

Attn: John Thomas “Trey” Lamar
Capitol:
Room: 201
P. O. Box 1018
Jackson, MS 39215

Dear Mr. Lamar,

My name is Patricia Leslie, a current MSW student at Alliance University located in New York, NY. I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 1020 currently under consideration in Congress.

The bill proposes an appointment of a separate judicial system and expansion of the Capital Complex Improvement district in Jackson, Mississippi. This particular district according to the U.S Census is 83% Black American. These changes would significantly impact this community as they create an unfair dynamic for those who will be prosecuted in this court of law.

Furthermore, I am concerned that this bill does not take into account the needs and well-being of all citizens, particularly those who are most vulnerable or marginalized. The bill allows for members of the court to be appointed by the Mississippi Supreme Court chief - Michael Randolph and Attorney General Lynch. Typically most court officials are elected by the people, allowing them to have a say in this aspect of their community. When these officials are appointed, it takes away the right of the people. Although it has been expressed that the expansion of the district and bill isn't intended for any sort of segregation, I beg to differ as the implementation of this bill will only affect a minority people group. Both Lynch and Randolph are white males in Mississippi, and may have a biased choice in appointing officials, which I am afraid will not benefit the community overall. In the event of this bill is passed, I hope that there is careful consideration in the appointment of court officials, to support the community rather than hurt them.

As a member of Congress, you have a responsibility to represent and serve your community. I implore you to listen to our voices and act in our best interests by opposing this bill. Please prioritize the well-being of all citizens and ensure that any proposed changes are fair, just, and equitable for all.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I hope you will do what is right for our community.

Sincerely,
Patricia Leslie

