

## Koy Kunkel\_SC

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**From:** applications.administrator@capitol.local  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 11, 2021 12:29 PM  
**To:** Senate Redistricting  
**Subject:** INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input

Date: 2021-02-11  
First Name: Sandra  
Last Name: Tenorio  
Title: N/A  
Organization: Texas Rural Communities, Inc.  
Address: [REDACTED]  
City: Buda  
State: TX  
Zipcode: [REDACTED]  
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: ALL

Message:

Dear Members of the Committee,

Thank you for accepting comments online since it has become so difficult to attend meetings in person. I am submitting my comments specifically about Redistricting affecting Senatorial District 21 and generally regarding redistricting in general.

As you approach the sometimes contentious issues of redistricting, I would like you to consider the following issues as you draw districts. Redistricting affects all Texans however, minority communities are particularly affected since it is extremely necessary that our representatives understand who they represent.

VALUES--Please consider community values as you draw districts. For example, Senator Zaffirini, SD 21, is more likely to understand the importance of expanding our curriculum to include minority studies than perhaps another Senator that does not have a vested interest. I can make that educated assumption based on the fact that the Senator for the neighboring SD 25 has never so much as reached out regarding this issue or any other issues affecting our community.

Another example includes our current Covid 19 crisis. Senator Zaffirini stays in touch with the community--including members that neighbor her district, because she is responsive to questions, concerns and fears regarding this current crisis.

### ACCESSIBILITY

While I live in SD 25 and on the border of SD 21, I have seen Senator Zaffirini so many more times than my actual Senator. In fact, I have never been invited or so much as heard of a community meeting hosted by the Senator in SD 25. Constituents must have access to their public representatives or there is no actual representation.

There was a time that I felt that "Communities of Interest" had to reflect geographic unity. What I have learned since redistricting has changed so much is that the most important thing about a district is mutual VALUES and ACCESSIBILITY. While SD 21 reaches from Central Texas to the Border, the values of the district are a common thread throughout the

district. I ask the Committee to give serious and sincere consideration to these issues...that communities not be disenfranchised by creating a lack of understanding or commonality between the constituents and their representatives.

Thank you for your attention and I ask that you seriously consider these issues as you create our districts.

Sincerely,

SANDRA TENORIO  
Former Mayor of Kyle  
Former Mayor Pro-Tem of Buda  
Former Member of HCISD Board of Trustees

