

Hello,

My name is Ryan Reza, I am a senior at the University of Kansas, originally from Topeka and moved to Lawrence four years ago. Born and raised here in Kansas, I love this state and want this state to grow and develop, want us to move forward towards a brighter future. I want to stay here for the long-term, start a family here, and live the rest of my life here.

This is why when we talk about incredibly influential decisions like redistricting, we have to put ourselves in the shoes of the ones impacted by it the most. If we want a Kansas that is not shrinking, a Kansas where young folks want to come here, and a Kansas where we can feel passionate about the communities we live in, we need fair and equal districts.

Politics in the present-day is a mess, we can all admit it. No matter what side you're on, there is a deep divide that prevents us from working towards the changes that this country needs. We need to find a way to clean up our political system so that we can have a government that truly feels representative again, that works for the people and not against. The people who sit on this committee have the ability to help us work towards that form of government again. By passing fair and equal districts, we can help clean up our politics so that those in office are actually representative of the districts they sit on. The individuals who sit on this committee have the opportunity to change the way politics works in this state, to create a state that is more representative for all Kansans, and I implore you all to do so. Kansas has bright and diverse communities, those communities deserve the opportunity to elect their neighbors, family members and community leaders.

As the COVID-19 pandemic runs rampant through our country, our society is moving towards a period where decisions like this will impact our future greater than ever before. Our nation is at a turning point in its history, where political decisions like redistricting will make or break our democracy.

I thank the Committee for your time and want to thank you all for making the trip to Lawrence this afternoon. If any one of you ever needs input from students and younger folks in Kansas, Jayhawks are always the way to go.