

## Koy Kunkel\_SC

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**From:** applications.administrator@capitol.local  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 13, 2021 6:41 PM  
**To:** Senate Redistricting  
**Subject:** INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input

Date: 2021-02-14  
First Name: Paula  
Last Name: Barkan  
Title: N/A  
Organization: self  
Address: [REDACTED]  
City: Austin  
State: TX  
Zipcode: [REDACTED]  
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

I am sending this email to testify on why the 2021 redistricting process needs to be fair and transparent and reflect the needs of our individual communities. I represent myself.

Redistricting affects every political issue, from the economy to healthcare to public education. Repeatedly, the closed-door redistricting process has created districts that don't accurately represent the people living within those districts. Given our state's large and diverse population, our communities deserve to be represented by leaders that reflect our population and diversity.

Intentionally and strategically manipulating communities like mine creates situations where we cannot band together to advocate for solutions to problems that affect us and our families. As a Texan, this is unfair and in direct contradiction to the values of our state and the job that we, the people, have hired you to do. In order for our democracy to function, we need to adhere to the core principle of one person, one vote. We need to ensure that ALL the communities in our state, many of which have long been ignored and sidelined, are given the representation that they need and deserve.

In order to build trust that the maps have not been unfairly manipulated, I ask that the legislature hold public hearings with public testimony after census data is released, and on any proposed maps after they have been drawn with enough time in advance for the public to review the maps. I also strongly encourage the legislature to attach analysis to all proposed maps that explains how the maps were drawn, why there was any deviation from traditional redistricting principles, such as breaking up county lines, and how the maps comply with the federal Voting Rights Act.

The Texas Legislature has the chance to finally get this process right and avoid wasting millions of taxpayer dollars and years on lawsuits, so I hope that you will take this testimony into serious consideration. Thank you for taking the time to listen to me today.

Sincerely,  
Paula Barkan Barkan

[REDACTED] Austin, TX [REDACTED]

