

Koy Kunkel_SC

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
Sent: Saturday, March 13, 2021 12:33 PM
To: Senate Redistricting
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Attachments: Redistricting Testimony - Joslynn Sanchez.pdf

Date: 2021-03-13
First Name: Joslynn
Last Name: Sanchez
Title: Campus Organizer at Texas State
Organization: Deeds Not Words
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Austin
State: TX
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

I appreciate you opening a virtual testimony option for this process, and encourage members of this committee to honor the oath they took to serve all constituents, by offering public virtual testimony opportunities for every bill throughout session. Your constituents deserve the right to make their voices heard in policy decisions that impact their lives. I would like to conclude by thanking you for giving me the opportunity to submit before you today my public comment on why a fair and transparent redistricting process is important to me.

[REDACTED]



Redistricting Committee

Attn: The Honorable Representative Hunter, Chair

Capitol Station

Austin, Texas [REDACTED]

Re: Written testimony; Redistricting

Dear Representative Hunter and Members of the Committee,

Hello, my name is Joslynn Sanchez and I am a resident of Austin Texas, a political science student at Texas State University and a Deeds Not Words campus organizer.

As a resident of central Texas I implore this committee to make the redistricting process as transparent as possible and focused on accurate representation of our population. Districts in Texas have historically been drawn for political gain and allowing that to take place is detrimental to the fair and open democratic process that we are guaranteed through the United States Constitution.

In every decade since the Voting Rights Act, Texas has disenfranchised its voters in one way or another when drawing maps. This is completely unacceptable. The fact that constituents are here today begging for the abusive practice of gerrymandering to end is also unacceptable. We should not have to expect the worst from our state government.

As a child I grew up learning about the government and our democracy as something that was open to everyone and allowed for all voices to be heard because that's what the constitution guaranteed to us as Americans. It's what is supposed to set us apart as a nation and a beacon of democracy. As I grew up I began to understand that this is clearly not the case as officials are allowed to take advantage of the system of redistricting for their own political gain.

Threats to our democracy do not only come in the form of insurrections at our nation's Capitol, but they also come in the form of officials taking advantage of a broken system for their own political gain. The American dream is not just about success, but also in the ability to be heard by our government and accurately represented. The redistricting maps created this year should allow us to do just that and the maps should be created fairly and transparently. Thank you.

I appreciate you opening a virtual testimony option for this process, and encourage members of this committee to honor the oath they took to serve all constituents, by offering public virtual testimony opportunities for every bill throughout session. Your constituents deserve the right to make their voices heard in policy decisions that impact their lives. I would like to conclude by thanking you for your time and giving me the opportunity to stand before you today to share why **a fair and transparent redistricting process** is important to me.