

Good Morning,

I am writing to you because I would like to see an end to prisoner gerrymandering. I could sit here and list the multitude of reasons that this practice is unacceptable, but I am sure that by now you have all of that data available to you. I feel that one of two things should happen. Either we stop counting people for districts that they are incarcerated in but not residents of, or we allow everyone in prison to vote. I suspect if we gave people their right to vote back, even when they are incarcerated, that our criminal justice reform would kick in very swiftly. People who are incarcerated, the majority of which will someday return to their communities, still deserve to be represented. In the absence of that happening, the very least we could and should do, is give fairness and transparency to our voting and representation processes.

Lauren Johnson

Austin/Travis County Reentry Round Table  
#JustLeadership 2016 Leading with Conviction Fellow