From: applications.administrator@capitol.local

To: <u>Senate Redistricting</u>

Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input Date: Monday, March 27, 2023 2:38:05 PM

Date: 2023-03-27 First Name: Caren Last Name: Edelstein

Title: Co-State Policy Advocate

Organization: National Council of Jewish Women

Address:
City: Dallas
State: TX
Zipcode:
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Thank you for doing your jobs, but please do them in a fair and transparent manner. If you are indeed holding these virtual and written opportunities for public input with an open mind and are willing to make changes that support all your constituents, then I applaud your time and efforts. If you plan to submit the exact same unfair maps that we are living under now, then your constituents will understand that these hearings have not been done with the best interest of all Texans in mind. Any amendments offered to a map proposal must be presented at least 5 days in advance of any vote to allow for the public to analyze the proposed amendments and advocate for or against them. Not one redistricting map in Texas has complied with the Voting Rights Act since the VRA was passed in 1965. Democrats and Republicans must turn their backs on the obvious and documented racism of the past and refuse to rubber stamp racist maps. The Census is clear 95% of all growth in Texas occurred in the AA, Latino, and AAPI communities. Any fair map must reflect the diversity of our state. What this means - there should be more districts where people of color can choose elected officials that share their background and values. Any map that doesn't do that is a flawed map. Senate District 16 is a clear example of splitting for partisan gain. Map lines have broken up neighborhoods and communities of interest for partisan gain. In the proposed Senate maps, a portion of District 16 has been carved out from Preston Hollow and Highland Park areas and put into District 12, however our neighbors with shared social, religious, and economic interests remain in District 16. I ask that you keep our community together, those who are unfairly drawn out of District 16 into District 12 for partisan purposes will be better served if they share a Texas Senator with their neighbors. Texans who live in a densely populated urban area of Dallas do not share a majority of commonalities with their more rural neighbors in Wise County. For the Jewish Community it is important for us to work together to advocate for the values we want to be reflected in our community. In the current redistrict, the Jewish Community Center of Dallas remains in District 16, but our Jewish neighbors and local synagogues including Temple Emanu-El, Temple Shalom and Congregation Shearith Israel have been reassigned to District 12, clearly splitting our community and our ability to work with our elected officials to address important issues such as anti-Semitism, supporting our neighbors Vickery Meadow (District 16) and more. Please consider what is best for voters. Voters need to choose their elected officials, not the other way around.