

**From:** [applications.administrator@capitol.local](mailto:applications.administrator@capitol.local)  
**To:** [Senate Redistricting](#)  
**Subject:** INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input  
**Date:** Thursday, March 23, 2023 9:15:12 AM

---

Date: 2023-03-23

First Name: Christina

Last Name: Fu

Title: N/A

Organization: OCA-Greater Houston

City: Houston

State: TX

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Hello, my name is Christina Fu. I am representing myself and OCA Greater Houston, a nonpartisan nonprofit that aims to empower and advocate for the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. No matter where you travel within my hometown of Houston, the racial and cultural diversity of the city is always apparent. We often come from different cultures and speak different languages. While I am privileged enough to have parents that speak, read, and write English well, many of my peers often have had to take on the role of translator at a young age. They drove three hours immediately after class from their college campus to their homes in Houston so they could accompany their parents to an important meeting to translate. They were in elementary school trying to translate important mail they didn't even understand to their parents. My peers wouldn't have to take on these roles if we had more representatives who understood our struggles and helped the diverse communities navigate the complexities of living in America. The responsibilities of representatives are falling into the hands of citizens, like my peers. The proposed map seeks to diminish our numbers and our voting power and leave us fending for ourselves. My community is extremely diverse, yet our representation is often diminished to the one token person of color attempting to advocate for the whole of the AAPI community. The current and proposed maps do not allow for people of color to elect a representative that will understand our needs, needs specific to the languages we speak, the cultures we grew up with, and so much more. These maps do not accurately represent the growth in the Asian community and seek to weaken our growing voices. People of color have been suppressed and ignored and we are asking for legislation to be passed that addresses their needs. The only way we can accurately address these needs is by electing representatives that understand our challenges. I ask that the committee listen to us, acknowledge our existence and our pain, and work towards a government that aims to accurately represent its people and their interests. We deserve the opportunity to choose who represents us. Lastly, I would like to address the way the redistricting process has been conducted. In 2021, I had the opportunity to participate in testifying in front of the redistricting committees. While I wasn't too familiar with the maps and the process, I remember hearings being announced at the last minute with little time to prepare testimonies or travel. I felt like the committees were doing everything in their power to make it as inconvenient as possible for the common folk to contribute to this process. And at the last hearing I testified at, I waited from 9:00am until around 7:00pm to testify. The sham process of choosing people at "random" to speak was clearly discriminatory, because it left a group of Asian Americans with ethnic last names amongst the last to speak. And now the committee is attempting to

pass the same maps that clearly did not have our best interests. I ask that the committee please listen and consider our communities who have been long ignored, create a fair map that will accurately represent the communities in Texas, and create an accessible process for the people to have a say in the process. Thank you for your time.

