

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

From: Anna Jones

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.

My name is Anna Jones. I am here today as a member of the Overland Park community, the Moody Hills Community, the Johnson County community, School District 512 community, the Stucky-Jones community, Rainbow Mennonite Church community, an urban community. In all of these communities each member has the right to voice their opinion on issues of mutual concern. Is it fair, is it honorable that some members be partitioned off from their community? Separated from the others with whom they share mutual activities and concerns?

The saying, "It takes a village" is familiar to all of us. Most often I come across it in reference to rearing a child. It takes a village to do a good job of rearing a child. But it could also refer to responding to a natural disaster, responding to a pandemic, setting tax rates addressing issues of safety. I could name others but my point is this: Keeping my community or village together for purposes of representation in government is important in successfully addressing the issues which we hold in common. After the census data is available is the time to discern what your constituents identify as their communities or villages of concern. From that place establish fair and honorable representative districts.

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to speak today.

see above

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.

see above

Respectfully,

Anna Jones

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