



Date of Testimony: March 16, 2022

Bill Number: HB 2737 Freedom 3 Redistricting Map

Disposition: Opponent

Written only testimony

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Advocacy Chair; League of Women Voters Kansas

**TO:** Chair and members of the House Committee on Redistricting

The League of Women Voters opposes the Freedom\_3 House redistricting maps for content and procedural reasons. The most obvious procedural problem with the redistricting process is demonstrated by this hearing that places conferees of speaking to a map that doesn't provide enough detail to analysis. In the redistricting hearings, citizens asked that the legislature have an open, fair and transparent process. Voters asked for adequate notice of hearings, time to review proposed maps, and for their concerns to be included in the final maps. None of these requests have been allowed.

The 2021 hearings in August and November, the hearings on Congressional plans, and this hearing have all been held on short notice or during the holiday season. And as was the case with the Congressional plan process, there is no announced schedule of time in the committee's work on the House plan to make adjustments based on input from the public or suggestions by other members of the Legislature. Citizens repeated requests for keeping communities of interest, especially marginalized communities, and where possible, precincts, municipalities, and counties whole were ignored in the Congressional map, in Liberty 2, and in this Freedom 3 map.

Regarding the substance of the plan: Freedom 3 is not compact, violates the Committee's own guidelines by splitting cities unnecessarily and by splitting precincts, and is not competitive. This last point speaks directly to the partisan nature of this process and of the resulting district plan.

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League of Women Voters of Kansas

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We ask that you allow adjustments after hearing testimony that will improve the districts to better represent communities and incorporate citizen input to this process that is fundamental to our representative democracy. The Kansas Legislature can do better for Kansas citizens. We ask you to listen to your constituents and draw fair maps for Kansans.

I would be happy to answer any questions.