

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

From: PATRICIA HARRIGAN

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 regional interests, specifically, the interests of the Kansas side of the Kansas City metropolitan area, be considered when Congressional maps are redrawn.

The 3rd Congressional District of Kansas has the largest concentration of population in Kansas. Because of the denser population, the district has unique and specific needs in regard to transportation, health care delivery, business and economy, employment, education, and revitalization of communities. Historically, the drawing of the 3rd Congressional district have considered these needs that are different from the needs of the rest of the state of Kansas that have mostly rural populations. The Kansas Legislature's guidelines for remapping Congressional districts, adopted in 2002, state that congressional and state legislative districts should be "contiguous, as compact as possible, and recognize and consider communities of common 'social, cultural, racial, ethnic, and economic interests.'" Congressional representation for the specific needs of the Kansas side of the greater Kansas City area are vital to the area's interests and future. As a citizen of Prairie Village, Kansas, this Congressional representation is also vital to my and my family's interests and future.

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.

The redistricting plan should follow the 2002 Kansas Legislature guidelines and respect the interests of the Kansas side of the greater Kansas City area. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Respectfully,

PATRICIA HARRIGAN

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