

Koy Kunkel_SC

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
Sent: Friday, July 9, 2021 6:18 PM
To: Senate Redistricting
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input

Date: 2021-07-09
First Name: Angela
Last Name: Orr Heath
Title: N/A
Organization: Self
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State: TX
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Hello, I am Angela Orr Heath and I live in Dallas, TX Senate District 8, House District 102. I am testifying on why the 2021 redistricting process needs to be fair and transparent on behalf of myself and my precinct, Precinct 1026.

How districts are drawn affects every political issue, from the economy to healthcare and public education. When politicians are elected from districts that don't reflect the population, we end up with situations where the politicians support policies that the vast majority of people they are supposed to represent oppose, or they refuse to support policies that the vast majority of people that they are supposed to represent support. If politicians manipulate maps for personal or political gain, it will prevent residents like me from having our voices heard on all of these policies that affect us.

Purposefully breaking up communities takes away the community's ability to come together and advocate for important issues that impact them. For example, here in Dallas County we are artificially broken up into 5 state senate districts and 14 state house districts extending way off in every direction. This means that many of the representatives are not fully committed to listening to their constituents' concerns. I care about issues like affordable housing, gun control, affordable healthcare, public education, and urban infrastructure. If the maps are unfairly rigged, we end up seeing a legislature that represents special interests and politicians, instead of representing we the people.

Because of the timing of the census and when the legislature meets, the public has been provided a very limited time to view, understand, and comment on proposed maps. This is unfortunate. In the past, Texas politicians have made this worse by doing everything behind closed doors, discriminating against global majority and/or marginalized communities, and not giving the public a chance to comment on what is happening.

For our democratic republic to function, we the people need to have a voice in the process. With that in mind, I am asking that this Committee commit to holding public hearings including public testimony on any maps before they are passed. I ask that the committee give the public sufficient notice and capability to review the maps before any hearings. I also request that the legislators who participate in drawing the maps provide an explanation of

why they chose to draw them the way they did and to not hide any communications they have had regarding the drawing the maps. Doing this will build trust that the maps have not been unfairly manipulated, I also ask that the legislature refrain from practicing partisanship when determining the boundaries for the maps.

This is a chance for the Texas Legislature to get this process right and avoid spending or rather wasting millions of taxpayer dollars on years of lawsuits. I hope that you will take my testimony to heart and make the right choices for my community and for Texas.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my perspective.

[REDACTED]