

My name is Kathleen Wade.

ADDRESS: 5300 Hamilton Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio, 45244

I live in Congressional District One, and my Ohio Representative is in District 32.

As a citizen who voted for FAIR DISTRICT MAPPING, I care about this issue deeply. When politicians of any party manipulate voting maps to keep themselves and their party in power, our whole Democracy suffers. We must end gerrymandering – on both sides – so that every vote counts. In 2018, both reform efforts won in all 88 Ohio counties and by more than 70% of the vote. Both sides want to see FAIRNESS!

For the last ten years, as a voter in Hamilton County, Ohio, my voice and my vote have not been heard. My community is split up in such a way that, no matter how many in my party cast their vote, our votes do not count. The split of mapping in my community means I am separated long distances from my legislators; I feel separated from family and neighbors on the other side of a district.

Even though the candidate of my choice for Ohio Congressional Representative in my county had a clear majority of votes in Hamilton County, this candidate lost because the mapping of District One includes far-reaching rural counties which are populated by mostly Republican voters. This was drawn deliberately to insure that no Democratic candidate could win in Hamilton County. This is designed to convince Democratic voters that their vote doesn't count, and therefore to discourage us from even coming out to vote.

You have not been charged to keep redistricting fair, transparent, non-discriminatory and politically impartial. I demand for the public to be heard. Please ensure everyone's voices are included in this process. Please keep my community together to create a better Ohio. Fulfill the promise of the redistricting reforms placed into the Ohio Constitution.

The process should be transparent, open, and bipartisan. Maps should serve the voters - not the political interests of parties or candidates.