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**To:** [Senate Redistricting](#)  
**Subject:** INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input  
**Date:** Thursday, September 30, 2021 11:25:07 AM

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Regarding: Senate

Message:

Dear Chair Huffman, Vice-Chair Hinojosa and Members of the Committee:

I am submitting testimony in strong opposition to the proposed State Senate maps. This legislative body had the opportunity to undo the previous decade's partisan and gerrymandered maps and create maps that accurately and fairly represented the census data and the people of Texas equally. Instead the State Senate has chosen to take the same path of the previous decade, drawing maps that place the priorities political power and incumbency protection over the foundation aspects of our democracy -- fair representation. The maps as they are currently drawn have hardly any competitive senate districts. Once again we are watching our state politicians choose their voters instead of voters choosing their representatives. I can think of few things more undemocratic.

The proposed map packs and cracks communities of interest and more specifically communities of color across different regions of the state. In the Dallas, Fort Worth area, communities of color in Tarrant County are primarily cracked between SD-9, SD-10, and SD-22, in a county where the white population shrunk by 3%, while Asian (56% growth), African American (40%), and Latino (29%) communities all grew significantly. Black communities in Dallas and southeastern Tarrant County are packed into SD-23, while the remainder of the eastern Tarrant County Black communities are cracked and paired with far away counties in SD-22. In SD-22, diverse, suburban, Euless (population: 61,032) is in the same district as small, rural Rosebud (population: 1,349) in Falls County 143 miles away. Meanwhile, eight other state senate districts are wholly contained within that 140 mile radius. The Asian American population in Dallas (with particular growth in the northern part of the county), Collin, and Denton Counties grew by 87% from 2010 to 2020. This growth is aggressively cracked between SD-2, SD-8, SD-12, and SD-30.

In Harris county and the surrounding suburban areas, communities of color are packed into SD-6, SD-13, SD-15 in Houston and Fort Bend County. The remaining communities of color in Houston and Fort Bend County are aggressively cracked between SD-7, SD-17, and SD-18. Eighty-seven percent of the explosive growth in Fort Bend County (40.6% growth in the last decade) was from diverse communities and the white population shrunk by 3%. Many of those growing, diverse communities are cracked between SD-17 and SD-18 and combined with

faraway rural counties in rural, non-diverse districts, while others are packed in SD-13.

And in my community of Travis County and the surrounding suburban areas, the proposed map packs Austin Democrats into SD-14 and SD-21. While Williamson County grew by 44% in the last decade and 77% of that growth came from diverse communities (including 26% from the Latino community, and 21% from the Asian community), but SD-5 and SD-24 cracks these communities into far-off, rural, non-diverse districts.

The aggressive manner of the packing and cracking communities of interest and communities of color in this proposed map demonstrates a clear intent to racially gerrymander the maps in Texas for the clear purpose of suppressing these communities' political voice in an effort to retain political power. While this is deeply disappointing, it is not surprising. The state of Texas has been found in violation of the Voting Rights Act in every decade since it's passage. The Republican lawmakers on this Committee, and especially Chair Huffman, had an opportunity to change this shameful practice by the lawmakers of our state. They chose not to and Texans, especially Texans of color, will have the power of political voices diminished as a result. All Texans deserve fair maps and fair representation. This map does not do this and I submit this testimony in strong opposition to these maps.

Thank you.

