

[REDACTED]

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Date: 2025-07-26

First Name: Kelly

Last Name: Beam

Title: N/A

Organization: Self

Address: [REDACTED]

City: HOUSTON

State: TX

Zipcode: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

My name is Kelly Beam, and I am a resident of Houston's 18th Congressional District. I am writing to express my opposition to redistricting District 18.

District 18 is not just a collection of neighborhoods—it's a community rooted in a long, proud history of representation for marginalized voices. Since 1972, District 18 has included much of inner-city Houston and has been at the forefront of political empowerment for African Americans and other minorities. For more than 50 years, this district has been a stronghold of minority representation, electing leaders like Barbara Jordan, Mickey Leland, and Sheila Jackson Lee, who all fiercely advocated for our rights and needs.

Over 30% of our neighbors are Black, and large segments are Latino who speak languages other than English at home. Any attempt to redraw the district's lines in a way that divides or dilutes this vibrant, diverse community risks not only weakening our collective voice but also overtly undermines the representation of racial minorities. Redistricting to favor Republicans is not simply a partisan maneuver—it inevitably targets and dilutes the political power of minority communities. Redistricting based predominantly on race is prohibited by both the U.S. Constitution and the Voting Rights Act. The Supreme Court has held that "a State may not use race as the predominant factor in drawing district lines unless it has a compelling reason." When the state undertakes redistricting with the clear intent or obvious effect of reducing minority representation, it is just as unlawful as explicitly sorting voters by race.

Racial gerrymandering has been a core weapon used by state governments to enforce segregation and disenfranchise minorities. And this redistricting is no different. This is just another way to introduce Jim Crow (i.e., white supremacist) laws in 2025. Those voting for redistricting will not be remembered as patriots. They will be remembered as traitors to democracy and American civil liberty rights.

[REDACTED]