

Bryan Taylor

Affiliation: Republican

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Leavenworth Town Hall, August 13th.

I would like to thank this committee for allowing me to offer my testimony.

What could I offer as testimony?

I'm not an academic. I don't work in government, or public service. Although I keep apprised of current events and received my degree in political science I don't believe I have any unique academic or cultural insights. Any studies or academic works I would offer are already readily available to this committee.

The only relevant information I have to offer is my participation. Today, I would like to share my participation and how it shapes my point of view. It's my hope this redistricting committee will hear my voice.

In the last year I have reached out as a constituent to the following men who represent me. State Senator Kevin Braun, State Representative David French, Senator Jerry Moran, and Congressman Jake LaTurner.

I reached out to Mr. Braun and Mr. French after the 2020 Kansas legislative session. After five months I did have dialogue with Mr. Braun after I pointed out that neither responded to me. Mr. French never responded to my email. Not only did Mr. French never respond to my communication, he was copied on the entire email thread. Allow me to emphasize, Mr. French never responded.

I reached out to Mr. Moran's office in November of 2020. I sent a letter through his government website concerning the election, and raised some questions. Mr. Moran acknowledged the letter and said he would respond, but never responded. Nine months later Mr. Moran has yet to respond.

I reached out to Mr. LaTurner in response to a piece he wrote in the AtchisonGlobeNow.com. He wrote in the first four months of office he has sent more than 10,500 pieces of constituent correspondence and answered more than 1,700 phone calls from constituents. My question was simply - this is amazing data, do you use it to formulate policy and guide your legislative efforts to represent the second district? Within 24 hours I received an automated response. The response did not address any of the questions I asked. I included the response with my testimony to demonstrate its lack of substance or relevance. In four months twelve thousand constituents reached out to Mr. LaTurner's office, and he is unable to communicate to me how, or if he uses these precious efforts of participation by his constituents to guide his legislative agenda or legislative votes.

Why is my experience material to the committees redistricting task? If it's this difficult for me to engage elected offices, how difficult is it for others? I'm affluent, I have resources, I have an education and even a degree in political science. I have the right zip code. I'm a registered republican, and up until

recently I supported men like this. If it's this difficult for me to create dialogue with these men, how tough it is for those who do not have the background, resources, choices and affiliation I do?

You might be asking yourself, "Bryan this committee is drawing congressional districts. Why are you discussing a state representative, a state Senator, and a Federal Senator?" My response plainly is the behavior of all these men who failed to engage me is the same. It is institutional, and it is partisan. These men in all four legislative roles represent the parties who drew the district and not the people who live in the district. If you create inequity at one level you are complicit and perpetuate inequity at every level.

If you do not choose to preserve the voices of all neighborhoods, all cities and all counties you will be complicit in allowing these men, and others who follow, to perpetuate indifference, apathy, estrangement, and neglect of their constituents. Let's remember these constituents are me, you, and our neighbors. We stand in line with each other, we shop with each other, our kids play, go to school and compete together.

In my letter to Senator Moran I was concerned I would be unable to pass onto my niece the same democratic country which has blessed me. I would like to share with this committee part of what I shared with Senator Moran. Keep in mind this is what Senator Moran has decided does not warrant a response.

The America I know values strong courageous leaders. The America I know values democracy and the will of the people. The America I know holds precious our unique proposition of the peaceful transition of power. The America I know holds dear leaders who are willing to put the good of the country over their own personal needs.

Can you help me understand for my niece how your actions and inaction preserve the America I know? The greatest gift we can give subsequent generations is an enduring democracy You are keeping millions of mothers, fathers, aunts, and uncles from giving future generations a strong democracy with your choices.

Is this committee full of strong leaders that will work to preserve our democracy by valuing every vote from every neighborhood, every city and every county? I hope for my niece that you are.

If we dilute, suppress or prioritize one voter over another we will cease being a democracy. I know it's difficult for individuals to think on a scale outside their own interests or lifetime. However, those of us in this room are stewards of our democracy at every level. We must think about our nieces, nephews, children and grandchildren. We must, because the behavior of the men who currently represent us, and the people in this city are not.

Thank you.
Bryan Taylor

From: Rep. Jake LaTurner replaturner@mail8.housecommunications.gov
Subject: Response from Congressman Jake LaTurner
Date: August 5, 2021 at 9:01 PM
To: Bryan Taylor bryan.k.taylor@gmail.com

RL



JAKE LATURNER

Representing the 2nd District of Kansas

Dear Mr. Taylor,

Thank you for taking the time to contact me with your thoughts and questions. It is an honor to serve the people of Kansas' Second Congressional District. I truly appreciate your input, and I definitely make sure that the views of my constituents are considered when determining my support or opposition to any proposed legislation.

Our representative democracy only works when citizens and their elected officials actively discuss the issues their community is facing. As your representative in Congress, I am committed to working for the best interests of Kansas' Second Congressional District. When working with my colleagues in Congress, the Administration, or with state and local officials, it is my responsibility to ensure the voices of Kansans are being heard.

To follow what my team and I are doing for you in Washington and at home, follow me on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), and [subscribe](#) to my newsletter. I look forward to hearing from you in the future.

