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**To:** [Senate Redistricting](#)  
**Subject:** INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input  
**Date:** Sunday, September 26, 2021 10:09:41 PM

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Date: 2021-09-27  
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State: Texas  
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Hello, my name is Krisan Patterson, I live in Dallas County, Texas. I support our democratic, representative form of government, and ask that the current redistricting process respect federal and Texas law, including the Voting Rights Act. Our government should be composed of representatives of the communities they live in, with shared values and needs. Texans do not want partisan politics deciding their political maps, we want fairly drawn maps. Urban voters do not want to be lumped together with rural districts to provide a partisan advantage to incumbent legislators.

Dallas County voters want representatives who understand the needs of Dallas County. Current redistricting proposals that have shifted the boundaries of Senate Districts 12 and 16 have moved my neighborhood in Dallas County to be represented by someone who also represents parts of Tarrant and Wise Counties. This is a mistake. A representative of rural parts of Wise and Tarrant counties is not going to provide fair representation to northern Dallas County. This kind of gerrymandering will decrease the ability of my neighbors to connect with their elected officials, will disenfranchise voters from representatives who understand the needs of an urban district, and will undermine support for transportation issues, small businesses in an urban environment, and the needs of frontline workers and sensitive groups during health emergencies such as Covid.

The proposed changes to our voting areas will separate me from my neighbors only 3 blocks away and will make it more challenging to connect with them about political issues. The parks where our community gathers will be represented by different State Senators, our local library will be in a separate Senate district, and my child's school will be in a different senate district. That is remarkable in a state as large as Texas, with Senate districts that span hundreds of miles, that it is so hard to keep communities together. These lines should not cut through the heart of our community, but should instead separate different towns, cities, and counties. Similarly, issues

such as air quality and transportation issues, while essential to the quality of life of voters here in Dallas County, may not be similar to the issues that concern voters in Wise and Tarrant counties, which will dilute the power of my vote and the ability of my community to address issues that are critically important. It will be very hard to mobilize voters on behalf of issues and candidates when we cannot work with neighbors who live just a few blocks away on key issues.

We want fair maps for all communities. Fair districting will set the foundation for the next 10 years and give our neighborhoods and communities a chance at equal and fair representation. Neighbors with common interests and minority communities should be represented in our government, to ensure that the needs of all Texans are brought into the halls of government. Texas is powered by its many diverse communities, and we should endeavor to help our government reflect the diversity and strength of our state.

District lines should be made on the basis of geographic communities, not by drawing convoluted districts that limit the ability of neighborhoods and communities to elect representatives of their choice. Representatives who are elected from the neighborhoods and communities they represent will listen to us and fight to meet our needs.

For far too long, many minority communities across the state, which are the fastest-growing across Texas, have been unfairly divided into multiple legislative districts and have been prevented from electing a candidate of their choice. Racism has driven the maps that we currently have. In 2011, Texas drew election maps that intentionally discriminated against people of color. I am concerned that in 2021, Texas is making the same mistake and is weakening our system of democratic representative government, and will not have fair electoral maps at the end of the process. The newly proposed lines between Senate District 12 and Senate District 16 seem to take into account the racial makeup of our communities in ways that separates different minority areas from each other.

I urge this committee to establish a fair and open process by supporting non-partisan fair map creation, hosting additional virtual committee hearings with advanced public notice throughout the next special session, providing at least 14 days for the public to review the maps, and 5 days to review any changes to proposed maps, keeping a record of all documents, written communications, emails, text messages and draft maps, and finally, providing an analysis of how the new maps impact historically disenfranchised communities of color.

Thank you for your attention to my testimony.

Sincerely,  
Krisan Patterson

