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**To:** [Senate Redistricting](#)  
**Subject:** INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input  
**Date:** Thursday, September 30, 2021 4:05:27 PM

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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

I am writing to testify about the Senate's proposed congressional maps. These maps are highly problematic. They seem to have been drawn to diminish the influence of people of color and people living in cities even though most of the growth in Texas in the last decade came from urban areas, suburban areas, and communities of color.

I live in Allen, a suburb in Collin County, which is located in North Texas. It is a mostly middle-class city with good public schools. It has grown a lot in the past decade. Another thing that is important about Allen is that, like much of Collin County, it is ethnically fairly diverse. For example, 1 in 6 people are of Asian descent in Collin County, which is a far higher proportion than in most of Texas. Only 55% are non-Hispanic white. Many of my friends are Asian American, and I believe that growing up among people with different backgrounds has enriched my life. I have learned many things about the world from my community. I have also learned that, sadly, government does not always treat all populations fairly. Redistricting is one such example.

The proposed congressional maps are not drawn so that diverse populations in Collin County will be well-represented. Most of Collin County, including Allen, is in District 3. District 3 extends eastward into Hunt County, which is rural and predominantly white. However, two other districts reach into Collin. One is District 4, which nearly encircles District 3. District 4 snakes down the western side of Collin County, removing some of its more diverse areas and lumping them into districts far to the north and east of Collin that do not share enough common interests to justify this extremely oddly-shaped district. The other is District 32, which is mostly in Dallas County but takes small pieces out of southern Collin and Denton.

These maps dilute the influence of the Asian American community, which has seen rapid growth in North Dallas, Collin County, and Denton County. The Asian American community has been cracked between Districts 3, 4, 26, and 32. This is inexcusable. The Asian American community can and should be put into one district so that Asian Americans can have their concerns represented. Instead, these maps would make it so that the problems and viewpoints of my friends would not really matter in an election. This is a racist attack on my hometown and many others in North Texas.

The way that the congressional districts are drawn in this proposal is a blatant act of racial gerrymandering. These maps would reduce the political power of people of color as well as urban and suburban dwellers in an attempt to boost the political power of the majority party. The public has raised concerns about racial gerrymandering and violations of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 time and time again over the past year, yet the Senate has predictably drawn discriminatory maps. All Texans deserve to have their communities represented, not just the ones that tend to vote Republican.

Finally, the Senate Committee on Redistricting has not made this process transparent. The hearing on the Senate congressional maps was held only a few days after the maps were first released. This did not give the public adequate time to weigh in on this extremely important process. Furthermore, the hearing was only held in person at the Capitol. Texas is a huge state, so most people (including myself) could not make it to the hearing, especially considering the short notice. Going forward, the Senate can and must encourage more public participation and draw

maps that fairly represent all Texans.

