

[REDACTED]

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Date: 2025-08-07

First Name: Lauren

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Title: Ms.

Organization: self (purely in my individual capacity)

Address: [REDACTED]

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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

Dear Committee members,

I reside in Congressional District 18. For multiple reasons, the redistricting bill (SB 4), is bad for my district, those in targeted districts, and the people of Texas.

First, it's being rushed in a special session, with miniscule notice. For example, the bill and its proposed maps were filed in the House on July 30; the sole post-maps House hearing was August 1 (fewer than 3 days later); and what I assume will be the sole Senate hearing is today (just a week later). There's simply not enough time for the public or experts to evaluate how the proposed redistricting would affect communities of color's ability to elect candidates of their choice or otherwise comply with the Voting Rights Act. Additionally, testimony has been capped at just 2 minutes per witness, for just one session. And even if all of these shortcomings had been addressed, a short special session just isn't appropriate for this kind of analysis—especially when it's purposefully rushed, with limited testimony and unreasonably short notice.

Second, the regional comment sessions were extremely limited—just 5 hours long, 2 minutes per person, and in only three cities. And most importantly, no proposed maps or analysis had been released, depriving witnesses of the ability to address specifics. It's hard to comment on maps that don't exist—showing these hearings were merely performative.

Third, the current districts being targeted are majority minority, and the proposed remapping will undoubtedly wrest voting power away from at least some communities within them, in apparent racially based gerrymandering.

Fourth, at least one Voting Rights Act challenge to the 2021 redistricting bill is ongoing, making this new effort premature. The timing is also inappropriate because it's disconnected from the 10-year census. The Legislature should not use mid-census redistricting to postpone the current litigation's resolution, to the continued detriment of the communities of color adversely affected. And just like the 2021 gerrymandering, this new round will end up in court, wasting civil servants' time and effort and taxpayer dollars.

Finally, rather than pushing rushed, flawed, and racially discriminatory redistricting maps, the Legislature should instead be devoting this special session to issues that actually help

Texas's citizens, like helping those devastated by the Hill Country flooding and ensuring it never happens again.

For all these reasons, I oppose the current effort to redistrict the targeted congressional districts.

Respectfully,

Lauren Simpson, J.D.

(writing in my individual capacity, not on behalf of my employer or any of its affiliates)

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