

July 31, 2026

RE: Strong Opposition to House Bill 2100

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

I respectfully urge you to vote **NO** on HB2100.

For decades, Maryland's Constitution has required election districts to be compact, contiguous, and drawn according to constitutional standards intended to promote fairness and public confidence. HB2100 would remove those constitutional protections from future congressional districts while retaining them for districts used to elect members of the General Assembly.

I believe this is a profound mistake.

The purpose of a constitution is to establish enduring principles that apply regardless of which political party happens to hold power. HB2100 does the opposite. It would reduce constitutional protections for congressional redistricting by declaring that Maryland's constitutional standards no longer govern congressional maps and instead leaving those maps subject only to applicable federal law. In doing so, the bill weakens important state-level safeguards against partisan map drawing.

Whether one is a Democrat, Republican, Independent, or unaffiliated voter, every Marylander deserves congressional districts that are drawn according to clear constitutional principles—not according to whichever party controls the General Assembly at a particular moment in history.

Supporters have argued that the amendment simply clarifies which standards apply. However, removing existing constitutional limitations from congressional redistricting inevitably grants future legislatures broader discretion when drawing congressional districts. Even if that discretion is exercised by today's majority, it will also belong to every future majority. Constitutional protections should not be weakened simply because doing so may produce a preferred political outcome today.

This legislation also risks further eroding public confidence in Maryland's elections. At a time when faith in democratic institutions is already strained, the General Assembly should be strengthening public trust by maintaining robust constitutional safeguards—not reducing them. Fair elections require not only compliance with the law but public confidence that the rules are neutral and consistently applied.

The issue before this Committee should not be whether one political party benefits over another. It should be whether Maryland should deliberately remove constitutional protections that have governed congressional districting and replace them with a lower constitutional standard.

I believe the answer is no.

Regardless of political affiliation, every Maryland voter deserves to know that congressional districts are drawn under the strongest constitutional safeguards available. HB2100 moves Maryland in the opposite direction.

I respectfully ask this Committee to reject HB2100 and preserve the constitutional protections that help ensure fairness, transparency, and confidence in Maryland's congressional elections.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,
Margo Cook
414 Hillview Drive
Linthicum Heights, MD 21060