

Testimony of Mat Heyman on HB 488
Submitted to the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee
January 27, 2026

I am Mat Heyman from Kensington, Maryland. Thank you to the Chair and members for holding this hearing on such an important and timely subject. I am testifying in support of HB 488 Election Districts - General Assembly and Representatives in Congress

I am a long-time Maryland resident (since 1984) and an advocate for preventing gun violence, addressing homelessness, and supporting STEM education opportunities.

Each of those causes is being attacked by the Trump administration and enabled by Congress. Each attack has very real, very negative effects on Marylanders.

I have two adult children and eight grandchildren in Maryland. Their futures are on the line in your actions and that of the Maryland General Assembly regarding redistricting.

Under ordinary circumstances, this hearing would not even be held. And I would not be speaking out ***on behalf of*** redistricting. I would be more likely to speak out ***against*** another redistricting effort.

But these are not ordinary circumstances. Far from it. Pretenses about fairness – about democracy – have evaporated.

Maryland is the *only* state capable of moving *right now to counter redistricting actions in other states which further jeopardize our individual rights*, and it is imperative that we do so.

Democracy is on the line, and Marylanders deserve to be heard and to not have our voices diminished because other states are responding to the president's demands that they redistrict. We can either take action on our own – even if reluctantly – or do nothing, which would be, in effect, surrendering.

So I ask you to support [HB488](#), introduced by Delegate C.T. Wilson, and urge you to move forward NOW with a new map that is legislatively drawn – and to take that approach rather than redistricting through a lengthy process entailed by a ballot measure.

This proposal already pays appropriate attention to Maryland's variety of communities. It would permit a thoughtful and fair map to be put in place.

The selected map incorporates public feedback presented to the Redistricting Commission.

Passing congressional maps for 2026, 2028, and 2030 together now is the clearest and right thing to do. Forcing this issue onto a ballot adds confusion, not clarity. A ballot

measure would delay urgently needed action and create uncertainty for upcoming elections.

We have the ability to move fast. There is no legal reason that prevents us from acting now.

On behalf of my children and grandchildren, I implore you to do just that: act now and pass HB 488.

Thank you.