Please do not hesitate to contact any of my offices in the future if we can be of any assistance or would like to voice your opinion. Again, thank you for reaching out. It is a privilege to serve you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jake LaTurner".

Rep. Jake LaTurner
Member of Congress

To stay up to date on what I am doing in Washington and Kansas' 2nd District, sign up for my newsletter!

SIGN UP

Contact Me



Visit my website to learn more!
www.laturner.house.gov

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1630 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-6601

Topeka

3550 SW 5th St.
Topeka, KS 66606
Phone: (785) 205-5253

Pittsburg

402 North Broadway Street
Suite B
Pittsburg, KS 66762
Phone: (620) 308-7450

[3MK4RD-PWDV]

From: Senator Jerry Moran Do_Not_Reply@moran.senate.gov
Subject: Re: Your Message
Date: November 13, 2020 at 7:44 AM
To: bryan.k.taylor@gmail.com



This message is to let you know that I received your email. Your thoughts are important to me and I will respond as soon as possible. I welcome you to use the following services to stay connected and to contribute your ideas and feedback:

<http://www.twitter.com/jerrymoran>
<http://www.facebook.com/jerrymoran>
<http://www.youtube.com/senatorjerrymoran>

Best regards,

Jerry

-----Original Message-----

From: noreply@moran.senate.gov
Sent: 11/13/2020 8:43:15 AM
To: "Webmail@moran-iq.senate.gov" <Webmail@moran-iq.senate.gov>
Cc:
Subject: Email from Website

Mr. Moran,

I'm a Kansas constituent and registered Republican. I believe the Republican party is acting in opposition to the democratic institutions which have helped us govern this country and create a level of prosperity unique in this world. Based on your inactions you are enabling the Republican Party and the President to undermine the democratic institutions of this country leading to irreparable harm.

With every day that goes by the diligent pursuit of a legal remedy turns into a rejection of the democratic process. As a leader and democratically elected Senator failing to stand up for the voters and institutions of this country makes you a willing participant in the rejection of American's democratic voice. I'm not educating you. You know this. This is a choice you are making.

Here is my choice. When I speak to my friends, family, neighbors I will tell them you do not deserve their support. Not because I am enraged by your choice, but because my 5-year-old niece will never know the America I know if you remain in office. The America I know values strong courageous leaders. The America I know values democracy and the will of the people. The America I know holds precious our unique proposition of the peaceful transition of power. The America I know holds dear leaders who are willing to put the good of the country over their own personal needs.

Can you help me understand for my niece how your action and inaction preserve the America I know? The greatest gift we can give subsequent generations is an enduring democracy based on the constitution of our founding fathers. You are keeping millions of mothers, fathers, aunts, and uncles from giving future generations a strong democracy with your choices.

Bryan Taylor
Lansing Ks.

From: Bryan Taylor bryan.k.taylor@me.com
Subject: Re: Legislative Restrictions on KS Gov.
Date: October 16, 2020 at 9:21 AM
To: kevin.braun.senate.ks@gmail.com, kevin.braun@senate.ks.gov, David.french@house.ks.gov



Neither one of you responded to me. As a constituent of both of you I see no evidence either one of you, or our party has taken this public health crisis seriously. As a consequence of your choices our health care systems are at capacity, and we have no plan to try and protect residents or preserve our economy.

When I speak to my neighbors in Lansing I remind them it's easy to be a politician when the economy is good and your party is in charge, but leadership and genuine concern for the constituency is revealed when times are difficult and politicians must look beyond their own self interest to the interests of others. I don't see that from you two gentlemen, or the Republican party.

KC hospitals 'bursting at the seams' with record numbers of COVID-19 patients
https://apple.news/Ak_Xm3NZrQHyp-9Hss4VUHg

Bryan Taylor
Lansing KS
913-957-2687

On May 22, 2020, at 5:31 PM, bryan.k.taylor@me.com wrote:

Mr. Braun and Mr. French;

As a constituent - and registered Republican - I find this type of legislation offensive, divisive and with no basis in reality. Did either of you vote in favor of this legislation? Aside from the obvious politics of the legislation, do you think county officials have the resources and expertise to implement a plan that will materially keep Kansas residents safe?

In the normal course of a day working people in your districts move between two and three counties. This legislation expects the commissioners of those counties to have a plan to keep their residents safe and the residents who move in and out of their counties? Tomorrow in the course of my work I will move from Leavenworth, Wyandotte and Johnson counties. You have placed quite a burden on the commissioners, and me as a resident, while releasing yourself from any responsibility.

At some level don't you think our government should start working to develop solutions with clarity and purpose to serve its citizens? This legislation is merely political folly to pass responsibility to another level of government, but I was keen to notice you did not pass the oversight for the funding? If the commissioners are responsible for the policy why don't they also get oversight in how the funding is spent? I can guess why. Eventually you are going to turn oversight into election issues. Ironically, we are a party who rejects oversight of our administration yet embraces it on a state level.

If you have anything to send me or would like to reach out to me in support of your position I can be reached by phone or electronic mail.

The sharp words came after President Donald Trump praised Kelly's "fantastic job" during a White House meeting this week. And Sen. Pat Roberts, a Republican, said the governor and her emergency management team had done a "great job."

<https://www.kansascity.com/news/politics-government/article242916621.html?>

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Lansing KS
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