

I am unable to attend in person today and have sent a surrogate to read my testimony.

Unacceptable. Offensive. A sham. An embarrassment. Tired and fed up. An insult to democracy.

This is how I can accurately describe the current map making process. I along with countless others showed up at regional hearings and asked that maps be drawn that fairly represent communities' individual needs.

Republican leaders instructed map makers to ignore racial and demographic data and claim they never analyzed the partisan balance because it would be illegal and unconstitutional to do so. But race can be used to invalidate a map as ruled by the US Supreme Court in *Thornberg vs. Gingles*.

They have also called some parts of the constitution "aspirational". These are not aspirations; it's the constitution and you don't get to cherry pick which parts of it you want to follow.

There are almost 70 maps on the redistricting website submitted by everyday citizens. These citizen maps prove that drawing districts that represent us is not impossible, you just have to want to do it.

Jessica Epstein