
From: Alice Grooms [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 4, 2022 1:01 PM
To: House & Governmental Affairs
Subject: Written testimony for Roadshow January 5, 2022
Attachments: scantestimony.pdf

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Please do not click on links or attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Dear Sir/Madam:

Thank you for this opportunity.

Please find attached my written testimony that I have submitted for the roadshow to be acknowledged and shared with the committee members and the public.

Your courtesies are appreciated.

Alice J. Grooms

Testimony for Redistricting

“Fairness is one’s ability to rise above his prejudices.”

My name is Alice Grooms and I am a resident of Orleans Parish. While I am a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., I submit this testimony on my personal behalf.

My primary concern in the redistricting process is to make sure that transparency, fairness and equity which are critical, are the main factors to consider in drawing the maps that will shape our congressional districts in the State.

We must be able to choose the officials we elect and not have our officials choose their voters. However, with the current legislature in place it is obvious that we do not have a fair and equitable system today.

We are into the eight Roadshow put on by the House and Governmental Affairs Committee around the State. There have been people from all walks of life, many different organizations, groups, entities and agencies who have given their testimony seeking a more fair and just outcome in the redistricting process.

I believe that in Louisiana we have a legal and moral obligation to make a change, to do the right thing, that is, to establish a second majority minority district in this State.

The statistics from the 2020 Census provide evidence to support this change, in addition to data which was provided by the Committee’s staff in the beginning of

this meeting. The facts are clear. The African American population has increased along with other minority groups. According to the 2020 census report in Louisiana, African Americans made up 33.1 % of the population.

Due to the numbers gathered from the census, future maps should not allow an individual who represents my district in New Orleans to represent a resident as far as Baton Rouge. These two cities have their own unique interests, challenges and quality of life issues. Further, the population of these two large cities warrant separate representation in order to operate more efficiently and effectively for its constituents.

The legislature has an opportunity to make history with their decision on drawing the maps. Never before has this State truly elected individuals to serve in the interest of other African Americans who live in other districts. It is time that we all receive fair representation.

The Constitution which was established to ensure a Democratic government is being tested. We must meet the challenge to demonstrate that in Louisiana we are striving to be fair, just, and equitable in choosing our elected officials.

Presently, we only have one African American Congressman in Louisiana to consider the urgency of ensuring that our voting rights are protected by calling for and supporting a vote for the *2021 John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act*

and For the People Act. Women's rights are being threatened. And, it is my perception that health and prosperity belong to a few.

I invite each of you to walk a mile in my shoes, and tell me if they fit, if they feel comfortable, if they can carry you to reach your goals in life, if those shoes can bring you through any doors and places that will afford you a quality of life that will allow you to pursue liberty and justice.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alice J. Grooms". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Alice J. Grooms