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Date: 2025-07-28  
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

My name is Anaiah Turner, and I live in Harris County as well as attend Texas Southern University. I am submitting this testimony to strongly oppose Governor Abbott's mid-decade redistricting efforts. As a Texan, I believe our districts must fairly represent the people who live in them. Communities of color make up nearly 60% of our state, yet only 34% of our congressional delegation reflects that diversity. Texas has a long history of intentional discrimination in redistricting—violating the Voting Rights Act or discriminating against voters of color in every decade for the past 50 years. The current maps adopted in 2021—still under federal court review—ignored racial data and reduced the number of majority-minority districts, even though population growth in our state was overwhelmingly driven by communities of color. Now, these mid-decade changes threaten to dismantle coalition districts like CD 9, CD 18, CD 29, CD 30 and CD 33, which have empowered Black, Latino, and Asian American voters to elect candidates of their choice. Across Texas, many people are already struggling to afford healthcare coverage. The recently passed Tax Bill, approved by the narrowest of margins, threatens to remove even more people from Medicaid rolls. Texas already has the highest rate of uninsured residents in the nation. If our communities in Houston and the DFW area had adequate representation, this harmful bill might not have passed. Instead, the state has shamefully chosen to “pack and crack” communities of color, diluting our collective voice in Congress. I respectfully urge this committee to:

Reject any mid-decade redistricting efforts and wait until the 2030 Census numbers are released before drawing any new maps.

Stop dismantling coalition districts that reflect the multiracial, diverse communities of Texas.

Ensure transparency and meaningful public participation. If any new maps are proposed, the public must have the chance to review them and testify again before any vote is taken.

Fair maps are essential to a fair democracy. Our communities deserve representation that serves the people, not political or partisan interests.

Thank you for your time and for considering my testimony.

