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Group Lobbies to Keep Ethnicity on Census Form

The Piast Institute Named Co-chair for the National Coalition on the Census Ancestry Question

DETROIT—The Piast Institute has been named co-chair for the National Coalition on the Census Ancestry Question. The other co-chairs are the Sons of Italy and the National Arab American Institute. The coalition was formed to lobby, preserve and extend ancestry research of the U.S. Bureau of the Census. "We are currently urging that the Census Bureau include the ancestry question on the short form for the 2010 census," said Thaddeus Radzilowski, Piast Institute president. "This would ask every person in the United States the ancestry question rather than use a 'one out of six' sample as was the case in the past. This, for the first time, will give us a true picture of the exact number of Poles in the United States. We know that the previous samples produced an undercount of at least 10 percent."

If the question is not placed on the short form, it will be relegated to American Community Survey (ACS), as the long form will be abolished. The ACS will produce an even less accurate sample than the long form. "The question will be going to Congress this fall, so we do need to get word to congressional representatives that this is an important issue for our community," said Radzilowski.

The Piast Institute urges all readers to write their congressional representatives to support the inclusion of the ancestry question on the U.S. Census Form for the 2010 Census. If there are any questions, please call the Piast Institute at (313) 664-0321.