

**From:** [applications.administrator@capitol.local](mailto:applications.administrator@capitol.local)  
**To:** [Senate Redistricting](#)  
**Subject:** INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input  
**Date:** Sunday, October 3, 2021 12:00:48 AM

---

Date: 2021-10-03  
First Name: Sabiha  
Last Name: Khan  
Title: N/A  
Organization: self  
Address: [REDACTED]  
City: Wylie  
State: TX  
Zipcode: [REDACTED]  
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Hello, my name is Sabiha Khan and I am a resident of Collin County in Precinct 237. I am part of the Asian community, specifically I am a Bangladeshi American. The Asian American Communities contribute to the economic, social, and civic success of this area. Today, I am testifying as a member of the South Asian American Community because the redistricting process must be fair and transparent.

Democracy is the capacity of the people to govern themselves, to elect their representatives, and to engage with them. Democracy functions because we the people choose our representatives. When the representatives choose the people they want in their districts by gerrymandering they are purposefully drawing convoluted maps to favor their political interests.

The proposed new maps are setting boundaries that impact people of color. Minority populations like my South Asian community find that the maps have targeted high density Asian populations. This dilutes the South Asian American voices in Collin County and specifically Precinct 237. I believe the proposed maps fall far from any definition of fair and therefore are an insult to Democracy.

Our community has had a substantial impact on Texas. We bring innovation and enrich our county with our professionals in technology sectors, education, medicine, public service, music, restaurants, and the arts. We have a significant presence in Precinct 237 in Collin County and yet we are not able to elect candidates that represent our voices. Some of the issues we are particularly concerned about are education, healthcare, COVID19 management, reproductive rights, immigration, and sustainable energy.

For far too long, AAPI communities, which are the fastest-growing across Texas, have been unfairly divided into multiple legislative districts and thus, have been prevented from having the ability to elect a candidate of their choice. All I ask is that we are given equal representation through fair legislative districting. Your maps are deliberately breaking up our community.

South Asians are the fastest-growing minority population in Texas. District lines were drawn 10 years ago. Our community has grown exponentially since then. Unfairly dividing our population density not only decreases voter turnout and engagement but also decreases the possibility of South Asians running for local, state, and federal political offices.

The proposed maps violate Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. We ask that you honor the Voting Rights Act which prohibits you from drawing lines that dilute our voices. Gerrymandering often favors one party over another. Minority communities are often split to dilute their voices.

The proposed map not only dilutes the South Asian and Asian voices of our communities but it also dilutes the voices of African American and Latino American communities. Cutting up the voting populations through packing and cracking serves to suppress the voices of People of Color by diminishing voter strength.

It is critical that we participate in the process to allow our collective voices to be documented. We all want our voices to be heard in determining the future of our families and communities.

In Conclusion, I strongly oppose the proposed redistricting maps which fail to draw fair districts and harm Democracy by diluting South Asian American and other minority voices in Texas. My faith in Democracy and our electoral system stems from my faith in our process. Having a fair and transparent redistricting process will restore all citizens' faith in the Democratic system. Therefore, in the interest of building a stronger Democracy, I urge Texas to create an independent redistricting commission so that all communities, including those of color, have the ability to participate fully and get the representation they deserve.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my testimony.

Regards,  
Sabiha Khan

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.