

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

**From: Laura Guy**

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 member of the Shawnee Mission School District Board of Education, I care deeply about teaching our students to become engaged citizens. If they believe that the outcome of an election has already been decided because of partisan redistricting, I fear that the great state of Kansas will lose the participation of the next generation of voters. They will become apathetic and opt out of the election process.

Nearly every election, I experience joy and frustration. There are candidates I support who are elected and I feel empowered and have hope that some of the policies I wish to see will be enacted. And there are some candidates I support who are not elected. Although I'm disappointed, this can also spur me to become more involved in speaking up and sharing my concerns with the people who are elected. This is what I want for our students, a full engagement in the political process. But the younger generations are cynical about whether their vote will actually make a difference at all. You have the power to show them and all of us that it is possible to go through the redistricting process without gerrymandering to give one party an unfair advantage. You have the power to show them that their vote and their voice do matter in Kansas.

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.

I appeal to your better angels and ask you to show us democracy in action by going through this redistricting process with minimal changes to the current districts. The eyes of the voters – current and future voters – are watching you.

Respectfully,

Laura Guy

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