



**Tamara Lunan**

**TESTIMONY OF:**

Tamara Lunan

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**IN SUPPORT OF:**

Maps proposed by Senate Ohio Citizens Redistricting Commission

**[Cincinnati, Ohio]** Good afternoon Co-Chair Cupp, Co-Chair Sykes and members of the Ohio Redistricting Commission. Thank you for the opportunity to be here today. My name is Tamara Lunan and I serve as Cares Economy Organizing Director of the Ohio Organizing Collaborative. It is our mission to organize everyday Ohioans for racial and economic justice in Ohio.

For the last 10 years I have organized Ohio on a wide range of issues from LGBT Rights to Economic Justice to , build healthy and safe communities and increase access to good jobs with living wages. I've spent a lot of time understanding how everyday people like myself are disenfranchised in Ohio. A lot of the loopholes and cracks I see everyday people falling into could be better served if the had adequate representation. Often legislation that would positively impact certain communities are ignored or omitted.

We teach people everyday that their votes matter, that their voices matter, but the rules of our democracy have been rigged by partisan gerrymandering. Communities like mine have had their vote and voice cut. It's imperative that we have fair maps in Ohio so that communities will continue to keep communities together, not tear them apart. It's unconstitutional to not acknowledge the growth happening in communities all across Ohio.

If we want to keep our electorate engaged and productive, we have to pass policy solutions that they are fighting and lobbying for but often get overlooked because the representation isn't fair to begin with. The playing field isn't level. Fairer maps give Ohio the opportunity to have healthy debates while letting residents know you are willing to stand up for them.