

January 9, 2022

Representative Croft, Senator Wilborn, and members of the Committee,

I have lived in Kansas since 1978 and in Topeka since 1982.

Following the Kansas Redistricting Guidelines and Criteria is so important. They include:

- the use of the U.S. Census,
- numerical equality,
- compact and contiguous,\*
- no purpose or effect of diluting minority voting strength,\*
- districts built from Census 'voting districts,'
- preserve city/county lines to the extent possible,
- recognize communities of interest,\* and
- districts easily identifiable and understandable by voters.\*

Current Congressional and Legislative maps were created by the courts and should, for the most part, be altered as little as necessary to fulfill reapportionment shifts.

However, Senate Districts 18, 19, and 20 split the city of Topeka three ways ignoring the guideline of "compact and contiguous." In addition, additional criteria including "diluting minority voting strength" and "districts easily identifiable and understandable by voters" also seem to be ignored.

How can Topeka (pop. 126,587) have the same concerns as St. Marys (pop. 3,783), Grantville (pop. 201), or Eskridge (pop. 509)? These four cities represent four counties, three of which can hardly represent the guideline of "communities of interest." With the approximate number of 73,000 representing each senate district, it would seem logical that Topeka would have at least one senator representing three-fourths of the city of Topeka.

Thanking you in advance for your time and attention to this very important responsibility.

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