

[REDACTED]

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Date: 2025-07-28  
First Name: Laura  
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Title: Reverend  
Organization: self  
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State: Texas  
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:  
REDISTRICTING Testimony  
JULY 2025

My name is the Reverend Laura Walters. I'm an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church. I am speaking AGAINST CURRENT REDISTRICTING. I speak today from a Christian perspective not because Christianity should be prioritized (we are stronger with a plurality in our state) but because we do not hear enough about Jesus' command to love our neighbors and prioritize the marginalized. In our faith stories, Jesus always goes to the edge of society to listen to folks. AND he does not leave them there; he brings people back into community, so all voices are heard. Jesus builds up communities; he does not carve them apart.

While WE have not seen any maps (making this process inherently unjust), the DOJ's letter targets districts that are historically Black and Brown neighborhoods. Breaking apart communities, targeting Black and Hispanic peoples, will result in large groups of Texans being under-represented, replaced by officials who do not know or understand the needs of their constituency. That is unjust; that is not Christian.

Redistricting mid-census is unnecessary. Texans have not asked for this. This was not part of the regular session. The state has claimed in court that current maps are racially neutral. This is clearly about power - not need, not justice, not love. That is unjust, that is not Christian.

People of color make up more than 95% of the state's growth. Women of color represent the majority of Texas' females. Texas is home to over 4 million Black residents.\* And yet these folks are not equitably represented in our government. Voices are being silenced. That is unjust, that is not Christian.

I'm asking you to be more like Jesus – listen and don't tear apart Texas communities. Work so all Texans can be heard and represented.

ComputerIP: [REDACTED]