

**From:** [applications.administrator@capitol.local](mailto:applications.administrator@capitol.local)  
**To:** [Senate Redistricting](#)  
**Subject:** INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input  
**Date:** Monday, October 4, 2021 6:12:53 PM

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Date: 2021-10-04  
First Name: Bhavani  
Last Name: Parpia  
Title: Ms.  
Organization: Self  
Address: [REDACTED]  
City: Southlake  
State: TX  
Zipcode: [REDACTED]  
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Hello, my name is Bhavani Parpia and I am a resident of Southlake in Tarrant County. For the community to be involved in the democratic process we need to have the ability to elect representatives that reflect our views. We can only let democracy flourish when voters get to pick their lawmakers, not when lawmakers select which voters they want in their districts. Therefore, it is essential for Texas to have a transparent and independent process for redistricting the state.

I am an educator of over 25 years who is an integral part of the service sector in Texas. I am also part of the South Asian community that contributes to the economic, social, and civic success of the area. We have a strong presence in North Texas including event halls and movie theaters such as Fun Asia in Richardson, TX. We enjoy our traditional foods at restaurants such as Mughlai in Southlake, Tandoor in Arlington, and Yellow Chili in Plano.

Our community has had a substantial impact on Texas, both in terms of the strong diversity that defines Texas as well as to the growth of this great state. The South Asian American community is the fastest growing ethnic group in Southlake. Yet, we are not able to elect candidates that represent our voices. Some of the issues we are particularly concerned about are education that celebrates diversity and inclusion, the erratic power grid structure, as evidenced by the winter of 2020, the terrible disregard for health as evidenced by the poor management of Covid, the repressive reproductive rights of women, taking us back into the 19th century, the ridiculous supplication to gun lobbyists that always result in tragic outcomes and “thoughts and prayers”, to name a few.

For far too long, AAPI communities, which are the fastest-growing across Texas, have been unfairly divided into multiple legislative districts and thus, have been prevented from having the ability to elect a candidate of their choice. All I ask is that we are given equal representation through fair legislative districting. We ask that you honor the Voting Rights Act which prohibits you from drawing lines that dilute our voices. Your maps are deliberately breaking up our community.

South Asians are the fastest-growing minority population in Texas. District lines were drawn 10 years ago. Our community has grown exponentially since then. Gerrymandering often favors one party over another. Minority communities are often split to

dilute their voices.

It is critical that we participate in the process to allow our collective voices to be documented. We all want our voices to be heard in determining the future of our families and communities.

In the interest of a richer, more responsive democracy I urge Texas to adopt an independent redistricting commission so that all our communities have the representation they deserve. Thank you for this opportunity to testify virtually, I hope you expand virtual testimony for every committee hearing for every bill going forward during this legislative session.

Sincerely,

Bhavani Parpia

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.