

Chair and members of the committee,

I respectfully oppose moving forward with any congressional redistricting proposal before the public has had a meaningful opportunity to review and comment on the actual district map.

Redistricting determines how Marylanders are represented in Congress for years to come. Decisions of this magnitude deserve a transparent process that allows citizens to examine proposed district boundaries, understand how their communities will be affected, and provide informed testimony before any vote is taken.

Without access to the proposed map, the public cannot evaluate whether it preserves communities of interest, respects existing geographic and political boundaries where appropriate, or provides fair and effective representation. Asking citizens to comment without this information denies them the opportunity to participate meaningfully in the legislative process.

Regardless of which political party stands to benefit, the process should be open, deliberate, and transparent. Public confidence in our elections depends not only on the outcome but also on the fairness of the process used to reach that outcome. Any appearance that district lines are being developed or approved without adequate public scrutiny undermines that confidence.

I urge the General Assembly to release any proposed congressional map with sufficient time for public review, independent analysis, and meaningful public testimony before any final action is taken. Marylanders deserve a process that is transparent, accountable, and worthy of their trust.

I am deeply concerned that changes to Maryland's redistricting process could make it easier for whichever party holds power to draw districts that predetermine electoral outcomes rather than reflect the interests of the communities they represent.

The standards that protect fair representation should be the same regardless of which political party controls the legislature today or in the future.

Please ensure that any redistricting process is transparent, allows meaningful public participation, and protects communities of interest.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sara Yosua

1003 Hillside View Rd, Parkton, MD 21120

410-343-2576