**PROPONENT TESTIMONY OF:**
**SYBRINA KING**
**11600 HUNTINGTON WAY; PICKERINGTON, OH  43147**

**IN SUPPORT OF:**
**REPRESENTATIVE HOUSE AND SENATE DISTRICT MAPS**
**THE OHIO REDISTRICTING COMMISSION**

Columbus, OH; January 2022 -- I am a lifelong Central Ohio resident and a retired high school teacher. I testified before this commission in August of last year. At that time, I expressed my concern about the recent dramatic increase in gun violence in Central Ohio communities.

Then, Columbus had recorded its 100th homicide death. Incidents had included three mass shootings and the city was on pace to shatter the record number of homicides set in 2020. Tragically, Columbus ended up recording 204 homicides last year. And yet in spite of overwhelming support for common sense gun regulations following the 2019 Dayton mass shooting, the Ohio Legislature continues to ignore the wishes of the majority of its constituency, as evidenced by the Ohio Senate's current consideration of a bill that would arm teachers.

It is because of our gerrymandered districts that no legislative action has been taken to thwart gun violence. In 2018, Ohio Republicans came away with 75% of the congressional delegation and 63% of the legislative seats in spite of winning just 52% of the congressional vote. In May 2019, a trio of judges ruled that Ohio's current congressional map had been drawn to favor a Republican majority. Now, this commission has been reconvened at the order of the Ohio Supreme Court to revise the maps that were adopted last year, ruling that the approved maps did not correspond with the statewide voter preference of Ohioans.

Failure to enact gun legislation is just one way in which gerrymandering continues to affect the daily lives of all Ohioans. Everything from school funding to public health measures are affected by the actions and votes of a legislature that does not reflect the wishes of the majority of Ohio citizens. For this reason, Ohio's new House and Senate district maps need to be redrawn in a fair, nonpartisan way through a transparent process that incorporates public input.

Thank you.