

**Written-only Testimony for Friday, August 13, 2021 in Lawrence**

**From: Paulette Strong**

To: The Joint House and Senate Committees on Redistricting  
Re: Fair & Equitable Representation in Kansas

Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to supply testimony in support of transparent and fair redistricting.

I request a fair and equitable redistricting process. Since redistricting is firmly established according to U.S. census data and since we do not yet have that data, I question how we can proceed at this point. Additionally, I question the lack of clear, timely information about the town halls and the brevity of each town hall meeting.

Some are cynical about the potential outcomes of the redistricting process and express concern about the partisanship that will quickly become apparent in the results. However, I believe we can establish this redistricting process on a foundation of what we agree on rather than on what separates us. What are our common values? What unites us? What do we all want for our state?

Lawrence has common values. We are a united community and should not be split into two districts. We have an involved public who actively pursue individual interests while striving to listen to other points of view. We believe in accessibility for ALL to the political process, developing affordable housing, maintaining our unique neighborhood associations, promoting economic development, supporting progressive education, and social justice.

Current Congressional and Legislative maps were created by the courts and should, as possible, be altered as little as necessary to fulfill reapportionment shifts. The Kansas City Metro is currently whole within Kansas' Third congressional district and should remain in a single district as residents have shared interests in representation.

Thank you for initiating this first step in listening to constituents. Please have more town halls after the U.S. census data becomes public.

Respectfully,

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