

January 19, 2022

The Honorable Robert R. Cupp, Co-Chair

The Honorable Vernon Sykes, Co-Chair

Ohio Redistricting Commission

Ohio State House

Columbus, Ohio 43215

On behalf of the many members of A. Phillip Randolph Institute we stand in solidarity with our partners in urging this Commission to produce “fair state legislative maps” immediately. The Ohio Supreme Court has spoken. And it is now time for this Commission to produce this map with fairness drawn.

“*This ruling completely validates the mandate put forth by Ohio voters, who have demanded an end to political gerrymandering time and time again. Gerrymandering disproportionately affects minority voters and this decision ensures that people – especially people of color – can have a voice in their government.”* We are pushing for fair maps, which will ensure Ohio’s government reflects the will of the people. Our seats in government must correspond with the statewide vote.  
  
We need fair and representative maps that reflect the diversity of Ohio. We deserve a fair and inclusive process, where our communities remain whole and our voting power won’t be diluted by cracking and packing, especially Black, brown, and Muslim Ohioans.    
  
Fair maps will ensure Ohio’s government reflects the will of the people. Our seats in government must correspond with the statewide vote.

We urge this Commission to follow what was instructed by the Ohio Supreme Court and produce fair state legislative maps. May this correspondence serve as A. Phillip Randolph Institute testimony and go into the record as such of this Commission.

Andre Washington

President