

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

**From: Jennifer Bryan**  
**CEO**  
**Better Together**

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 am asking for a nonpartisan, fair and equitable redistricting effort to represent authentically my community that spreads across a few counties. People in Wyandotte, Johnson, and Douglas counties certainly impact each other, sharing health and wellness issues affected by shared resources. Each person must be represented fairly and collectively.

For the past 11 years I have dedicated myself to health and wellness equity in my greater metro KC community. Because of the great diversity -- and negative socioeconomic factors of systemic racism and historical social injustice in Wyandotte County -- many people there are marginalized from convenient, affordable, safe, health care access, despite the multitude of quality health care institutions only minutes away in Johnson County, the healthiest, wealthiest in the state. We have the resources for equal opportunity. Such a fair and equitable solution depends on impartial and just political representation, along with cross-sector collaboration.

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.

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.

Thank you for allowing me to share my perspective regarding the civic and personal well-being in my extended community. I believe every individual in Kansas can become proactive regarding their health -- when fairly represented politically and provided with equitable resources.

Preventive care reduces fatalities from chronic diseases by 60% according to the CDC and simultaneously reduces the cost to the state when we keep people healthy and productive. We have certainly seen the impact of wellness inequalities during this pandemic. Those with discriminatory poor health issues account for the disparities in death rates. Douglas, Wyandotte, and Johnson counties synergistically affect each other in our shared health interests. This extended community includes everyone in those counties so I beg the redistricting effort to represent authentically those living in this community. Thank you for considering this.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Bryan

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