

[REDACTED]

Date: 2025-08-07

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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

[REDACTED]



ANTIOCH FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

Dear Representative Cody Vasut and members of the Texas House Committee on Redistricting:

The Antioch Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church of Dallas is writing to express our strong opposition to HB 4 that seeks to redraw district maps. As a church in the heart of an affected community that serves over 6,500 people in the Dallas-Forth Worth metroplex, we do so for several reasons. According to a report from the Texas Tribune, when the President of the United States called the Governor of the State of Texas to speak about an agenda item for a special session, it was not to provide relief for the Texans affected by flooding, to protect the 770,000 Texans who will be uninsured, or the millions of Texans who may not have food. Instead, the Governor allowed himself to be bullied into forcing an unjust redistricting of Congressional maps as an agenda item for that special session. It is this same spirit of cowardice that guides this redistricting process. This instance of redistricting is very rushed, leaving constituents and their voices silent as the public was not provided an opportunity to view a map proposal. Additionally, this is blatantly disadvantageous to minority communities. It furthers the state of Texas' history of suppressing the votes of its minority citizens. The affected districts are overwhelmingly filled with Black and Hispanic voters. Public servants should first serve the people and not the agenda of the White House.

In light of this, we are calling for a rejection of HB 4 and this proposed map. As noted above, this is a racist map that will intentionally disenfranchise the minorities of Texas who are already at a disadvantage. It also flies in the face of the testimony given to establish the districts in 2021 that stated that the maps were drawn in a race-neutral way, exposing the dishonesty of this entire process. This is a clear demonstration that the Department of Justice is acting unjustly and certain members of the Texas State Legislature are siding with them rather than doing justice or defending the cause of the oppressed and the needy, as those of us who follow the Bible are commanded to do in Psalm 82:3. As a church body committed to fighting for what is right in the way that Jesus would have us to, we have been active participants throughout this process. We were present and submitted written testimony for the in-person field hearing for the Dallas area on July 28, 2025 and have submitted written testimony for the upcoming hearing in Austin on August 1, 2025. We witnessed how this process was designed to disregard the voices of the people, as in-person testimony was capped at five hours, leaving out a significant portion of the attendants. This process is further illegitimized by the fact that Representative Cody Vasut sat in the hearing and refused to answer questions about the map and its existence in a fully fair and fully open way. He failed to confirm that the hours of testimony and the thousands of voices that spoke in opposition would be considered in the process. Less than 24 hours after the final hearing's conclusion, he proved that the voices of the people did not matter to him or the authors of this bill. We call for each member of the committee and legislature to take every step necessary to ensure that this unjust bill does not become an unjust law. The Antioch Fellowship Missionary Church of Dallas, Texas calls for you vote in opposition to HB 4.

In Christ's Name,

Christopher K. Wesley

Reverend Christopher K. Wesley,
Senior Pastor

O. Christopher Buckner

Reverend O. Christopher Buckner,
Associate Pastor of Justice

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