

Koy Kunkel_SC

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 10:16 AM
To: Senate Redistricting
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input

Date: 2021-02-02

First Name: Jessica

Last Name: Friday

Title: N/A

Organization: self

Address: [REDACTED]

City: San Antonio

State: TX

Zipcode: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: ALL

Message:

My name is Jess Friday. I am a resident of San Antonio, TX in the 20th congressional district. My zip code is 78249 which actually contains within it three distinct Congressional districts.

First and foremost, I have to stress the utmost importance for this Committee to follow federal and state law including the Voting Rights Act. None of my testimony today should be used by the legislature to justify diminishing the ability of a minority group to elect the candidate of their choice or artificially distorting maps for racial or partisan purposes.

I want to also note that the hearing for my community is scheduled for 1 PM. I am disabled and dealing with both chronic and mental illness. This meeting might not have interrupted my non-existent workday, but occurred at a time in which my energy levels always lag and my brain fog is intense. As such, I had to submit my testimony as written and not presented to the committee during the course of the meeting.

While I appreciate the option to submit my testimony online, I want to note that I feel written testimony might be disregarded. I hope this is not the case. As a disabled queer femme, this was the only way I could manage. I know I'm not alone in having schedule limitations, and we should all be heard.

My city, San Antonio, is one of the most racially and economically segregated in the country. I know that this segregation has been exploited through gerrymandering that only further marginalizes Black, Indigenous, and communities of color. This is unconscionable.

Manipulating maps to artificially distort political power undermines the principle of a representative government. The government should represent a fair cross-section of society and partisan manipulation makes that impossible.

I want to demand that all maps be presented to the public before approval for public viewing and further discussion. People deserve to have their communities held together and not blasted apart by politicians with poisonous partisan pens.

