

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Saturday, September 25, 2021 9:45:06 AM

Date: 2021-09-25
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony on redistricting in Texas. I live in rural Llano County where we almost lost a hospital this year. We were fortunate that at the eleventh-hour Medicare granted the facility "critical access" designation, providing a source of funding needed to keep the hospital open under a new service provider. Other Texas rural counties have not been so fortunate. Texas has led the country in rural hospital closings and the number of uninsured. And, since last year the COVID pandemic has made it harder financially for rural hospitals, due to lost revenue from postponed elective surgeries.

In the most recent regular Texas legislative session, a budget amendment to expand state and federal health care coverage to the uninsured failed. It would have helped both the uninsured and rural hospitals. I believe rural counties share, with our more highly populated counties, the common goal of providing affordable health care for all Texans in our communities. I believe a redistricting process that produces fair maps would result in a state legislature that unites us and provides the representation we need to address our real needs like affordable health care for all Texans.

It is obvious from the 2020 Congressional election results, that Texas does not currently have fairly drawn congressional districts. Republicans represented 54.8% of the votes but took 63.9% of the Congressional seats. Democrats represented 45.2% of votes and only received 36.1% of the Congressional seats. Texans deserve districts that produce election results that reflect the will of the people.

The maps recently released by the Senate do not fairly reflect that 95 percent of Texas' population growth has occurred in minority suburban and urban areas. The maps would not produce even one competitive district.

I ask that you revise your released maps and work deliberately and diligently to end map manipulation and gerrymandering in this redistricting cycle. Texans deserve fair district maps and representation.

I ask that you conduct a redistricting process that is fair and transparent from beginning to end. Texans deserve the opportunity to observe the deliberations that drive how the maps are drawn.

I ask that you continue to provide an opportunity for public comment on proposed maps before voting on them. Texans deserve an opportunity to comment on concerns about all proposed maps. Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony.

