

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

From: Nancy Waters

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.

As a matter of fairness and in the name of representative democracy, Kansas 3rd Congressional District should remain intact -as it is.

Kansas is a wonderful state in so many ways. In addition to its natural beauty and rich resources it is filled with kind, and respectful people who look out for each other. Kansas is also a state with a strong Republican base. However, not all of the people in our state are represented by the Republican party. There are small pockets of Democrats throughout the state. To use gerrymandering to make certain that the Democrats in Wyandotte and Johnson County have NO CHANCE OF REPRESENTATION in state government and in the United States Congress is hateful, vindictive and a terrible misuse of power by the ruling party. As a social studies teacher who taught Kansas and American history I was always proud to profess my belief that Kansas was a state that believed in equal treatment of its citizens. The supporters of the FREE STATE movement are out founders.

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.

Please use your position to protect the voices of all Kansans. Allow for fair local representation of Wyandotte and Johnson County citizens by allowing for the possibility of someone who is not a Republican to be elected if it is the will of those voting citizens. Democracies survive when voting is fair and voters have the opportunity to be heard-Not when the majority bullies the minority.

Thank your for your work and for considering the rights of all Kansas voters to have the possibility to have an impact on the state legislature and the U. S. Congress.

Respectfully,

Nancy Waters

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