

[REDACTED]

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Date: 2025-07-27

First Name: [REDACTED]

Last Name: [REDACTED]

Title: na

Organization: self

Address: [REDACTED]

City: Magnolia

State: TX

Zipcode: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

My name is Charlotte Riser Harris testifying for myself. I live in Montgomery County CD 8 and THD 3. I have always heard from Republicans that they are the fiscally responsible party – these efforts fly in the face of that. I am concerned about the money and time resources required to hold these hearings and for our reps to do the work necessary to represent all their constituents in a heavily gerrymandered environment.

Costs Associated with Texas Mid-Decade Redistricting Efforts

Please provide the citizens of Texas (your constituents who are footing the bill) with an account of the time and money spent on these hearings - both hard and soft costs.

Soft costs include but are not limited to:

Representatives' time diverted from the real work of governing including building relationships in their local communities

Representatives' time away from their lives, families and work/careers

Distractions from the very real, active and traumatic issues facing the citizens of Texas

Constituents' time away from their lives to fight this

Further erosion of what little trust in our lawmakers that might still exist

Stress and anxiety put on representatives and constituents which cause mental and physical issues

Hard costs include but are not limited to:

Travel including vehicle wear and tear

Lodging and Food

Office supplies and printing

Pay for staff

Per-diem payments to representatives

Technology

Staff associated with technology

Venue

Marketing

Attorney and consultant fees

Costs Associated with Gerrymandering (Current and Proposed Future)

Gerrymandering is already out of control in Texas – no secret, just look at the current maps that are now in litigation. Districts that are not community-based create hardships for representatives and for constituents.

Soft costs include but are not limited to:

Inability to develop relationships critical to a representative's ability to adequately

represent and to a constituent's ability to address their issues.

Waste of representatives' time pulls them from their lives, families, jobs/careers and the real work of representing constituents.

Inability for representatives to understand the diverse cultures, issues, needs and demographics of their communities

Difficulty for constituents to fully connect because of lack of transportation, lack of time, and disconnect between community issues and values

Some representatives take communities across their districts seriously and do their best; many do not even make the effort.

Hard costs include but are not limited to:

Travel costs, including food, lodging and vehicle wear and tear.

Necessity to hold multiple town hall meetings to cover all communities, if any are held

It may be necessary for a representative to have more than one local office and employ staff familiar with other localities.

Why would Republicans see gerrymandering as necessary, practical and legal? The only logical explanation is to rig voting in their favor based on race and voting history.

ComputerIP: [REDACTED]