

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Thursday, September 30, 2021 4:15:33 PM
Attachments: [Balkisu CD Testimony .docx](#)

Date: 2021-09-30
First Name: Balkisu
Last Name: Habib
Title: NA
Organization: Emgage
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Houston
State: Texas
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

[REDACTED]

My name is Balkisu Habib, and I am testifying on behalf of Emgage Action and myself in opposition to Senate Bill 6. I was born and raised in Houston, TX. I spent the last four years in Walker County, and now reside in Harris County, specifically CD-02. Growing up in Houston, I was surrounded by diversity. My neighborhood represented minorities from all walks of life who paid their dues and contributed to economic, social, and political growth in Texas.

I am testifying about the need for sustainable and representative mapping in the redistricting process and understanding the effects of how redistricting impacts the African American, Latino and Asian Communities. As currently done, the redistricting process and proposed maps encroach on their fundamental civil rights.

You have ignored our requests to provide the public a chance to comment on any maps you propose at a hearing where participants can testify virtually or in person. You have ignored our requests to provide the public with a chance to comment on any maps you propose at a hearing where participants can testify virtually or in person. This creates disadvantages for the public that wants to participate in the Congressional redistricting hearing. The map was posted on Monday, September 27th and the hearing was scheduled for today, September 30th, at 9 a.m. The public was given no virtual option, nor enough time to make arrangements to testify in person. The majority of individuals who would like to testify have limiting work schedules that do not allow them to make last minute arrangements to testify. Therefore, considering how redistricting will affect these citizens, we need to provide a much more suitable and sustainable way to enable everyone's participation and allow the people to be kept in consideration as lawmakers draw maps. I ask for notice of at least five days for any future hearings you have on maps so that the public has a chance to plan and attend. Furthermore, I ask that you provide at least fourteen days for the public to review and analyze maps before you vote on them in this committee.

As a member of my community in CD-02, I do not feel represented in Congress due to the nature of the proposed district's boundaries. Currently, the residents of CD-02 are 54.94% POC; on the proposed map, the percentage of POC drops to 46.46%. The percentage drop highlights how the participation of POC has been diluted on the proposed maps. Furthermore, the proposed CD-02 spreads across Harris and Montgomery Counties. Combining a portion of Harris County with parts of Montgomery County not only eliminates shared interests, it minimizes the people's voices in both counties. We need responsive representation and equal opportunity in all districts for our communities, in coalition with other people of color and immigrant populations with similar values and needs. Redistricting maps are supposed to represent people, not guarantee election for politicians. Keep my community in Harris County together with surrounding neighborhoods that share our interests rather than splitting us apart. It is imperative that this body conduct a redistricting process that is fair, transparent, non-discriminatory and reflective of Texas' concerns.