

[REDACTED]

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Date: 2025-07-28

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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

Hello, my name is Michelle Ebrahimi. I am a nurse in District 9, testifying in opposition to the Legislature's attempt to redistrict our congressional districts mid-census.

This brazen move by the Governor, the DOJ and the president to increase Republican representation in the U.S. House by taking it away from communities of color is shameful. It is blatant racial discrimination and a misplaced priority at a time when we should be focusing on flood relief efforts.

How districts are drawn affects every political issue, from the economy to healthcare to public education. Manipulating maps to artificially distort political power undermines the principle of a representative government. The government should represent a fair cross-section of society and partisan manipulation makes that impossible.

For example, here in Harris County there are many people struggling to afford healthcare coverage, and the Tax Bill that was just passed by Congress by the narrowest of margins threatens to kick even more people off Medicaid. Texas already has the highest rate of medically uninsured in the country. If we had adequate representation for our communities in the Houston area, this Tax bill might not have passed. But instead, the State has chosen to shamefully "pack and crack" communities of color in Houston, diminishing our voice in Congress.

In order for our democracy to function, the public needs to have a voice in the process. It is absolutely unacceptable for both the House and Senate Redistricting Committees to be holding hearings without having maps visible to the public. How do you expect the public to actually participate in this process?

The Legislature clearly plans to ignore public input and pass maps that discriminate against minorities. Therefore, I am asking this Committee to commit to holding a public hearing after the maps have been drawn but before they pass through committee and give the public a minimum of 5 days notice and capability to review the maps before this hearing. I also want the legislators who draw the maps to explain why they chose to draw them the way they did, and to not hide any communications they have had regarding drawing the maps.

This is an opportunity for the Texas Legislature to finally get the process right this time

and avoid wasting millions more taxpayer dollars on years of lawsuits, so I hope that you will take this testimony to heart. If not, beware the domino effect from other states . . . While you are trying to steal five seats in Texas, you will be lucky if your party can keep five seats total once California has their say.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to me today.

