

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Thursday, September 16, 2021 8:39:48 PM

Date: 2021-09-17
First Name: Jessica
Last Name: Fausak
Title: N/A
Organization: self
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Austin
State: Texas
Zipcode: 78723
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

My name is Jessica Fausak, I am representing myself. Neutral. Thank you for hearing me.

I'm a 5th generation Texan, a resident of US Congressional District 25, and an individual with multiple severe brain injuries.

Since the year of it's signing, not a single congressional district, drawn in the great state of Texas, has adhered to the spirit of Section 2 of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Without representation, are we still really a government for the people, by the people?

The current congressional district maps mean our votes don't all count equally. As y'all already know, Travis County is cracked into 5 separate districts, and, while we voted only 26.5% for Republicans in our last general election, 4 out of 5 of our Congressional Representatives are in fact Republican.

I know I'm brain-damaged, as I mentioned earlier, but that math doesn't make a whole lot of sense to me.

Voting access is already harder in Texas than anywhere else in the United States of America, especially for those of us with disability (now more so due to the recent passage of SB1).

I was a healthy 27 years old when I survived a hemorrhagic stroke, caused by a brain aneurysm rupture, and given a death sentence. My neurosurgeon literally told my family to make funeral arrangements.

Good news: I didn't die! I did, however, have to relearn how to walk and form sentences, but overall I am extremely blessed to be here with you today.

While I am resilient, and have voted in every election possible since I left the ICU, in 2015, others in my community struggle more. They, however, are still Texans and deserve the opportunity to vote, to have their voices heard.

Our legislature ought to be making access to voting easier, not harder, see recently passed SB1.

Without open access to voting, our glorious Texas will be sentenced to elected officials who are not held accountable and will not work to represent us.

Our current 6 districts in Austin, Texas, are neither fair nor compact.

For the love of all that is Texas, please establish an independent redistricting commission, an IRC, to draw our next districts better.

Thank you for your time.

