

Koy Kunkel_SC

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
Sent: Saturday, February 6, 2021 7:59 AM
To: Senate Redistricting
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input

Date: 2021-02-06
First Name: Marie
Last Name: Cohen
Title: N/A
Organization: self
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Kyle
State: TX
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Hello, my name is Dr. Michelle Cohen. My family and I live in Kyle, which is East of I-35 with a population of 50,000. The area that I live in and love is predominately Hispanic and families on the lower end of the socio-economic ladder. I have never written a letter concerning my views of redistricting before but due to

the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on Latino families I am compelled to do so. Kyle, specifically, has always had high cases of COVID and deaths. Since the beginning of the pandemic, I have actively taken on a role in informing the community of the racial disparities that exist. In fact, I formed an organization called "Hays Latinos United" as a direct response to these racial disparities vis-a-vis the COVID-19 virus and Latino families. We provide free PPE to families who may not have access to these essential items. Latino families in Hays county have had the highest positivity rates, highest deaths, highest confirmed cases, and highest hospitalizations. At the beginning of the pandemic, Latinos were asked to stay on the front lines and have been classified as "essential workers" (many work at grocery stores, in hospitality, and as kitchen staff).

When the State opened up, Latinos, again, were asked to return to the frontlines. Now that the COVID vaccine is here, Latinos are not receiving the vaccine in proportions to caucasian citizens. This is an inequitable travesty, in my view.

My ask now is that you leave my district in the hands of the leaders who currently are responsible for it. I need representatives that understand the challenges the Latino community face and will work to advocate on our behalf.

[REDACTED]