

**From:** [applications.administrator@capitol.local](mailto:applications.administrator@capitol.local)  
**To:** [Senate Redistricting](#)  
**Subject:** INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input  
**Date:** Thursday, September 30, 2021 11:18:28 AM  
**Attachments:** [Realini Redistricting Maps Testimony text 09 30 2021.pdf](#)

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Date: 2021-09-30  
First Name: Jan  
Last Name: Realini  
Title: N/A  
Organization: Self  
Address: [REDACTED]  
City: San Antonio  
State: TX  
Zipcode: [REDACTED]  
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:  
Please see attached comments

[REDACTED]

Written Testimony on Congressional Redistricting Maps  
Senate Redistricting Committee, September 30, 2021  
Janet Realini, MD, MPH

The Senate Redistricting Committee has rushed to produce Congressional District maps that are gerrymandered in illegal ways.

The Committee appears to have disregarded input that citizens provided them during previous hearings and is rushing to get the maps signed by the Governor. There is not enough time for citizens or analysts to examine all the maps in order to make presentations in a public forum.

Latino and Black communities have suffered the most from map manipulation. According to the Census, 95% of Texas' growth in the last 10 years was driven by communities of color, and Texas' 2 new Congressional Districts should be drawn to create at least 2 new minority opportunity districts for Hispanics/Latinos in particular. At least half of this growth has been among Hispanic/Latino populations

The following are examples of illegal gerrymandering in the Senate maps (Plan C2101):

Dallas Area: Although the population growth in this area in the last ten years was driven by communities of color, the Senate Map splits these communities into five different CDs, most of which jump out to rural predominantly white counties. This is classic "cracking" to dilute the voting power of minority Texans. Hispanic/Latinos are the most numerous ethnic group in this area, but there is no Hispanic/Latino minority opportunity district in the proposed Senate map. There should be a western Dallas area district created to offer a new minority opportunity district.

Bexar County: I live in the northwest corner of Bexar County, and I am particularly concerned about this attempt at illegal gerrymandering. The population of our county is majority Hispanic/Latino. Unfortunately, the Senate's CD map clearly uses "cracking" in dividing up San Antonio into 5 districts, only one of which is entirely in the county. This dilutes the voting power of our minority communities. Three of the districts chop up Bexar neighborhoods and join them to rural areas and sometimes entire counties. One of our majority minority areas would be inside CD 35, which stretches along Interstate 35 all the way to East Austin. CD 35 is not a community of interest, but crosses over multiple communities of interest. It makes no sense.

As this analysis shows, the C2101 map demonstrates the Senate Redistricting Committee's illegal gerrymandering to exclude minorities from opportunities to elect the representatives of their choice. The maps must be revised to allow more Hispanic/Latino, Black, and coalition-minority voters the opportunity to elect candidates of their choice.