## **Mendy Hutson**

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January 22, 2022

## **Richard Frost**

House Committee Assistant <a href="mailto:richard.frost@house.ks.gov">richard.frost@house.ks.gov</a>

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you as a constituent to urge you to please oppose SB 355 Ad Astra 2 map that was just passed out of the Senate Redistricting Committee and any other proposed maps that split Wyandotte County and position Douglas County in a district covering a predominantly rural western portion of the state. I am writing to express support for either HB 2519 Bluestem or HB 2521 Buffalo 2 which keep these two aforementioned communities intact and within a district of commonly shared interests, cultures, and needs.

I am a resident of Lawrence and a teacher who previously taught in Kansas City, Kansas. I have family in western Kansas, my husband's family farm in central rural Kansas, I grew up in Manhattan and graduated from Kansas State University before moving to Lawrence. I have close personal connections to each of these regions of our state and know that they have separate interests which deserve representation. I cannot support a map that negatively impacts Wyandotte and Douglas Counties by dividing these unique communities, diluting their power to voice and advocate for their unique needs. The Ad Astra 2 map passed by the Senate seems to serve the needs and interests of some while further marginalizing others by splitting Wyandotte County and positioning Lawrence/Douglas County into a district with western Kansas. This is undemocratic and not representative of these two counties. This map fractures communities with shared interests, culture, and needs.

I have deep affection for my students and their families in Wyandotte County. I do not want to see them further disenfranchised. My community in Lawrence is special and unique in this state and we deserve representation. The redistributing process must be fair and without agenda. It must serve the constituents and not marginalize them. Thank you for taking time to consider my concerns.

Sincerely,

## **Your Name**