

[REDACTED]

Date: 2025-07-25
First Name: Shaine
Last Name: Morris
Title: Physician
Organization: self
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Bellaire
State: TX
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

Dear Members of the Redistricting Committees,

My name is Dr. Shaine A. Morris. I am a pediatrician and pediatric cardiologist living and practicing in the Houston area, which is part of US Congressional District 7, and I grew up in San Antonio, in US Congressional District 21, where much of my family still lives. I am writing to you today to express my strong opposition to the Legislature's attempt to redistrict our congressional districts mid-census, especially in special session there are so many larger priorities. As a physician, woman, and mother, I find this action by the Governor and the Department of Justice not only unjustified but deeply troubling. This effort is clearly a deliberate attempt to diminish the voting power of populations that do not agree with the Governor and is the antithesis of democracy and a representative government.

The way in which congressional districts are drawn has profound implications for every policy issue that affects Texas families—from healthcare access and economic stability to the quality of public education. When political boundaries are manipulated to serve partisan interests instead of representing actual communities, we all lose. The residents of Texas deserve elected officials who reflect our demographics and values, and who will advocate for policies that address our most urgent needs. Gerrymandering silences the voices of entire communities and erodes trust in our democratic institutions.

As a pediatrician, I see firsthand how these policy decisions affect the health and well-being of children and families. In Harris County, far too many families already struggle to access affordable healthcare. Texas leads the nation in the number of uninsured residents—many of whom are children. Over 50% of my patients are covered by Medicaid. Yet, Congress recently passed a tax bill that threatens to strip even more people from Medicaid coverage, which will decrease access for my patients to care and will increase childhood mortality in Texas. Had our region been fairly represented in Congress, this harmful legislation might not have passed. Instead, our communities were deliberately "packed and cracked," weakening our voice in Washington.

Moreover, the current redistricting process has been anything but transparent. Holding public hearings without making proposed maps available beforehand shows a clear disregard for public participation. How can the public provide meaningful input when we don't even have access to the proposed changes?

I am respectfully asking the Committee to do better. Hold a public hearing after the

maps are drawn—but before they are passed through committee. Give the public at least five days’ notice and access to review these maps. Most importantly, I ask that the individuals responsible for drawing the maps explain their decisions and disclose any communications related to the redistricting process. Transparency and accountability must be non-negotiable.

This is a critical moment for our democracy. You have the opportunity to restore trust in this process and avoid years of costly litigation. I urge you to take my testimony—and the voices of countless others across Texas—seriously. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Shaine A. Morris, MD, MPH, FAHA, FAAP
Houston, Texas

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Shaine A. Morris.