

Maryland General Assembly Special Session
Congressional Redistricting Hearing December 6, 2021
HB0001

To Chair Delegate Healey and Vice Chair Delegate Holmes and the Rules Committee,

My name is Lori Kronser and I live in Bowie, Maryland. I am a resident of District 23B, a member of Showing Up for Racial Justice Annapolis and Anne Arundel County (SURJ 3A) and a member of the Anne Arundel County NAACP. I am a retired educator in Prince George's County (36 years) and a grandparent of four mixed race children and one white grandchild. I am testifying in regard to HB0001.

I strongly believe that the final redistricting map created for Maryland must provide residents with the most equitable opportunities in regard to racial balance in order to elect representation that reflects, protects and promotes their interests. Anne Arundel County demographics in the last 10 years have become much more diverse. I charge you with preserving the minority-majority district representing Anne Arundel County, which would be reflective of the burgeoning minority population in Anne Arundel County. Prince George's County, as we know, has the most African American voters in the state, of whom deserve the same level of racial representation as the general population. The representation in politics in Maryland currently does not match the demographics of the districts these representatives serve. The ten year process of redistricting is fraught with opportunities for skewing voting rights and representation away from minority balance. It is imperative that this process be handled with equity and careful planning to provide the proper representation of all people, particularly People of Color in Maryland.

Four of my grandchildren reside in Baltimore City. They are elementary age and younger, but I expect that they will be engaged and responsible voters in the future. As mixed race individuals, I am very concerned regarding whether they will have their needs met and their interests represented in years to come. Again, I ask that you ensure the equity of representation in voter rights and representation as you complete the work of creating a fair and just redistricting map based on the racial diversity of each district. The gerrymandering that is taking place in cities and states around the nation has no place in Maryland.

Thank you very much for your hard work and your service.

Sincerely,

Lori Kronser
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