

[REDACTED]

Date: 2025-07-25

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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

Written Testimony Submitted to the Texas Senate

Re: Opposition to Mid-Decade Redistricting

From: Meg Schuessler, Public School Teacher

Dual Credit Federal and Texas Government

Dear Senators,

My name is Meg Schuessler. I'm a Texan, a public school teacher, and I teach dual credit Federal and Texas Government at an Early College High School.

The fact that we are holding redistricting hearings in 2025 tells me someone wasn't paying attention in government class. So today, I'm submitting this testimony to correct some critical misunderstandings and redirect you toward the proper function of our system of government.

Lesson one: In a representative democracy, redistricting is constitutionally required once every ten years, after the census. This process exists to reflect population changes—not to serve as a political shortcut mid-decade. Redrawing the maps in 2025 is an unusual and extraordinary action, and using it as a political weapon undermines both the process and public trust.

Lesson two: In 2021, Texas state officials stood before a federal court—LULAC v. Abbott—and defended the existing maps by claiming they were drawn in a race-blind, race-neutral manner. That was not just a talking point—it was the state's legal defense. Now, in 2025, those same officials are citing Department of Justice concerns about racial gerrymandering as a justification for redrawing the maps. Yet in the very same case, they're also telling the court those DOJ concerns are "off base." You can't have it both ways. That's not legal consistency—it's political convenience. And it erodes public trust—in the courtroom and in the classroom.

Lesson three: Representation should reflect real communities—not silence them. I teach my students that their voices matter, no matter where they live, what they look like, or who they vote for. But this process sends them the opposite message: that if their vote is inconvenient, it can simply be drawn out of existence.

Extra credit: If you truly want to restore faith in the redistricting process, create an independent redistricting commission—like those already working in Arizona, California, and Michigan. These commissions reduce bias, promote fairness, and rebuild public trust. They are not just good policy—they are good civics.

If you move forward with this plan, you may gain seats—but you'll lose something far more valuable: credibility, and the trust of the people you serve. Please—do the right thing. For your constituents. For our democracy. For my students.

Class dismissed.

Respectfully,
Meg Schuessler
Public School Teacher
Dual Credit Federal and Texas Government Instructor

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