



Rachael Collyer

TESTIMONY OF:

RACHAEL COLLYER

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IN SUPPORT OF:

Maps proposed by the Ohio Citizens' Redistricting Commission
submitted to the Ohio Redistricting Commission

[Cleveland Heights, OH] — Good morning Co-Chair Cupp, Co-Chair Sykes, and members of the Ohio Redistricting Commission. My name is Rachael Collyer, I am a resident of Cleveland Heights, and I have lived in Ohio my entire life. I am writing to you today because I am appalled by the unfair, gerrymandered, and unconstitutional maps that were proposed by Senate President Matt Huffman and the Ohio Redistricting Commission. It is a slap in the face to every Ohioan when our communities are split apart and certain people's voices diluted.

I am a former student member and the current program director of the Ohio Student Association, where we work to educate and engage students in the civic process. As such, it is deeply important to me that students and young people be able to advocate for themselves and their futures to elected officials who know the power of our voice and the importance of our concerns. As it stands, some college campuses and student residential areas across the state are broken up into multiple districts to dilute their voices. All too often, young people understandably feel like their interests are ignored by the people who are supposed to represent them.

Students and all citizens of Ohio demand and deserve a fair redistricting process and fair and equal maps. We have the right to accurate and fair representation within ALL of our districts. For too long, certain cities, counties, and more have suffered because they are lumped together with areas that they have nothing in common with. You cannot tell us that our votes matter and then introduce a map that would give Republicans significantly more than 55% of government seats when they have only won about 55% of the Ohio vote. You cannot say that you work for the people and then ignore us and our demands for fair maps.

It is time for you to fulfill your duty to draw maps that actually reflect the voices of all Ohioans.