

## **Written testimony regarding redistricting in the state of Kansas**

I would like to note 2 specific issues I have with the current state of redistricting in Kansas:

### **ONE:**

Without detailed 2020 Census data, we cannot even begin to think about the composition of fair districts. No one, including members of the Redistricting Committees, has had an opportunity to see detailed Census results in order to identify population changes. I encourage the committees to hold an additional round of town halls after the 2020 Census data is available so that voters can offer educated ideas and input. I ask that those meetings be accessible, available online, and announced with enough time to allow for attendance planning. The reason I am not in attendance today is that I work full time and was unable to take time off during the work day.

### **TWO:**

The entire Kansas City Metro area is currently in one district - Kansas' Third congressional district. It should remain in a single district as residents have shared interests in representation, especially when compared to the rest of the state. Clearly a major metropolitan area will have differing needs, priorities, and populations than rural areas of the state. As you all surely know, here's what Susan Wagle said last October: "We are losing northeast Kansas. It's pro-Biden, it's pro-Bollier, it's pro-Sharice Davids. I'm very worried about this election. So, redistricting is right around the corner, and if Governor Kelly can veto a Republican bill, that gives us four Republican congressmen. That takes out Sharice Davids up in the third. We can do that, I guarantee you, we can draw four Republican district maps." Then, when she was asked about this by KWCH, she said:

"Clearly what I was saying is that (we have a) Republican state. Right now we have a Democrat governor who does not represent our party. She is the head of the Democratic party in the state of Kansas, and she's working very hard right now to elect Democrats. I'm the Kansas Senate President, and I'm a Republican, and I'm working very hard to elect Republicans to the legislature who will fairly draw maps when session starts next year."

She again mentioned northeast Kansas when asked if drawing four Republican congressional maps is fair for Kansas voters.

"Well clearly we've had the most growth in northeast Kansas and that district is going to be much smaller after redistricting than what it is today. And if the Kansas legislators want four Republican maps, I'm sure that's what they will draw."

I take issue with many of the things Susan Wagle said, including that Kansas is a "Republican" state. I would like to remind her and the members of this committee that our "Democrat" Governor was elected by a majority of voters in 2018 and she represents our STATE, not her party. In addition to that, the people in our state have different backgrounds and ideologies, we are not one homogenous group! Not every

state and local legislator is Republican – this is most definitely not a “Republican” state. Susan Wagle is clearly suggesting that she (and Republicans as a whole) want to choose their voters instead of the other way around. This goes against democracy in general (we are still a democracy, right?) and everything our great country stands for. I agree with Rep. Davids who suggests “we need a redistricting process that’s independent, non-partisan, and creates truly representative districts.” I wonder how Republicans would feel if the shoe were on the other foot. I’m pretty sure I know.

To avoid wasted taxpayer money and our state government’s time, I implore you to alter our current court-created Congressional and Legislative districts as little as necessary to fulfill reapportionment shifts, and to keep the Kansas side of the KC Metro area together in the Kansas Third District. Politicians of any party should not be allowed to choose their voters, but you already know that.

Sincerely,  
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Written testimony only