From: <u>applications.administrator@capitol.local</u>

To: <u>Senate Redistricting</u>

Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input

Date: Monday, October 4, 2021 12:27:03 AM

Attachments: Vineeta Salvi letter to TX Senate Committee-100321.pdf

Date: 2021-10-04 First Name: Vineeta Last Name: Salvi

Title: NA

Organization: self

Address:
City: Dallas
State: TX
Zipcode:
Phone:

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

My name is vineeta salvi, and I am a resident of Precinct 13 in HD 108, SD 16 (to become SD 12) and Congressional District 32 (to become CD 24) TX). I am proud to belong to the large and engaged South Asian community which contributes much to the economic, social, and civic success of this area.

I work in the non-profit education sector and have been a resident of Dallas for over a decade and half. Since moving here from Houston in 2004, I have witnessed significant improvements in Dallas in all aspects, caused by the influx of new residents of various ethnicities including South Asian Americans, who have contributed to the economic growth as well as the prosperity and vibrancy of this city and county.

The South Asian community in particular plays an important role in many different fields of the economy in Texas including healthcare, education, commerce and technology, yet politically we remain on the margins, unable to contribute our true value to the state due to a lack of opportunity, some deliberate obstacles placed in our path to discourage us from seeking political office and also because we are not able to elect candidates that truly understand and represent us

Some of the issues that I am most concerned about currently are education and economic inequality, a fragile power grid and crumbling infrastructure that is vulnerable to disruption, disparity in healthcare access, absence of science-driven, sensible response to handling and overcoming the pandemic, lack of gun safety, discriminatory voting restrictions, the recent assault on my rights and autonomy as a woman by denying me authority over my own body. In an open and fair democratic system, I would expect my elected representative to understand, respect and address (if not redress) my legitimate concerns.

I am aware that these concerns may not be similar to those of a person living much further away from me in physical distance and or differences in other aspects of our lives and livelihoods, and may in fact in some instances, his/her priorities may be the opposite of mine. That person should be fairly represented as should I be.

The new redistricting proposals will likely result in an elected representative not of my choice, representing both me (and my ethnic and immediate community) and also some persons and communities who have very little if anything in common with my family or community-

ethnically, economically, educationally, occupationally and or financially. This "representative" will then be failing in his/ her duties and obligations to one group or the other. As an engaged citizen it makes me wonder - why are you setting up this process and person to be a failure? Is this in fact what is called gerrymandering?

The current legislative proposals claim they are "race blind", but they seem designed to illegally and systematically divide communities of color and dilute their voices. South Asian Americans have fueled the economic, educational and entrepreneurial growth in this area, please do not silence our voices and undermine our potential to contribute even more by drawing unfair lines.

I request you to adhere to Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act which is a national prohibition against voting practices and procedures, (including redistricting plans) that discriminate on the basis of race, color, or membership in a language minority group. I am writing to seek equal and empathetic representation through fair and open legislative redistricting.

Sincerely,

Vineeta Salvi

October 3rd 2021

My name is vineeta salvi, and I am a resident of Precinct 13 in HD 108, SD 16 (to become SD 12) and Congressional District 32 (to become CD 24) TX). I am proud to belong to the large and engaged South Asian community which contributes much to the economic, social, and civic success of this area.

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