

PROPONENT/OPPONENT TESTIMONY OF:

NAME **ERIKA D WHITE**
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 TOLEDO, OH 43615

IN SUPPORT OF:

TITLE **FAIR MAP/REDISTRICTING**

SUBTITLE

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION **THE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION**

TESTIMONY

[TOLEDO, OH 8] — Though I stand here as one voice, I represent the voices of those who could not be here today because they are working, teaching, going to school, or protecting the public. I was asked to share a unifying message; however, we are weary from the lack of transparency and gerrymandering to create voter selection districts where representatives can easily be elected. We demand fair redistricting that will create communities where voters will actually decide who is elected, aka we select you. Because when the majority of voters cannot elect majorities of legislators, that is a failure of democracy. I stated we are weary, but we are not tired.

We are demanding fair maps representative of the state's voters and three (3) public hearings of the maps being drawn. Representation comes from majority rule, which is the cornerstone of U.S. democracy and the right to vote. Elections are based on the premise that voters choose people who will represent them. Every voter...every voice...every citizen matters! We are weary...but we are not tired.

The Center for American Progress published a series of reports that analyze how partisan gerrymandering affects issues from gun violence prevention to access to health care to policies that are important to children and Ohio families. Gerrymandering hurts communities and politically redlines their best interests. It slowly excludes minority groups and priority populations, sometimes even rolling back gains already made. Again weary...but no ways tired.

Gerrymandering further distances Representatives from accountability at the ballot box. But there is hope. Gerrymandering is fixable. Citizens across Ohio are fired up about fair maps for redistricting. This could be the political moment to solve these problems and get our Ohio back on track for fair representation. Let's fix this today and stop this strain on democracy, and together try to strengthen the pillars of our democracy.

While we are weary...we are no ways tired. Elections are based on the premise that voters choose people who will represent them. By building more transparency into the redistricting process, it increases the chance that redistricting procedures will both serve the public interest and avoid the continued political party over the interest of the people in Ohio. There are multiple means to encourage public participation, and this has already started by providing these opportunities for official testimony and encouraging the submission of personal opinions. Similarly, such a public involvement must be solicited before and while proposals maps are being redrawn. We are demanding three public hearings and not all in the middle of the day or the week which further disenfranchises working Ohioans.

Ohioans overwhelmingly support Fair District Rules for the State Legislature meaning we are saying with our voice and our vote that we will no longer live-in congressional districts that are drawn to push the Ohio voters' choice. No more snakes on the lake, no more lack of representation, no more voter selection. We are ready for fair districts in Ohio! Power to the people.