

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I stand today in support of this map. 10 years ago, Western Kansas lost a legislative seat and it probably didn't need to but that's where politics pushed it.

But since it did, It definitely doesn't need to this time. While my district has actually gained population, we have only lost around 20,000 in population in Western Kansas as a whole. That is nowhere near cause enough to take out a full Senate seat from Western Kansas. A population shift would make much more sense with this happening, such as what is done in Abrams map. We have a map before us that keeps everyone in their existing seats and is a fair map and received 19 votes from the Senate.

The alternative map passed out of the Senate, which your body rightfully so rejected, will not only collapse a rural Western Kansas district, it will also place a sitting Senator over 2.5 hours away from the majority of his or her district and it also takes one of only three Senate districts in the entire state that has more minorities in it than non-minorities and dilutes it into three different districts. This map, if passed, would be the first map in Kansas history... to not only dilute but dissolve a district that has more minorities in it... than non-minorities. A Senator this past weekend made the statement that it wasn't his intention to dilute minority representation and didn't think the map did so.

And while I am not claiming that that was the intention of anyone. I actually don't believe that that was anyone's intention. But intention is not the point of this debate. Whether or not this is a good map and a map that will pass Constitutional muster is what we must decide. And I wanted to clear up the part where he felt that this doesn't dilute a minority district. Currently, the 38th District is one of only 3 districts in the state that has more minorities in it than non-minorities. Minorities make up 52% of the district, Non-minorities make up the remaining 48%. This map would take the district which just passed the minority-majority threshold this past census and eliminate the seat. It would take high percentage of minorities and put them into surrounding districts which currently have around 5% minorities in them, bringing the total minority count to around 20% in each of these districts, far below minority-majority levels.. No matter the intentions, this map will disenfranchise minority voters.

On the other hand, we have another map here that meets every single criteria we have... and then some. For that reason, I strongly support the Abrams map.

I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.

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