

**OPPONENT TESTIMONY OF:**

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**NOT IN SUPPORT OF:**

Gerrymandered District Maps

**Columbus, Ohio, 8/27/21**

I'm Ben Turner, from Columbus, senate district 3. I work in the community where I live. I drive 5 minutes to get to my job. On my brief commute, I leave one district, enter another, exit that district, and return back to the same district as my home address.

Since the 1800s, politicians have been drawing lines like these, to make it easier to win elections. Gerrymandered district maps are oppressive. Ohioans and Americans all over the country are ready for you to join us in acknowledging this reality, and to change it.

When communities are divided, there is increased political polarization and voter suppression. The people feel ignored, annoyed, and hurt. They lose faith in their officials. This erosion of the spirit, from the lack of opportunity and transparency for community input in the redistricting process, and politicians choosing voters, seems more fascistic than democratic.

Gerrymandering is destroying democracy and American quality of life. Keeping communities together is the lifeblood of democracy. Redrawing our communities will allow Ohians to advocate for the issues that affect our lives. We need to know that our cities, towns, neighborhoods, and streets are intact. We want all federal, state, and local election district boundaries to be redrawn based on recent census data.

We want to erase the gerrymandered maps and draw new ones that better represent our communities. We want non-oppressive, competitive, and bipartisan maps.

We want our votes to count. We are asking that you honor your oath and hear your constituents. Ohioans want to be able to advocate for people to make decisions about their bodies, not the government, renewable energy, anti-racist policies, criminal justice reform, better schools, better mental health services, regardless of race, religion, and creed. Thank you for hearing my concerns.