

House of Maryland
Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
Written Testimony in Favor of House Bill 2100
Election Districts, General Assembly and Representatives in Congress

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Prachi Tyagi, and I serve as the Political Director for the Maryland High School Democrats (MDHSD). I am writing in strong support of House Bill 2100.

A strong democracy depends not only on fair elections but also on clear laws. House Bill 2100 provides important constitutional clarity by specifying that the districting requirements in Article III, Section 4 of the Maryland Constitution apply to districts for the Maryland Senate and House of Delegates, while congressional districts continue to be governed by applicable federal law. The bill also authorizes the General Assembly to grant the Supreme Court of Maryland original jurisdiction to review congressional districting plans, creating a more direct process for resolving future legal challenges.

As a student who has spent years studying government and participating in public policy, I have learned that clear laws are essential to building trust in our institutions. Whether lawmakers are writing legislation, courts are interpreting the Constitution, or state agencies are carrying out policy, everyone benefits when the legal framework is easy to understand. Clear constitutional language helps prevent confusion, reduces unnecessary legal disputes, and allows government to focus on serving Marylanders instead of resolving uncertainty about what the law requires.

Young people across Maryland are increasingly engaged in civic life. We testify before legislative committees, organize within our communities, and advocate for policies that will shape our state's future. That participation is strengthened when government operates under laws that are transparent, consistent, and clearly defined. Even when people disagree on policy, they should be able to rely on a legal framework that is clear and predictable.

House Bill 2100 does not remove the federal protections that continue to govern congressional redistricting. Instead, it clarifies how Maryland's Constitution should be interpreted while preserving the role of federal constitutional and statutory protections. By providing greater legal certainty, this amendment helps reduce unnecessary confusion and establishes a stronger foundation for future redistricting discussions.

House Bill 2100 also helps strengthen public confidence in the redistricting process by creating a clearer distinction between the responsibilities of state and federal law. A transparent and consistent legal framework allows voters to better understand how districting decisions are made and ensures that future discussions focus on the appropriate standards and protections. By clarifying these roles, Maryland can continue to uphold the principles of fairness, accountability, and public trust in its democratic institutions.

As Maryland continues to grow and evolve, our constitutional language must remain clear for lawmakers, courts, and voters alike. House Bill 2100 reinforces the principles of transparency,

consistency, and good governance while helping ensure that future redistricting decisions are guided by a well-defined constitutional framework.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue a favorable report on House Bill 2100.

Sincerely,
Prachi Tyagi
Political Director, Maryland High School Democrats