

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

From: Marilyn Hammond

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.

I am asking that the 3rd Congressional District be kept in tact and not be altered.

It is important to keep the Third together because we share common purposes! We share business efforts, transportation, jobs, medical facilities, infrastructure, education, arts, and a continuous flow of dedicated interests! A Representative from this district is able to speak with a unified and consistent voice. Rather than a divided voice, trying to represent the interests of an urban/suburban area that Johnson County and Wyandotte county share, and the completely unrelated interests of a rural area! I know that the Third district which comprises both Wyandotte and Johnson Counties not only share a county line, but shared common needs because I travel between the two counties several times a week. My extended family lives in Wyandotte county and I live in Johnson county. I see how keeping these two countries together benefits both, so they not only grow but they thrive and flourish and present a united region with similar needs. There is a flow between these two counties that is blended well in the Third district.

I would also like to ask you to consider having more town hall meetings after the complete Census data is in, and we have all had the opportunity to review it! I cannot state strongly enough the importance of drawing fair district maps that represent equality for the people to have a voice and be heard. We should not forget that these districts were established by the courts, and it is prudent to take time, review Census data, and listen to the people before establishing congressional districts meant to serve the best interests of the people.

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.

I ask you to keep the Third District together! We are a region and should be represented as such! I thank you for considering my testimony.

Respectfully,

Marilyn Hammond

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