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

Regarding: Congressional

Message:
My name is Makia Thomas, and I live in Fort Bend County, Texas, within Congressional District 9. 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. It's a fundamental principle of our democracy. Communities of color make up nearly 60% of our state's population, yet only 34% of our congressional delegation reflects that diversity. Texas has a long and troubling 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. This isn't just an accusation; it's a documented pattern.

The current maps, adopted in 2021 and still under review by the federal court, deliberately ignored crucial racial data. They reduced the number of majority-minority districts, even though communities of color overwhelmingly drove population growth in our state. Now, these proposed mid-decade changes threaten to dismantle vital coalition districts like CD 9, CD 18, CD 29, CD 30, and CD 33. These districts have been instrumental in empowering Black, Latino, and Asian American voters to elect candidates of their choice, ensuring their voices are heard in Washington.

Beyond the issue of fair representation, these proposed changes have real-world consequences for the lives of Texans. Across our state, 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, deliberately diluting our collective voice in Congress. This strategy isn't about better governance; it's about political manipulation.

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. This would ensure decisions are based on the most accurate and up-to-date population data.

Stop dismantling coalition districts that reflect the multiracial, diverse communities of Texas. These districts serve as a testament to our state's diversity and a pathway to achieving equitable representation.

Ensure transparency and meaningful public participation. If any new maps are proposed, the public must have the opportunity to review them thoroughly and testify before any vote is taken. This is essential for maintaining trust in our democratic process.

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.

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