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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

SB 4: Congressional Redistricting

The following are the Texas State Teachers Association's comments before the Texas Senate Special Committee on Congressional Redistricting.

Texas educators and parents deserve to have a representative democracy that responds to their needs. This gerrymander push is a waste of time and a display of misguided priorities. This special session is an opportunity to put in the work for Texans, and in education policy we have TRS retirees struggling with the cost of living on a fixed income, insurance and housing for our educators is becoming increasingly unaffordable, and we have a flawed accountability system. Educators, parents, and students voted for you to address these issues, not engage in frivolous redistricting.

Our public schools are integral to our public democracy, but our current march towards increased privatization, state takeover, and now a surprise gerrymander, shows a blatant lack of concern for both democracy and public education.

The SB 4 gerrymander divides communities and dilutes the voting power of black and brown communities. Further stretching out districts across hundreds of miles will disenfranchise voters, make constituent communication less responsive, and break the connection between citizens and their representatives.

Right now, we have representatives that are doing the work of listening to their communities and addressing their needs in Congress, there is no need to fracture this work with a rushed mid-decade redistricting that nobody voted for.

Everybody can tell that this gerrymander is a threatening mandate from the President and Texas leaders should not be kneeling down to the Trump administration, an administration that has withheld school funding, passed a nationwide voucher scheme, cut the Department of Education, has waged attacks on immigrant families, and has bullied the federal workforce. Just this last month the Trump administration failed working class Texans by pushing through a budget that will remove people from their healthcare and let students go hungry. Leaving people sick and starving does not reflect Texan values. This moment needs to be for empowering Texans, not

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