

[REDACTED]

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Date: 2025-07-24  
First Name: Lesley  
Last Name: Martinez-Silva  
Title: N/A  
Organization: Self  
Address: [REDACTED]  
City: Austin  
State: Texas  
Zipcode: [REDACTED]  
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

My name is Lesley and I'm a teacher residing in Austin, Texas. I'm represented by Greg Casar in District 35, but that may soon change with this redistricting bill. I moved recently from Houston, where my prior district, 7, is also set to be redistricted. It comes as no surprise that these two cities are the ones on the chopping block, as they vote majority Democrat. What y'all need to consider though, is that these cities also have large populations of racial minorities, and if y'all go redistricting through party lines it inevitably affects racial lines. The congressional map cannot be divided by race, it is unconstitutional and illegal to do so. If the districts are redrawn by race, which they will be no matter what y'all do, y'all will be committing a crime. The 2021 congressional district map was sued by several civil rights groups for that very reason and they are likely to do it again. Taxpayer dollars will once again be wasted, instead of invested back into our communities. Not to mention, racial minorities are already less represented in the state; District 18 in Houston hasn't had a representative for the last four months! Instead of focusing on redistricting, y'all should be focusing on having proper representation for all Texans. In addition, going through with redistricting when there is no urgent need for it is a simple political move that could very well backfire down the line. We do not need to redistrict right now, we need to be focusing on how to help every Texan in the state get through life relatively safe and happy, with bills that address the current needs of our communities. As a teacher, I wish there would be more emphasis on education so that I can go to work feeling supported by my state, but instead I have to struggle to finance my classroom all on my own, to have all the tools necessary to be the best teacher I can be for my students. Please consider what will have the most positive impact for our state as y'all continue with the special session. I do not believe redistricting is the way forward.

[REDACTED]