



Date: 2025-08-07
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

My name is Cole Weaver. I speak on behalf of CWA Local 6154, which represents workers at Local Mental Health Authorities in different parts of Texas. We as a local are strongly opposed to the mid-census congressional redistricting. This brazen move by the Governor and the Department of Justice to increase Republican representation in the U.S. House by taking it away from communities of color is blatant racial gerrymandering.

We urge the Texas Senate to respect federal and state law, including the Voting Rights Act. Nothing from this testimony should be used by the legislature to justify diminishing the ability of a minority group to elect the candidate of their choice or artificially distorting maps for racial or partisan purposes.

The legislature is misplacing its priorities by focusing on an abnormal mid-decade redistricting process, right as the state reels from the tragic loss of so many lives from recent floods. Texans should be seeing caring consideration from their government, not increasing the number of Republican districts at the costs of communities of color. This is not about partisanship. This is racial discrimination.

We are also vehemently opposed to how the proposed maps will silence pro-worker congresspeople by having their seats eliminated and pitting some against each other for midterm elections. The seats that would be lost have done

wonders to represent the interest of everyday Texans, as well as being firm allies to hardworking labor organizations. It is wrong – and unfair to all Texans – to have politicians choose their voters instead of earning their votes.

Texas also has a very long history of discriminating against voters of color in their racial gerrymandered maps. The State has violated the Voting Rights Act or intentionally discriminated against voters of color every decade for the past 50 years. We don't even know if the process that the state used in 2021 meets constitutional muster and if the maps that were passed uphold federal law. It is not okay for the Legislature to use mid-census redistricting to hold up our maps in court indefinitely, preventing these communities from ever seeing relief.

This redistricting proposal is not just a political maneuver—it's an existential threat to representation, resources, and rights for Black, Brown, Indigenous, immigrant, and working-class communities. When maps are manipulated, it distorts the very foundation of democracy. It silences the voices of those already struggling to be heard. This is not a fight about political parties. It is a fight about political power and who gets to wield it.

To quote historian Carol Anderson, “The racial gerrymandering in Texas is so institutionalized that, frankly, it has the aura of the apartheid era’s ‘white minority rule.’ In the Lone Star State, whites are 45% of the state’s population, but control 70% of the congressional districts. The disparity is even more obvious in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, where whites are only 20 percent of the population but have 80 percent of the congressional seats.”

CWA Local 6154 firmly urges the Senate to stop this power grab and vote NO the proposed congressional maps.



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