

Koy Kunkel_SC

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
Sent: Saturday, July 10, 2021 3:28 PM
To: Senate Redistricting
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input

Date: 2021-07-10

First Name: Jessica

Last Name: Justice

Title: N/A

Organization: self

Address: [REDACTED]

City: Houston

State: TX

Zipcode: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

My name is Jessica and I am a teacher and I am here to speak up on my own behalf, but also on the behalf of my disabled father who is unable to provide testimony in person, my friends in the armed forces serving abroad, my poor rural family members who cannot afford to make this trip, my friends and acquaintances who are people of color, and my students, who are not able to be present today to challenge their rights and access to the ballot being limited. I vehemently oppose the voter suppression bill SB1 and I am pleading with you that you vote against it. As a lover of history, and someone who has taught Civics, I know that the primary characteristic that helps define the competency of republic and the legitimacy of governing institutions, is the ease in which you can cast a ballot. Texas has now been ranked by scholars as LITERALLY the most difficult state to vote in. I'll say that again. 50th out of 50 states. Why? Because Texas maintains an in-person voter registration deadline of 30 days prior to an Election Day, Texas has eliminated more than 750 polling places across the state (most of which have been removed from densely populated counties with high numbers of young and diverse voters, and Texas also happens to have the most restrictive pre-registration law in the country. This is all without HB3's intentional and unnecessary barriers to the ballot box...These unnecessary measures are solutions looking for a problem. And they are meant to discourage or downright prevent young people, the disabled, service-members, people of color and the poor from casting their votes. This is Jim Crow 2.0.

Perhaps some of you simply want to win elections & believe that reducing young, minority voting levels is a hell of a lot easier than breaking their attachments to current party affiliations... or maybe you're simply averse to actually advocating for legislation that will improve people's lives and that the majority of people can support. But I can assure you, that if you move forward with this legislation, the political backlash will not serve you in the long run. And people don't forget the names of the people who tried to disenfranchise them.

Right now, you have a decision to make. Are you going to stand on the right side of history and play to win by playing fair? Or are you going to try to rig the game in your party's political favor to protect conservative white political power from having to acknowledge and actually attend to the concerns and needs of a diverse state?

If you choose to move this bill forward, you may as well call this a Suppression Session instead of a special session.

Please oppose this bill in its entirety.

Sincerely,

A fellow citizen who believes in the integrity of our people and our electoral process, who is pleading with you to abandon efforts to put up intentional and unnecessary barriers to the ballot box for fellow citizens.

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.