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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE RULES AND EXECUTIVE
NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF
HOUSE BILL 1260 - CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS –
STANDARDS (ANTI-GERRYMANDERING OF
MARYLAND’S CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS)**

March 15, 2021

Get Money Out (GMOM) is an all-volunteer organization that was established just over eight years ago. We now have signed up over 9,000 citizen supporters. We work in Maryland toward the goal that all citizens should have equal access to the ballot and an equal say in governance.

Gerrymandering in Maryland has created a serious situation that undermines equality in governance by severely diminishing the power of individual citizens’ say in elections. Every voter in Maryland has lost the power to make a meaningful selection in the general election for Congress because the outcome of the general election is all but pre-determined by the district boundaries.

HB 1260 proposes a simple amendment to Maryland’s Constitution that Congressional districts be compact and respect community boundaries. It would address a serious problem that raises a profound question among the citizenry. *Why vote – my district is not competitive?*

Perhaps just as importantly, the divisiveness created by gerrymandering contributes to the escalation in extreme rhetoric that is causing national disunity and even hatred of fellow citizens.

HB 1260 would have no electoral impact until 2032, i.e., until the first national election after the next census, and it could be part of a general healing of the great divide that threatens the internal peace and security of the nation. The people of Maryland would be pleasantly surprised if the Democratic Party leadership of the General Assembly does make genuine progress toward developing a system where everyone’s vote is equally important. Failure to do so will feed the cynicism and division that is eroding our democracy.