

**Senator Richard J. Durbin**  
**July 9, 2013**  
**Remarks for Introduction of John Thompson**

It's an honor to introduce John Thompson, the President's nominee to be Director of the Census Bureau.

Mr. Thompson has nearly four decades of experience in research and statistics, making him a strong candidate for the position.

Currently, Mr. Thompson serves as President of the National Opinion Research Center, headquartered in Chicago.

The Center conducts social science research in the public interest.

In addition to ensuring the quality of the research it leads, Mr. Thompson also oversees the nationwide staff and has helped make NORC's activities more productive and cost-effective.

While at NORC, he directed the National Immunization Survey from 2004 to 2006, the largest telephone survey of its kind in the country.

Before starting at NORC 11 years ago, Mr. Thompson worked at the Census Bureau for 27 years.

He started out as a mathematical statistician in 1975 and went on to become the senior officer responsible for conducting and producing the 2000 Census.

Aside from his posts at NORC and the Census Bureau, he also is a leader in the social science research community.

Mr. Thompson is an elected Fellow of the American Statistical Association, an elected member of the Committee on National Statistics,

and serves on a National Academy of Sciences panel addressing Census concerns.

Mr. Thompson's decades of research and statistical experience will serve him well in leading an agency whose primary mission is to produce reliable data about our people and our economy.

I can't imagine a more qualified nominee to lead the U.S. Census Bureau. Mr. Thompson is effective at producing quality data and managing a large organization.

He has shown he can do so on time and cost effectively.

As Director of the Census Bureau, he will be able to use his experience to move the Census more fully into the digital world and make it even more reliable, accurate, and accessible to all Americans.

I would also note that while living and working in Chicago, he had the chance to cheer on his favorite national hockey team – the Chicago Blackhawks. Now that the team has secured the national championship and the Stanley Cup, he may be ready to live and work in Washington.

In talking with Mr. Thompson, I was impressed with his enthusiasm for taking on the responsibilities of Director. His warm personality will make him a great addition to the agency.

He has some ideas about evaluating research methods to see where improvements can be made to data collection practices, so we can get the best possible results.

It's my pleasure to introduce to the Committee Mr. John Thompson.

I fully support his nomination and look forward to working with him as he becomes the next Director of the Census Bureau.