

Mr. Speaker,

Thank you for allowing me to testify on behalf of the map "For The People".

I started the process of drawing a map in January. The common wisdom was that a district must be collapsed. I wanted to prove to myself that indeed a district must be collapsed, because, my preference was that we should not collapse a district. We should move district boundaries, but not collapse.

After a few hours, I had a Senate map that did not collapse a district and was within 5% deviation. I pretty much put that map aside for several weeks, wanting to allow the Senate redistricting committee to proceed with its work.

When the Senate redistricting committee voted officially to collapse a district, I started working on this map in earnest.

Prior to the first adjournment break, the Senate took up the map bill. I offered an amendment similar to the one in front of you today called "For The People v6". It was defeated on a 19-21 vote.

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, when the Senate once again took up the map bill, I offered "For The People v12". It was defeated on a 19-21 vote.

I still believe that the "For The People" map is a very good map. The criteria that I juggled are as follows:

- 1) keep all 40 Senators in their own district;
- 2) break as few counties and cities as possible;
- 3) not disenfranchise minority groups;
- 4) keep the deviation not only below 5% , but as low as possible;
- 5) and, I wanted to get 21 votes on the floor. To accomplish this goal, I changed v6 and ended at v12 by doing the following:
  - a) listened on the floor to the criticisms of v6 and made changes accordingly;
  - b) discussions with Senators and others in the weeks following.

Regarding the State Board map; having been on the State Board of Education for several years, I do like the map that you have introduced.

I like the idea that the bulk of the Wichita school district is in one KSBE district and for the most part, the school districts surrounding Wichita are in other districts. I believe this would enhance the representation.

I think it is good that the bulk of SE Kansas/Flint Hills is in one district. Further, it maintains the Southern JoCo Senate districts of 11, 23, and 37 along with Senate District 12 as it is currently situated. It also maintains the current alignment of the northern JoCo Senate districts as a KSBE district.

Also aligning KSBE districts 5, 6, and 7 has value. Although each of those districts has a large school district or two, for the most part, they tend to be smaller schools and have needs and desires significantly different than the more metro schools.

Mr. Chairman, I support your "For The People Map" as well as the State Board of Education map based on the "For The People" map.

Thank you for allowing me to speak.

Steve Abrams