

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION of HB0001
Special Session, December 6, 2021

December 3, 2021

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Maryland General Assembly:

After a long awaited opportunity to correct the some of **THE** most gerrymandered districts in the country, you, as our legislators must take decisive action, to set Maryland on a better path for the future.

As an 11th generation Marylander, I live in Congressional District 3, which honestly looks like a splatter of garbage on the street. Neighbors literally across the street from each other are known to be in different districts. How does that make sense? Parts of Anne Arundel County are found in THREE different congressional districts.

Sadly, the Legislative Redistricting Advisory Commission's hearings were held behind closed doors with no public input allowed. The end result of these meetings is a series of maps that are no better and likely worse than what we have now – districts that continue to allow politicians to choose their voters rather than the citizens electing their representatives.

The Princeton Gerrymandering Project gave the Legislative Redistricting Advisory Commission a resounding failing grade of "**F**," whereas the Maryland **Citizens Redistricting** Commission earned an outstanding grade of "**A**" based on the criteria of fairness, competitiveness, and geographic features which most closely aligns with the Maryland Charter which states that districts should be compact, contiguous, and honor natural geographic boundaries.

Please vote **against** a continuation of Maryland's grossly gerrymandered districts and vote **against** HB 0001.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

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