

Calvin Wright
NAACP Unit President, Hutchinson Kansas
23 East 1st Avenue, Office #7
Hutchinson Kansas 67501
naacphut@gmail.com
620-669-7202
Meeting 08/11/2021 in Stringer fine Arts Center, Hutchinson, KS

To: Members of the House and Senate Redistricting committees

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the NAACP Unit in Hutchinson, Kansas and my Hutchinson community of color.

My name is Calvin Wright, and I speak today as the President of the NAACP in Hutchinson, Kansas and a resident of Hutchinson Kansas in the 104th House District.

My request is that you; my elected Kansas legislators, relinquish your power on this redistricting matter and willingly give this historical decision to an impartial body to decide.

The first two decades of this millennium have proven to be incredibly eventful with regard to political representation in the United States. America's first Black president was elected and reelected to a second term. This country elected the first woman, and the first Black and South Asian person, to serve as vice president. Thousands of elections have been held for official positions in municipal governments, state governments, and the federal government. Our nation has continued to grow more racially and ethnically diverse. These realities certainly show progress. Yet there is much work ahead to ensure the full and meaningful representation of people of color in elected office and to safeguard the equal opportunity of voters of color to elect candidates of their choice.

In the face of the many changes in our state's political and demographical landscape, one thing remains constant: the people of Kansas are the bedrock of our system of government, and it is our right to engage in the political process to achieve a more equitable state and better lives for everyone. Achieving equal representation and being able to cast equal and effective votes depend in part on redistricting maps that are drawn fairly to reflect and respect our communities.

Hutchinson is a unique urban center located in the heart of rural Kansas. We have communities of color in Hutchinson that have different experiences, needs, and behaviors than our rural neighbors.

I urge this committee to bind our communities of color together as they consider political boundaries that will be in place for the next 10 years. Binding our communities of color together preserves the power of our vote and serves to ensure our voices are heard by you our elected officials.

Our request is that you; our elected Kansas legislators, relinquish your power on this redistricting matter and willingly give this historical decision to an impartial body to decide.

Calvin Wright

President, Hutchinson Unit NAACP