

Written-only Testimony for Friday, August 13, 2021 in Lawrence

From: Louie Jo Taylor Rosa Molinar

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.

Members of the Redistricting Committee:

Since I am unable to attend the redistricting meeting to be held in Lawrence, Kansas on Friday, August 12, 2021, I am submitting a written response. My husband and I have lived in Lawrence since May 2015. Although I wonder why you are conducting town halls on redistricting prior to census data's being available, I assume you are truly seeking the views of all Kansas citizens, and I urge you to heed them.

As you consider and adopt redistricting guidelines, I urge you to:

- be transparent in your process and approach
- conduct town halls after the census data is available
- maintain as much as possible the existing borders of congressional districts, particularly the 3rd District.

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.

In closing, I urge you to conduct open sessions regarding redistricting, seek the public's opinion again once census data is available, and, as much as possible, draw district lines in keeping with those of existing congressional district borders, particularly the 3rd District lines that encompass an almost unique demography and area of Kansas. I think of Kansas people as

being honest, upright, and decent. I trust you will not disappoint me in the way my Georgia friends' legislators have disappointed them.

Respectfully,

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