

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Saturday, September 25, 2021 2:50:47 PM
Attachments: [Balkisu Habib redistricting testimony.docx](#)

Date: 2021-09-25
First Name: Balkisu
Last Name: Habib
Title: EMGAGE
Organization: redistricting
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State: Texas
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

[REDACTED]

Hello Madame Chairwoman, Senators. My name is Balkisu Habib, and I am speaking on the behalf of emgage action and myself. I am testifying in opposition to senate Bill 4. I was born and raised in Houston, Tx spending the last four years in district 7 now residing in district 15.

I am testifying about the need for a sustainable and right mapping of the districts in the redistricting process and understanding the effects of re-districting and ways it generally affects the POC, Hispanic/Latino and the Asian Population as it encroaches on their fundamental human and voting rights.

Commented [BH1]: make sure that it is 2-3 min long

SD15 is drawn to be 71.1% POC. They are splitting and erasing our voices district by district with these new maps. SD15 had a 14.5% increase in African American, 25% increase in Hispanic/Latino, and 37% increase in Asian populations. This is compared to just a 3% increase in White population in the last 10 years. Our maps need to reflect the growth of POC communities by providing an additional opportunity district, not divide them further!

Majority of these individuals do not have access to transportation and limited work schedules to allow them to go out of their usual route to enable them to vote. Therefore, considering how the redistricting will affect these citizens, we need to consider providing a much suitable and sustainable way to enable everyone to have access to the voting process by mapping out the districts with the people in consideration.

We need responsive representation and equal opportunity in all districts for our communities, in coalition with other people of color and immigrant populations with similar values and needs. Redistricting maps are supposed to represent people, not to guarantee election for politicians. Keep my community together with surrounding neighborhoods that share our interests rather than splitting us apart.

It is important that this body conduct a redistricting process that is non-discriminatory, fair, transparent, and reflective of Texas' concerns.