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Date: 2025-07-24  
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

Dear Chair King and Committee:

The Antioch Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church of Dallas is writing to express our strong opposition to the current proposal that seeks to redraw district maps. As a church in the heart of an affected community that serves over 6,500 people in the Dallas-Forth Worth metroplex, we do so for several reasons. According to a report from the Texas Tribune, when the President of the United States called the Governor of the State of Texas to speak about an agenda item for a special session, it was not to provide relief for the Texans affected by flooding, to protect the 770,000 Texans who will be uninsured, or the millions of Texans who may not have food. Instead, it was to allow himself to be bullied into forcing an unjust redistricting of Congressional maps as an agenda item for that special session. It is this same spirit of cowardice that guides this process. This instance of redistricting is very rushed, leaving constituents and their voices silent as the public has not been provided an opportunity to view a map proposal. Additionally, this is blatantly disadvantageous to minority communities. It furthers the state of Texas' history of suppressing the votes of its minority citizens. These districts are overwhelmingly filled with Black and Hispanic voters. This is especially unjust given that one district is still lacking representation on the federal level. Additionally, the district maps from 2021 are still in dispute, meaning that this is a discussion about redrawing districts that are not even finalized yet. With all of this in mind, this is about disenfranchising minority voices so that, on a national level, legislation that most of the citizens disagree with. Public servants should first serve the people and not the agenda of the White House.

In light of this, we are calling for several things. First, we are calling for a public hearing that shows the map after it has been redrawn and before it is voted on. Next, we demand that the racial discrimination that exists within the current plans be eliminated. Furthermore, we ask that public testimony not be limited to ensure that all voices are heard. We also ask that maps be made public at least five days before a public hearing during a special session or vote and that maps are made public in that same amount of time if any amendments are made. Finally, we call for the committee to show how these new maps impact historically disenfranchised minority communities.

We urge the committee to execute a process that does not fall short of being fully fair and fully open.

In Christ's Name,

Reverend Christopher K. Wesley,  
Senior Pastor

Reverend O. Christopher Buckner,  
Associate Pastor of Justice

