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Date: 2025-07-31

First Name: Malissa ‘Mal’

Last Name: Torres

Title: Live Oak Democratic Chairwoman

Organization: Common Defense member

Address: [REDACTED]

City: Three Rivers

State: Tx

Zipcode: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

This Map Is a Threat to Veterans and Our Communities”

Subject: I Fought for Democracy — This Map Undermines It

My name is Mal Torres, and I am a proud retired U.S. Air Force veteran, a resident of Three Rivers, Live Oak countyTexas, and a member of Common Defense, the nation’s largest grassroots organization of progressive veterans.

I’m submitting this testimony to strongly oppose the proposed redistricting map. The way this map is drawn is not just a political tactic — it’s a direct assault on democracy, on communities of color, and on the veterans who return home to live in them.

This map targets Black and Brown neighborhoods, strips representation from active, community-rooted congressional leaders, and slices up communities where veterans rely on accessible services and trusted representation. As a veteran, I am deeply concerned that this map makes it harder for us to defend and expand services through the VA. It’s no coincidence that these lines gut areas where our VA Not for Sale campaign has traction — because silencing our voices silences our fight to protect the benefits we earned.

This redistricting proposal is not neutral. It is strategic, harmful, and unjust. I urge the

committee to reject this map, hold public hearings  
in the affected communities, and draw lines that  
respect real people — not partisan power.

Signed,

Malissa G Torres  
Live Oak Democratic Chair  
USAF Veteran  
Member, Common Defense  
Three Rivers, Live Oak

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]