Date: 2025-07-27
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:
Dear Members of the Texas State Senate,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the upcoming redistricting efforts in Texas, which appear aimed at further gerrymandering our congressional map—manipulating district boundaries in a way that does not reflect the diverse population you were elected to serve.

Currently, Republicans hold 25 of the 38 U.S. House seats from Texas—approximately 65.7% of the delegation. There is now pressure to increase that number to 30 seats, or 78.9%, through additional gerrymandering. This is particularly troubling given that former President Donald Trump received only 56.3% of the Texas vote in the 2024 election. Such a shift would not represent the will of the people of Texas; it would send a clear message that GOP leaders prefer to manipulate the system rather than compete fairly for public support.

In June of this year, a University of Texas/Texas Politics Project poll showed that only 44% of Texans approved of President Trump's performance. Rather than pursuing increasingly undemocratic redistricting tactics, Republican leaders should focus on listening to constituents and making decisions that serve all Texans. Doing so would be a more honorable—and ultimately more sustainable—way to build electoral support.

The right of every citizen to have an equal voice in our democracy is fundamental to the integrity of our electoral system. Gerrymandering—whether for partisan gain or incumbent protection—violates this principle. It distorts representation, diminishes the power of individual votes, and undermines trust in government.

Lawmakers should be accountable to their constituents. After the 2020 census, the redistricting strategy appeared designed to eliminate competitive races altogether. In my own Congressional district (TX-24), Beth Van Duyne won the 2020 election with just 48.8% of the vote, narrowly defeating her opponent, who earned 46.5%. But following the release of the 2021 redistricting maps, her opponent was drawn out of the district. In the 2022 and 2024 elections, Van Duyne won by far larger margins—59.7% and 60%, respectively—thanks to maps that were engineered to favor her.

This has had a real impact on Texans in District 24. Beth Van Duyne shows little interest in representing or engaging with all constituents. She refused to debate her opponent in the 2024 election. Ironically, in 2020 she criticized her opponent for not appearing at a forum, saying: "If you can't show up, be held accountable, and talk openly and honestly with people, then you aren't qualified for this job." Yet since her 2024 reelection, she has refused to hold a live town hall. When pressed, she offered only heavily screened telephone town halls and declined to take tough questions from voters.

By her own 2020 standards, she is no longer qualified for the job. This is exactly the kind of political insulation and lack of accountability that gerrymandered maps create.

The 2021 redistricting effort in Texas—and any attempt to worsen it now—is a betrayal of public trust and democratic ideals. I implore you to reject partisan redistricting and stand against any effort to cheat the system to retain power. Instead, challenge your colleagues to earn the trust of voters through fair representation, transparency, and responsiveness.

Ensure that the Texas congressional map reflects the will of the people—not the preferences of political parties or the ambitions of one man. Your leadership on this issue will be remembered.

Please choose democracy over manipulation.

Sincerely,
Cherie Mallory