

Testimony type: Verbal: virtual

From: Rob Santel
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To: The House Committee on Redistricting
Re: Fair & Equitable Representation in Kansas Congressional Maps
Position: Opponent

Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to supply testimony in support of transparent and fair redistricting.

I am urging you to please oppose any gerrymandered map that splits Wyandotte County from the core KC district.

I am a licensed social worker at a nonprofit in Wyandotte County serving persons affected by poverty.

This community faces significant challenges including blight, economic disinvestment, and lack of safe, quality, and affordable housing.

Splitting the voice of those already disinvested in will have significant negative impact.

Any attempt to divide Wyandotte County is an attempt to manipulate the map and further disenfranchise the voices of those most unrepresented.

I am a resident of Olathe and am aware of similar housing challenges in Johnson County as in Wyandotte County. The needs of those in the metro are most similar, and should be represented collectively.

Another important factor to consider in the metro is employment mobility. Residents of the metro area depend on jobs across county lines more than is common in other areas of the state and which leads to economic and social connections. Commuting long distances in high traffic volume is common in the metro region and unique in Kansas.

Current Congressional maps were created by the courts and should be altered as little as necessary to accommodate population 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 Committees on Redistricting should make their maps, agendas, and deadlines available to the public with at least a full week's notice to allow enough time to review maps, and prepare and submit testimony.

Again, I am urging you to please oppose any gerrymandered map that splits Wyandotte County from the core KC district.

Respectfully,

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