Written testimony for the OHIO Redistricting Commission

Everyone from every political party would benefit from fair, representative districts. When public officials (of ANY party) draw legislative district maps to only benefit their political party it hurts our democracy. We all deserve the power to vote politicians out of office if they don't serve us well. Over the last decade, Ohio Republicans have only captured an average of 55% of the vote. This means Republicans shouldn't occupy more than 55% of Ohio's legislative or congressional seats.

For the last decade, Ohio has lived under some of the most gerrymandered maps in the country. This year, we have a real opportunity to correct our democracy. We should work to ensure that our maps are actually reflective of Ohio, and that they're responsive to the will of Ohioans. That means if one party isn't winning a supermajority of the votes, they also shouldn't be occupying a supermajority of the seats. Voters should pick their elected representatives in Congress and the Statehouse, not the other way around.

Additionally, Toledo, Akron, and Dayton (Ohio's 4th, 5th, and 6th largest cities) should each anchor their own congressional districts. Right now, none of these large cities have their own districts at the congressional level, and they are cracked and packed at the state legislative level. This weakens the power of voters in each community. The result has meant bread-and-butter issues that most Ohioans care about have been left on the backburner while extremism is on the rise. Ohio's working families deserve fair electoral maps and a transparent process.

Thank you,

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