

Testimony of Joy Springfield, Esq.
joyspringfield@gmail.com
Telephone: 913.202.8484

August 12, 2021
Overland Park, Kansas

Members of the House and Senate Redistricting Committees:

My name is Joy Springfield. I am a registered voter living in Merriam. I am submitting testimony for the redistricting hearing held on Thursday, Aug. 12 at Overland Park. This testimony is WRITTEN-ONLY. I am an attorney licensed in Kansas and Missouri. I am a board member of Kansas Appleseed and a board member of Kansas ACLU.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony today.

Being a Black woman who grew up in the south (Georgia), Racial Justice is very important to me. And I know from my life and studies in college and law school, that biased partisan (gerrymandering) redistricting hurts people of color the most. I want to see fair non-partisan non-gerrymandered redistricting. There are several other proven options we can try. We have rules in Olympics, NFL, NBA and other sports. We teach our kids about fairness, not cheating, being a good sport, following the rules, but then when it comes to things that really affect our everyday lives such as utilities, hospitals, education, housing, justice system, wages, health care, voting rights, some people are okay with cheating and dishonesty. Partisan redistricting is cheating. It is dishonest. It is wrong. If you can't win on your ideas and plans, you should not be able to win by cheating and choosing your voters. In a democracy, the voters should choose their representatives. By rigging the system, gerrymandered maps dilute the voting power of Native, Black, Latinx and other Americans of color and their neighbors. Biased partisan redistricting gives some votes more impact- it is unfair representation – while locking out and silencing other citizens. That is not democracy. Every vote of every Kansas resident should have equal power.

Sincerely,

Joy Springfield, Esq.
joyspringfield@gmail.com
Telephone: 913.202.8484