



Date: 2025-08-07

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Regarding: Congressional





Senate Special Committee on Congressional Redistricting
The Texas Senate
Austin, TX [REDACTED]

August 7, 2025

Re: Human Rights Campaign OPPOSITION to Texas HB 4

Dear Chair King and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC)—America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) equality—and our more than three million members and supporters nationwide, many thousands of whom reside in Texas, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 4, a piece of legislation that undermines the foundational principles of redistricting, the public trust, and the integrity of our democracy. We strongly urge you to reject this legislation.

This redistricting plan seeks to entrench power by diminishing minority representation and warping the electorate to favor one party in order to predetermine outcomes – outcomes that silence the voices of Texans across the state and, necessarily, do not reflect the will of the people. This testimony is focused not solely on the mechanics of line drawing, but on the Legislature's responsibility to ensure that every Texan has an equal and fair opportunity to choose those who govern them.

From its inception, the United States of America has sought the ever-enduring principle of freedom. From the first, bold declarations of independence to the long march through the civil rights movements, and our continued pursuit to build a nation where every person can live free of persecution because of who they are, we cannot abandon the principle that representation is a right, not a privilege. Redistricting, then, is a duty – one that is sacred and foundational to the democracy that generations before us fought to establish.

As one of the largest and most diverse states in the country, Texas carries a unique obligation in this process. Like the nation, the strength of Texas comes not from silencing voices, but from embracing them. And this proposal stands in direct contrast to these principles. This exercise to limit participation in the democratic process, to dilute the voting power of communities, is a partisan dismantling of democracy. Such an exercise undermines the public trust and sends a dangerous message that political power is to be protected, even at the cost of freedom itself.



Redistricting must be about fairness, transparency, and fidelity to “one person, one vote.” Any map that seeks to entrench power by slicing through communities, diminishing minority representation, and warping the electorate in order to do so is an affront to firm constitutional principles and a betrayal of civil rights and democratic values. Our democratic values rely on the integrity of those entrusted with its stewardship: that’s us, the electorate, and you, those we elected (and entrusted) to sustain them. These are the moments that actually test your commitment to us, to equality, to freedom.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important matter. We urge you to not let Texas be a cautionary tale of democracy eroded by partisan design. Let us instead chart a course that upholds the promise of fair representation and honors the civil rights of all Texans. We urge you to reject HB 4.

Sincerely,

Cathryn M. Oakley
Senior Director, Legal Policy
Human Rights Campaign