

Written-only Testimony for Friday, August 13, 2021 in Lawrence

From: Jane Imber

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 the Redistricting Committee to consider all the data in making maps for the next decade. No one has had an opportunity to see detailed 2020 Census results and identify what changes are required to maintain equality of population in our districts. I want the redistricting process to be fair, collaborative, and transparent.

As a retired public school educator I know how sensitive even young children are to the concept of fairness. Education is a key component of our community and forms much of the economic base in our city and state. It is vital to our citizenry that redistricting be done in a way that uses census data to determine districts. Current Congressional and Legislative maps were created by the courts and should be altered as little as necessary to fulfill reapportionment shifts. I am heartened that Senate President Masterson sees this initial round of town hall meetings as merely a first step and implore the committee to follow up with a thorough examination of the census data and work towards a fair, collaborative, and transparent redistricting process including additional town halls that are accessible, available online, and announced with enough time to foster engagement. Let's avoid the No Fair argument so often heard on school playgrounds.

Members of the committee have an enormous responsibility going forward. It is imperative that the data be closely examined with the goal of creating fair maps for the next decade. Thank you for considering this testimony.

Respectfully,

Jane Imber

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