

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 10:23:18 PM

Date: 2021-09-30
First Name: Christina
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

Hello, my name is Christina Fu; I currently reside in Texas District 7. And 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. Thank you for letting me speak with you today.

The 2020 census showed that the AAPI community is one of the fastest growing demographics in Texas. This community is extremely diverse and widespread, yet our representation within the local, state, and federal government has been lacking. The proposed maps do not reflect this growth and I encourage the committee to consider new opportunity districts to allow communities of color the ability to choose candidates that represent them.

Having grown up in the Houston Area, I have been lucky enough to experience the many diverse cultures that make Houston unique. However, in my majority white neighborhood, I did not often see people like myself in the media, in my schools, and in the government. Because of this, I tried my best to fit in with those around me by distancing myself from my heritage. The lack of representation made me believe that there were not enough Asian Americans in Houston to be represented, and even worse, it made me believe that Asian Americans were not qualified or smart enough to be a representative. But even now, as our population has grown, we still lack adequate representation, just like all the other Black, Indigenous, people of color.

Despite not being the majority in my area, the AAPI community continues to boost economic growth with new businesses and enriches the community with new cultures and perspectives. Asian Americans are at every level of the government and society from essential workers, soldiers, professors, and doctors, but we are very rarely able to represent ourselves and our values. Everyone deserves to be represented by someone who understands the unique experiences and pressures they face, so why are people of color far less represented in the government?

I ask that as the committee draws and finalizes the congressional districts that they remember BIPOC are not a monolith. We each have unique cultures and values that deserve to be represented in the government. We have been and continue to be suppressed by the government who only acknowledges our existence when convenient. The proposed map clearly

only benefits the incumbents and the GOP, rather than trying to accurately represent the interests of Texans. It is my hope that one day I will see a representative who understands the academic pressures AAPI face, understands the fear Asian American women feel of being fetishized, works to address the growing wealth disparity between Asian Americans, understands the barriers we face in getting mental health help, and feels the frustration of being constantly overlooked.

Thank you for your time.

