

Koy Kunkel_SC

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 10:06 AM
To: Senate Redistricting
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Attachments: Carla Ramazan Redistricting Testimony _docx (1).pdf

Date: 2021-01-28
First Name: Carla
Last Name: Ramazan
Title: Campus Organizer-- University of Texas at Dallas
Organization: Deeds Not Words, self
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

[REDACTED]



Senate Special Redistricting Committee

Attn: The Honorable Joan Huffman, Chair

Capitol Station

Austin, Texas 78711

Re: Written testimony; Redistricting, 87(R)

Dear Senator Huffman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Carla Ramazan, and I am senior UT Dallas. I am also a Changemaker with Deeds Not Words and the proud daughter of immigrants. My parents moved to the United States from Romania when I was two years old to provide me, their first born child, with a higher quality of life. My mother and father escaped a brutal dictator in Romania and fled to the United States, believing that America was a place where they would find *government of the people, by the people, for the people*.

I was not able to vote until the age of 20, as my family and I underwent an arduous process to secure our American citizenship. I still remember how ecstatic I was the day I cast my first vote; I relished in the thought of playing a meaningful role in our democracy and was proud to know I had done my part to make my voice heard. However, as I study political science in college, the more I learn about gerrymandering and the way it stifles certain voices, the less I believe American is home to *government of the people, by the people, for the people*.

I am deeply concerned by the history of voter suppression in Texas and believe it poses a great threat to our democratic system. As Texas's population grows,

state demographics are changing. It is crucial the way district lines are drawn grants equal weight to each and every vote casted in Texas. That is the only way to ensure a system where each citizen matters equally, regardless of race and socio-economic status.

This committee has the opportunity to take action this year that will either harm or strengthen our democracy for years to come. The health of our democracy is compromised and the results of elections no longer reflect the will of the people if district lines are not drawn fairly to ensure that all votes matter equally.

Thank you for your time and for listening to my concerns. I trust that together we can build a more equitable and just future for all Texans.

For any questions contact, Andrea Reyes, Political Director at Deeds Not Words

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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.