

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

**From: Sarah Winston**

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 constituent of the third district, I have concerns about my voice being silenced by the actions of the committee which have the appearance of abetting partisan gerrymandering.

“So, redistricting is right around the corner, and if Governor Kelly can veto a Republican bill, that gives us four Republican congressmen. That takes out Sharice Davids up in the third (district). We can do that,” Wagle said. “I guarantee you, we can draw four Republican district maps.” This direct quote from Susan Wagle clearly shows intent to gerrymander a map to favor a partisan advantage rather than offer constituents fair representation.

Current Congressional and Legislative maps were created by the courts and should, as possible, be altered as little as necessary to fulfill reapportionment shifts. 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.

In a time when our Nation and State are shouldering unbearable strain, we need unity and fair representation more than ever. I'm asking you, our elected leaders, to put political strategizing aside and work together for fair and equitable legislative districting by postponing redistricting efforts until 2020 census data can be analyzed. I'm asking you to use that data to draw maps that maintain equality in population representation. Finally, I'm asking you to hold additional town hall meetings with accessible times and formats so that working Kansas have an opportunity to look at the census data and participate in the process that determines their representation in the legislature. Please remember the ideals that first motivated you pursue public office and work to restore representational government to a healthy and functioning system of self-governance. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Sarah Winston

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