Gracias, Chairman, Vice Chair, and Committee Members. I’m Teresa Carbajal Ravet, and I’m here to represent myself y mi comunidad bilingüe, my fellow Spanish-speaking hermanas y hermanos. I’m an immigrant from México, mestiza by blood, and Mexicana- Americana by political boundaries.

I live in Dripping Springs, just southwest of Austin, and my community is, in large part, an affluent community, sin embargo, it has growing pockets of inmigrantes y migrantes Tejanos and Spanish-speaking communities, that contributed to and have sustained the growth of the Gateway to the Texas Hill County. The population of my area in Hays County has exploded, and one of the most overpopulated State Senate districts, District 25.

The Texas Legislature is strategically suppressing the votes of millions of people of color through gerrymandering. The proposed maps, by both the Senate and House, indicate an intentional racial discrimination of voters of color.

-- The Hispanic population in Texas grew by over 1.9 million (1,980,796), now comprising 39.25% of the population, and
-- The Hispanic population is one that grew at the fastest rates, growing over 20%, over the course of the last decade.

These maps unnecessarily rip apart historic neighborhoods and diverse communities in a tactical attempt to cement white, conservative power for the next decade. As well as brazenly providing a short notice to the public with limited opportunity to comment on the maps.

I continue to request, stress, that the Committee go back to the drawing board and draw maps that are fair, competitive, and representativos de todos los Tejanos, ALL Texans, and that you work to end map manipulation and gerrymandering.

Gracias por la oportunidad de compartir mi comentario. Thank you.