



**TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS
COMMITTEE**

**HB 1491 Congressional Districts – Standards (Anti-Gerrymandering of Maryland’s
Congressional Districts)**

POSITION: Support

BY: Lois Hybl and Richard Willson, Co-Presidents

DATE: March 2, 2020

We believe that a fair redistricting process produces districts which are substantially equal in population, compact, composed of contiguous territory, and give due regard to natural boundaries and political subdivisions. The standards laid out in this bill are the same as those the Maryland constitution applies to legislative districts, and we believe that they are equally appropriate for Congressional districts. If enacted, they would limit the ability of either party to predetermine the results of elections by grouping voters from widely scattered areas while subdividing counties and neighborhoods. Compact and contiguous districts give the voters a much better opportunity to know their representatives and to engage in political discussions with their fellow voters.

This very small change to the current redistricting practice for Congressional districts, would help to restore the faith of voters in the process and their elected officials. An overwhelming majority of Marylanders have expressed that they wish for a fix to our redistricting process, and this simple bill would show voters that our elected officials are committed to supporting the will of the people.

We urge a favorable report on HB 1491.