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

From: Sara Deubner
n/a

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 concerned about the possible plan to draw new lines for the U.S. Congressional 3rd District of Kansas.

It is important to me that any border line changes be done only for reasons that make sense to both Democrats and Republicans in Kansas and are done in an open, bi-partisan manner, reflecting real existing problems with current borders.

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 therefore ask you to leave the current District 3 border lines intact, except for small changes that may be needed for legitimate reasons.

Respectfully,

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