Commissioners - thank you for your time and service. My name is Kalie Jimenez and I am a rising junior at Eagle Rock High School. I am with the NALEO Education Fund. I am a third generation resident of Hermon, a 118-year old neighborhood in Northeast Los Angeles. Growing up I attended and volunteered at Hermon church.

My close-knit community in Hermon is highly engaged with a neighborhood council and monthly cleanups. We are located between Highland Park, Monterey Hills, El Sereno and South Pasadena.

Recognizing the issue of food insecurity and its direct impact on my community, I launched a local project. Fresco Community Market and Arroyo Vista Family Health Center are now raising funds to distribute gift certificates so families have what they need during the pandemic. My neighbors are also suffering from the impacts of gentrification. Higher rents and evictions force lifelong residents out of their homes. Latino-owned small businesses are replaced by expensive shops, cafes, and restaurants with little connection to our diverse community. This has created a cultural conflict within my neighborhood, with lasting effects especially upon Figueroa Street and York Boulevard.

The California Statewide Database illustrates how three previous redistricting efforts, in 1991, 2001, and 2011, feature seemingly arbitrary boundaries across maps for Congress, and California’s Senate and Assembly. In 2021, I would like the commission to honor the deep connections between neighboring communities across Northeast Los Angeles: Hermon, Highland Park, Eagle Rock, Mount Washington, El Sereno. We are a diverse body of people that share the same languages and culture. Now more than ever I call on the commission to keep my community of interest together so we can continue to tackle occurring issues in our communities. Thank you.