

## Koy Kunkel\_SC

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**From:** applications.administrator@capitol.local  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 28, 2021 12:34 PM  
**To:** Senate Redistricting  
**Subject:** INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input  
**Attachments:** Amorae\_Redistricting Hearing \_docx.pdf

Date: 2021-01-28  
First Name: Amorae  
Last Name: Times  
Title: Campus Organizer--Prairie View A&M University  
Organization: Deeds Not Words, self  
Address: [REDACTED]  
City: Austin  
State: TX  
Zipcode: [REDACTED]  
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

[REDACTED]



**Senate Special Committee on Redistricting**  
**Attn: The Honorable Senator Huffman, Chair**  
**Capitol Station**  
**Austin, Texas 78711**  
**Re: Written testimony; Redistricting Process, 87(R)**

Dear Senator Huffman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Amoraë Times and I am a student at Prairie View A&M University. I am a #Changemaker with Deeds Not Words and I am a student attending a Historically Black University. "I am here in favor of a fair and transparent redistricting process because Texans deserve to vote in congressional districts with no partisan biases.

A key tenet of democracy is free and fair elections and maintaining fair and transparent congressional districts will aid in upholding this tenet. Texans deserve equal and easy access to polls and a truly representative legislative body and this is why ending gerrymandering is important to me. Because it is important to encourage a truly representative body in future elections, I urge you to advocate for a fair, and transparent redistricting process that will ensure accurate representation and redistribution of resources that will affect the lives and livelihood of Texans for years to come.

As a student leader at Prairie View A&M University, I have become familiar with students of color who plea to have accessible polling,

and representation that represents our population and interests. Students at Prairie View A&M University have been involved in multiple lawsuits regarding access to polling and voter suppression, with a notable case being *Symm v. United States*, 439 U.S. 1105 (1979) . Most recently, my classmates, along with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund are in an ongoing lawsuit due to voter suppression in the county in which the university resides. Although myself and many other students are not participants in this lawsuit, we have experienced voter suppression first hand. Prairie View A&M is on the land of a former slave plantation. As the University has evolved over the years from a small agricultural school, to a university filled with some of Texas' brightest students, one thing has remained the same; Black peoples struggle for equality. The place in which many first generation college students are fulfilling their ancestors wildest dreams, also doubles as a reminder of the prevalence of the ongoing fight for equality.

If districts are drawn in a fair way, this will allow students at Prairie View and all over Texas easier access to voting, and enable the ability for a more representative body. I would like to conclude by thanking you for your time and giving me the opportunity to stand before you today to share why a fair and transparent redistricting process is important to me.

For any questions contact, [Andrea Reyes, Political Director at Deeds Not Words](#)

[REDACTED]  
Austin, TX, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

*Deeds Not Words is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization creating today's Changemakers and tomorrow's leaders by galvanizing the power and building the leadership of young people through organizing, policy-making, art, and voting.*

