2010, adjusted annually for inflation).

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Mark Grabowicz (for federal costs) and Paige Piper/Bach (for the private-sector impact). The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.