

Oral with Written Testimony for Thursday, August 12, 2021 in Overland Park

From: Evelyn E Craig

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 20 plus year resident of the Whispering Hills community in Lenexa, I am asking the redistricting committee to keep the Third Congressional District lines intact as they are.

The District correctly reflects the Kansas City metro area and is populated by vibrant suburban communities. Wyandotte and Johnson County share not only a border and their important roles as part of a dynamic major metropolitan center, they share a dedication to preserving community assets and tackling community urgent problems - because that is what we do! Our schools are outstanding; our community amenities are second to none; and we strive for excellence and equity in partnership with our public officials. The current communities in Wyandotte and Johnson Counties that comprise the Third Congressional District also know what we have serious work to do to address the growing problem of housing affordability, access to health care, equity and inclusion for all, and areas of deteriorating infrastructure. But these problems can only be addressed if the District remains intact as is. We wish our neighbors in surrounding counties well, we know that our best future - for ourselves and our children - is found in the current Third 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.

Again, I urge the redistricting committee to keep the Third Congressional District lines intact as they are. Thank you for considering the community testimony as you pursue your important charge for the future of all Kansans.

Respectfully,

Evelyn E Craig

20907 Whispering Drive

Lenexa, KS 66220

9137061469

agirlcould@gmail.com