



Date: 2025-07-28

First Name: Debra

Last Name: Allen

Title: Ms.

Organization: Self

Address: [REDACTED]

City: Houston

State: TX

Zipcode: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

My name is Debra Allen. I am senior citizen. I live NORTH of 610, EAST of 59 in the historical 18th Congressional District. I also live in Texas Senate District 13, Texas House District 142, Harris County Commissioner's Precinct One.

I testified in-person against the 2021 Redistricting Hearing and now I'm back again today to testify against the 2025 Redistricting Hearing. In essence, redistricting should be done transparently and with the goal of ensuring equal representation for all citizens, regardless of race or ethnicity. Cracking and packing communities of color only serve to undermine that goal and deepen divisions within society.

Mr. Chair in order for you to have driven or flown from Austin to Houston to appear at this hearing, you needed a map or you could have gotten lost. So why are we expected to vote if we don't a map to show us which direction we should be headed.

You're supposed to crack eggs and pack preserves in a jar, not people.

10 REASONS WHY TEXAS SHOULD NOT REDISTRICT THE STATE

I have 10 reasons why Texas should not redistrict the state in ways that crack and pack communities of color out of their districts:

1. Voter Disenfranchisement

Redistricting that cracks or packs communities of color dilutes their voting power, potentially silencing their voices in the electoral process. When districts are manipulated to dilute minority representation, it disenfranchises the very voters who should have equal political influence.

2. Violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965

3. It Undermines Democracy

4. Promotes a Lack of Fair Representation

5. Creates Political Instability

Gerrymandering—whether it involves cracking or packing—can create unstable political environments. Voters may lose trust in the process, feeling that their votes don't matter or that the system is rigged in favor of one group over another, leading to lower voter turnout and engagement.

6. Historical Legacy of Discrimination

Historically, redistricting efforts that target communities of color have been a form of racial discrimination, perpetuating systems that marginalize people based on race. Continuing

such practices only deepens divisions and perpetuates inequality that has existed for generations.

7. Economic Inequality

Political representation impacts policy decisions that affect local economies. If communities of color are packed into a single district or cracked across multiple districts, they may not have the collective political power to advocate for policies that address their economic needs, such as funding for schools, healthcare, and infrastructure.

8. Erosion of Social Cohesion

Communities of color often share cultural, social, and historical ties. Cracking these communities into different districts or packing them into one dilutes their ability to advocate for shared interests. This can lead to the fragmentation of cohesive, vibrant communities and weaken the social fabric of those areas.

9. Legal and Constitutional Challenges

Redistricting plans that disproportionately affect communities of color are often subject to legal challenges. These plans can be struck down by courts for violating both the U.S. Constitution and federal laws like the Voting Rights Act. Defending such districts in court costs taxpayers time and money, creating unnecessary legal and financial burdens.

10. Moral and Ethical Concerns

Finally, gerrymandering that cracks and packs communities of color raises significant moral and ethical concerns. It essentially manipulates the electoral process for partisan advantage at the expense of racial equity and fairness. It's crucial to ensure that all people have an equal and fair opportunity to influence the political decisions that affect their lives. Maps aren't just for travel—they're tools for understanding the world on a deeper level!



**Monday
July 28, 2025**

**Redistricting Testimony for
Debra Allen**

**4527 Pardee Street
Houston TX 77026**

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