

PROPONENT TESTIMONY OF:

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IN SUPPORT OF:

Fair Redistricting
COMMITTEE/COMMISSION

Testimony

[Cleveland, Ohio, August 23, 2021] — Ohio's redistricting process in the past has led to gerrymandering at both state and federal levels. This has been so extreme that voting rights organizations use our state, and the congressional district I live in, as the example of egregious gerrymandering. We have the chance now to draw the lines so that every Ohio resident gets fair and equal representation.

I live in a first-ring suburb of a large city. My district covers my suburb, and the northern part of the west side of Cleveland. Our community doesn't have the same concerns as the inner city residents, and our district covers many different kinds of communities, with only our mostly Democratic-leaning voting in common.

We need a fair redistricting process to ensure that each community gets fair representation, and that our concerns about state funding, utility regulation, and personal rights are given a voice in the Statehouse. We shouldn't have to keep living under a system that unfairly ignores large swaths of Ohio residents in favor of a small handful of powerful lobbyist-influenced officeholders.

A committee of legislators, some of which depend on gerrymandering to win and keep their districts, should not be the only ones drawing the maps. Since we are unable to have an impartial committee, using only data and not political machinations, I implore you to take the mapmaking seriously and impartially, without partisan concerns, and with the idea that representation of the voters, not lobbyists, corporations, or political action committees, should be foremost.