

PROPONENT TESTIMONY OF:
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IN SUPPORT OF:
Fair and Equal Redistricting

Akron, Ohio August 27, 2021

Our country is founded on the democratic principle that the people elect representatives to do what is in the people's best interest. This principle is not the foundation of our current legislative districts in Ohio. With the current system, the representatives are not accountable to their constituents.

Even though our state is a purple state, it is not reflective in who is elected. As a woman, my reproductive rights are under constant threat. Because the representatives in Columbus are not reflective of our state's values and not representative of what the majority of citizen's desire, they push through their own agenda because there are no repercussions. House Bill 6 is a perfect example of not facing repercussions. If Larry Householder was in a competitive seat, he would have possibly been concerned with how his constituents would view his actions.

This process of having town halls is another example of not being fair and transparent. The town halls are all in the middle of the work day with little lead time. What took so long? Why was this not set up beforehand? This is an example of poor planning and not being fair and transparent. We are in another surge of the pandemic and you are not allowing people to testify online. There is no online resource to have people share their stories. This is yet another example of not being accountable to the people you are elected to serve.

The committee should have presented proposals of maps and input from citizens across this state. Because this process only comes around once every 10 years, there must be a better way to have the steps planned out. The citizens of Ohio demand you be more transparent and listen to the people who elect you.