

**TESTIMONY OF:**

Rebekah Kelly

10070 Forest Glen Drive, North Royalton, OH 44133

**[North Royalton, Ohio, August 20, 2021]** My name is Rebekah Kelly, age 37, and I live in Senate District 24 and House District 7. I have two children in elementary school, and celebrating 10 years of marriage with my husband this year.

I am providing testimony today because I have seen the impact gerrymandering has had on legislation passed in the great state of Ohio. Prior to 2016, I rarely paid attention to politics aside from presidential elections. I was not aware of how unfairly the districts were drawn 10 years ago in Ohio. I was not aware of the hard work my fellow citizens have put in to allow us a chance at redrawing our districts to make them fair and to fairly represent all Ohioans. I have learned so much in the last year because I made a promise to myself and my children to ensure fair representation in local as well as state and National government. Currently, the area my family has been most impacted by is the failure to implement health and mask mandates to protect our children in a school setting who have not had the chance to be vaccinated. I am extremely disappointed in our Governor and our representatives for not fighting for more protection for our children in the school setting.

Currently, the gerrymandering in our district maps favors the Republican Party. I do not feel the maps are fair to all citizens who want a fair and meaningful election. I feel we do not have a fair representation for Democrats in our state legislature. I believe we have the opportunity now to correct these past mistakes. Please listen to what all citizens are suggesting when it comes to the map drawing process. Please let us have a fair and equal chance to keep our communities together.

In closing, I ask that we put gerrymandering in our past and support only fair districts for our new maps. We all see what has happened in the past, and I ask that you give all Ohio citizens fair representation.