

# REPRESENT MARYLAND

#FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY

.ORG

**BILL NUMBER: HB1260**

**BILL TITLE: Congressional Districts - Standards (Anti-Gerrymandering of Maryland's Congressional Districts)**

**BILL SPONSOR: Delegate Malone**

**COMMITTEE: Rules and Executive Nominations**

**POSITION: FAVORABLE**

**HEARING DATE: 3/15/2021, 9:30am**

## TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF HB1260

Represent Maryland, an all volunteer, non partisan group of concerned anti-corruption Maryland residents and voters, is dedicated to establishing a fair and open process for drawing election districts in Maryland, among other democracy reform solutions.

Partisan gerrymandering is a problem that affects people across the country and has led to divisiveness among American citizens. We believe this bill takes a much needed step toward standardizing congressional districts, similar to what is already established in the Maryland Constitution for legislative districts, and is in the best interest of the residents of Maryland. This legislation has the ability to begin stemming the tide of anger and resentment between voters who identify with our two main political parties, the parties who have the most control and therefore hold the most responsibility. If enacted, Maryland will set an example for the rest of the country to follow.

Grouping like minded voters together, even when they do not make geographic or jurisdictional sense, is not in the "melting pot" spirit of America and must end. Accurate representation of Maryland's residents requires that voters choose their lawmakers, not the other way around. This bill, that limits the ability of either party to predetermine the results of elections through data manipulation, will leave a positive impact on democracy for generations. Better drawn districts, which are compact and contiguous, will allow voters to build rapport with their voter neighbors and give everyone more opportunity to know and work with their representatives. Now is the time to ensure that young Marylanders will be properly represented in the future.

We appreciate Delegate Malone's leadership and the cross partisan nature of this bill and believe it is an important and necessary step for the future of American democracy. We support this proactive piece of legislation and urge the committee to provide a favorable report.

Sincerely,  
Cristi Demnowicz, Chair  
Represent Maryland PAC  
Voter, District 7

***Represent Maryland is a grassroots anti-corruption group of citizen advocates that #FightForDemocracy in Maryland. Our democracy solutions include: Public Election Funds, Independent Redistricting, Special Elections, Ranked Choice Voting, Increased Ethics and Transparency, and Increased Voter Participation. Learn more about our work at [www.RepresentMaryland.org](http://www.RepresentMaryland.org)***