

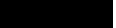


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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

I respectfully submit this testimony to the Representatives of my Native State, Texas.

Drawing Lines (in the sand? I hope not.) – thankfully we still live in a Democracy and so we can have this banter where we disagree, listen and consider. Disagreement is encouraged, as our forefathers envisioned free thinkers, communication and the people working together.

Of late it has felt as though these values are being minimized. My Representatives often say they want to know my opinion, yet their actions make me feel their ears are closed. That isn't the America I was born into. I am writing to you today over my concern in regard to redrawing the map lines for voting here in Texas. You know, all my life I have tried to understand those that are different from me. I have not always succeeded. I thought I knew what was fair, but there were times that I did not. We are all human, after all.

Over the last several years my awareness has opened up when it comes to racism. Oh, I remember blatant racism. As a young child here in Texas I well remember the separate water fountains. I remember feeling uncomfortable as a white child about it, confused. I remember sitting in a restaurant with my family and seeing a man and a woman, one black and one white, sitting together. The disapproval in the room was palpable.

My Mother and Father were a tad “woke,” as they say. I still don't understand the hullabaloo over that word. To me it just means, “I am trying my best to understand what you are going through.” So, when the “anti-racism” movement became a “thing” I decided, why not listen? I learned a heck of a lot. I learned the term “blind to racism” can be quite insulting, with the implication that it can be a refusal to try to understand the path and trauma someone of a different experience than you encountered. It's a refusal to listen. Some would also argue you can't be blind to racism. You can

however, by being blind to someone else's experience and the consequences. By not understanding what is like to be them, and refusing to try to understand.

Drawing new lines mid-decade is a political move that will silence some voices. It's taken us over two hundred years to even approach the understanding of understanding one another enough to talk about this. It's insidious to work to silence even one voice. Every person should have a fair opportunity to have a voice, and a meaningful vote. I try to live a righteous life. In that way I try to be inclusive and consider the personal circumstances of others with an open mind and heart. I think those are both faith based and American ideals.

I ask you not to waste time silencing voters. No to redistricting at this time.

