

**Testimony type: Written-only**

**From: Mandy Pilla**

To: The House Committee on Redistricting  
Re: Fair & Equitable Representation in Kansas Congressional Maps  
Position: Proponent

Chairman and Members of the Committee:

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

Mandy Pilla

I am testifying today because I am concerned about some of the maps being discussed as possible Congressional districts in our state. I believe very strongly that all residents of Kansas have representation in Washington, D.C. that reflects their concerns as citizens. When like minded groups are broken up and moved to districts that do not have the same concerns, citizens become marginalized. As elected representatives, you have a duty to represent all citizens in your constituency. By splitting districts and moving them, you are potentially pitting community against community, urban versus rural. We have enough division in this country without adding more fuel to the fire.

I currently live in District 4 and am in favor of either the Bluestem map or the Sunflower map. Both of these maps appear to not divide like communities and give all citizens and equal chance to elect someone who best represents their interests.

In the proposed Congressional map called Ad Astra, it is very obvious that the party in power is attempting to further solidify their power and make it next to impossible for other parties to be represented at the federal level. Every Kansas pays state and federal taxes. As such each person of voting eligibility should have the ability to see someone in Washington, who looks like them, and thinks like them. It is patently underhanded to alter the playing field so only one team ever gets to win.

Current Congressional maps were created by the courts and should be altered as little as necessary to accommodate population 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. The Committees on Redistricting should make their maps, agendas, and deadlines available to the public with at least a full week's notice to allow enough time to review maps, and prepare and submit testimony.

My position that either the Bluestem map or the Sunflower map would provide all Kansans with a fair and equitable chance at electing someone who represents their interests. The other two maps are obvious attempts at gerrymandering. We are better than this as Kansans. Thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts with you today and for considering my testimony.

Respectfully,

Mandy Pilla

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