

Koy Kunkel_SC

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
Sent: Saturday, March 13, 2021 12:32 PM
To: Senate Redistricting
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Attachments: Jasmine Taylor Redistricting.pdf

Date: 2021-03-13
First Name: Jasmine
Last Name: Taylor
Title: Campus Organizer at UTSA
Organization: Deeds Not Words
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Austin
State: TX
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

I appreciate you opening a virtual testimony option for this process, and encourage members of this committee to honor the oath they took to serve all constituents, by offering public virtual testimony opportunities for every bill throughout session. Your constituents deserve the right to make their voices heard in policy decisions that impact their lives. I would like to conclude by thanking you for giving me the opportunity to submit before you today my public comment on why a fair and transparent redistricting process is important to me.

[REDACTED]



Senate Special Committee on Redistricting
Attn: The Honorable Senator Huffman, Chair
Capitol Station
Austin, Texas [REDACTED]
Re: Written testimony; Redistricting Process, 87(R)

Dear Senator Huffman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jasmine Taylor and I am a transfer student at the University of Texas at San Antonio. I am a #Changemaker with Deeds Not Words, and work tirelessly on my campus to provide service through the positions I hold and serve the greater San Antonio Community.

I am here in favor of a fair and transparent redistricting process that will allow for fair and equal representation of minority groups that have previously been targeted by voter suppression. Redistricting is applicable to my life because as a San Antonio resident I am acutely aware of the pressing need to improve the representation of certain demographics in our representatives. San Antonio has had a history of blatant gerrymandering that has led to a 2017 court decision that voided 3 districts within the city. District 35 was among one of those voided. In said district, the gerrymandering was so blatant that many residents did not share a U.S. House Representative with their own neighbor. In the court decision it was expressed that the districts were drawn with race as an overwhelming motivating factor in order to decrease the Democratic districts, marginalize the African American vote, and increase the number of Hispanic representatives. This is one of many examples of a flagrant disregard for the best interest of the people in favor of serving the elite.

If redistricting is done well, we will be able to curb gerrymandering. Gerrymandering actively impacts our citizens because it will skew the true political

sentiments residents may have. Per our democratic process, everyone has the right to have their political leanings properly and accurately represented. I ask that you consider all the lives you will impact as you work through this redistricting process. As a public servant it is your duty to honor the wishes and requests of your constituents.

I appreciate you opening a virtual testimony option for this process, and encourage members of this committee to honor the oath they took to serve all constituents, by offering public virtual testimony opportunities for every bill throughout session. Your constituents deserve the right to make their voices heard in policy decisions that impact their lives. I would like to conclude by thanking you for your time and giving me the opportunity to stand before you today to share why **a fair and transparent redistricting process** is important to me.