

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Monday, October 4, 2021 4:53:16 PM

Date: 2021-10-04
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Testimony of Desireé S. Luckey, Esq
Director of Policy, URGE: Unite for Reproductive and Gender Equity
Redistricting Testimony: HB 1 and SB 6

My name is Desireé S. Luckey, Esq. and I live in San Antonio, TX, where I am represented by Senator José Menéndez (SD 26) and Representative Elizabeth Campos (HD 119). and I am also Director of Policy at URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity. URGE builds power and sustains a young people's movement for reproductive justice by centering the leadership of young people of color who are women, queer, trans, nonbinary, and people of low-income. In Texas, and other states across the South and Midwest, URGE organizes our communities, provides a political home for young people, advocates for meaningful policy change, and shifts culture, working in states where the challenges and opportunities are greatest.

I write in opposition to the intentional use of race or proxies for race in the drawing of redistricted maps. I oppose the drawing of electoral district maps that do not reflect the record growth in the population of people of color in Texas' most populous counties. The goal of redistricting should be to accomplish what the Bill of Rights guarantees: equal justice under the law. Texas is an enormous state with a wide variety of people, cultures, and needs. As an organization centering young people, who are often just beginning their civic engagement, it is critical that the new maps reflect the tremendous diversity across the state and ensure that all voices are heard.

Racially discriminatory gerrymandering results in voter suppression and disenfranchisement and under-representation of constituents. No groups have been harmed more by map manipulation and voter suppression than young people who are Black, Latinx, LGBTQIA+, individuals of low income, and disabled. Their voices and their power have been minimized in the ballot box and in Congress. This is blatantly unfair. The only way to achieve equal justice is to, as much as possible, create politically neutral districts that reflect the needs of protected communities, so they have the representation they deserve through the creation of opportunity districts. The current maps do not create the opportunity districts needed so that our young people have full representation. I encourage you to support maps that adequately address the needs of the fast-growing group of young people in Texas who want to exercise their constitutionally

protected rights. Please vote for fair, inclusive maps that will make sure that ALL Texans have their votes counted.

