

Written-only Testimony for Thursday, August 12, 2021 in Overland Park

From: Anita Parsa

To: The Joint House and Senate Committees on Redistricting
Re: Fair & Equitable Representation in Kansas

Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to supply testimony in support of transparent and fair redistricting.

I implore this group to embrace and uphold the proposition that voters should choose their legislators, but legislators should not choose their voters.

I would like to hear each member of this committee state clearly and publicly that they agree that legislators choosing their voters through unfair district mapping is an affront to representative democracy. As an unaffiliated voter, this principle is universal and inviolate; I object to gerrymandering by Democrats and Republicans alike. There can be no true representation of the electorate if elected officials aren't accountable to the voters at the polls.

Without detailed 2020 Census data, I cannot make suggestions about the composition of fair districts at this time. No one, including yourselves, has had an opportunity to see detailed Census results and identify what changes are required to maintain equality of population in our districts. I urge the committee to hold additional town halls after census data is available and Kansans can review that data and offer input. I would encourage that those meetings be accessible, available online, and announced with enough time to foster engagement.

The Kansas City Metro is currently whole within Kansas' Third congressional district and should remain in a single district as residents have shared interests in representation.

Elected officials should seek to win the hearts, minds and votes of Kansans through good governance and policy, and should vociferously reject Susan Wagle and others' attempt to rig the Kansas mapping process in favor of Kansas Republicans.

Respectfully,

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