

Written Testimony in Opposition to HB2100- Election Districts - General Assembly and Representatives in Congress

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Melissa Christian, and I am a resident of Anne Arundel County, Maryland. I respectfully urge an unfavorable report on HB2100.

I am a Republican, but my objection to this legislation is based on principle, not party. Gerrymandering is wrong regardless of whether it benefits Republicans or Democrats. Our constitutional system depends on voters choosing their representatives—not elected officials choosing their voters.

The Maryland Constitution begins by declaring that all government originates from the people and is instituted solely for their good. That principle is weakened when district boundaries are manipulated primarily to achieve predetermined political outcomes. Congressional districts should reflect real communities and the will of Maryland's voters, not the preferences of whichever party happens to hold power.

This legislation moves Maryland in the wrong direction. It will further erode public confidence in elections by reinforcing the perception that electoral maps are political tools rather than neutral boundaries. A representative democracy functions best when elections are genuinely competitive and elected officials are accountable to the people instead of insulated by carefully engineered districts.

Reasonable people can disagree on policy, but they should not have to question whether electoral maps were designed to predetermine the outcome before a single vote is cast. Every Marylander—Republican, Democrat, Independent, or unaffiliated—deserves confidence that their vote carries meaningful weight.

If Maryland wants to be a national leader, it should pursue an independent and transparent redistricting process that respects county and municipal boundaries where practical, keeps communities of interest together, and avoids partisan favoritism. The legitimacy of our elections is more important than any temporary political advantage.

This issue is bigger than today's political majority. Every party eventually finds itself in the minority. The rules we establish today should be fair enough that we would accept them regardless of who controls the General Assembly tomorrow.

For these reasons, I respectfully request an unfavorable report on this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.