

**From:** [applications.administrator@capitol.local](mailto:applications.administrator@capitol.local)  
**To:** [Senate Redistricting](#)  
**Subject:** INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 15, 2021 3:12:24 PM  
**Attachments:** [redistricting\\_testimony.docx](#)

---

Date: 2021-09-15  
First Name: ALETHA  
Last Name: HUSTON  
Title: DR  
Organization: self  
Address: [REDACTED]  
City: Austin  
State: TX  
Zipcode: 78751  
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Redistricting. My name is Dr. Aletha Huston, and I represent the children of this state, who have no votes.

I live in Travis County. In the midst almost unprecedented prosperity, more than ¼ of Central Texas children in Black and Hispanic families live in poverty. In a family with one parent and two children, that means their family income is less than \$1830 per month. Children growing up in poverty have innumerable barriers to healthy development. For example, even before the pandemic fewer than 40% of children from low-income families were ready for the challenges of kindergarten. The disparity is even greater after a year with little opportunity for early education.

Children of color are the majority in our state. They are the future of Texas. When their interests are not protected by our elected representatives, they suffer and we as citizens suffer as well. Our economy as a state depends on raising healthy, educated citizens of all races and ethnicities. That means we need programs for early care and education that prepare children for school and for citizenship in a democracy, family leave that allows parents to care for their babies, strong child welfare services that protect children from abuse, and quality health care for mothers and infants.

Gerrymandering of the city of Austin leaves us with few strong advocates for children because we are split into five Congressional districts. My district extends 140 miles from a slice of northwest Austin to the outskirts of Houston.

I ask that you draw Congressional maps that are fair and inclusive for all Texas families. I ask that you represent all families with children fairly in the state legislature so that we can spend our taxpayer funds on giving all of our children a healthy start in life, a quality education, protection from abuse, nutritional food, and good health care instead wasting money on an ineffective and cruel border wall and battles over bathrooms.



Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Redistricting.

My name is Dr. Aletha Huston, and I represent the children of this state, who have no votes.

I live in Travis County. In the midst almost unprecedented prosperity, more than ¼ of Central Texas children in Black and Hispanic families live in poverty. In a family with one parent and two children, that means their family income is less than \$1830 per month. Children growing up in poverty have innumerable barriers to healthy development. For example, even before the pandemic fewer than 40% of children from low-income families were ready for the challenges of kindergarten. The disparity is even greater after a year with little opportunity for early education.

Children of color are the majority in our state. They are the future of Texas. When their interests are not protected by our elected representatives, they suffer and we as citizens suffer as well. Our economy as a state depends on raising healthy, educated citizens of all races and ethnicities. That means we need programs for early care and education that prepare children for school and for citizenship in a democracy, family leave that allows parents to care for their babies, strong child welfare services that protect children from abuse, and quality health care for mothers and infants.

Gerrymandering of the city of Austin leaves us with few strong advocates for children because we are split into five Congressional districts. My district extends 140 miles from a slice of northwest Austin to the outskirts of Houston.

I ask that you draw Congressional maps that are fair and inclusive for all Texas families. I ask that you represent *all* families with children fairly in the state legislature so that we can spend our taxpayer funds on giving all of our children a healthy start in life, a quality education, protection from abuse, nutritional food, and good health care instead wasting money on an ineffective and cruel border wall and battles over bathrooms.