

House Bill 2100 should not be passed. The members of the General Assembly should be ashamed of themselves for putting such a priority on this bill to secure political power when our state residents are in such urgent need of the General Assembly's attention to issues such as living affordability, energy accessibility and costs, transparency in state government, controlled state spending and waste, and crime reduction. It has become an embarrassment to be a registered democrat Maryland. State representatives took an oath to serve the interests of the taxpayers that pay their salaries, not the interests of a political party. Every Maryland citizen deserves a voice in the management of their tax dollars on both a state and federal level, and fair representation at the polls provides that. We deserve a redistricting process that is constitutional, transparent, and worthy of public confidence no matter our political views and registered party. Electoral boundaries should reflect communities and natural boundaries and provide fair representation; not for communities to be cut piece meal for the interests of one political party. Maryland's Constitution's requirements for compact districts, adjoining territory, and consideration of county and natural boundaries for districts exist for a very good reason. And if those requirements still seem legitimate for electing our General Assembly members how can it be justified to use a different means for congressional members? Compact districts and respect for county, community, and natural boundaries help preserve recognizable communities and make elected officials more accountable to the people they represent, as they should be.

HB 2100 would not establish stronger, fairer, or more transparent standards for congressional redistricting. Instead, it would remove constitution standards and bypass any citizen input into the proposed districts, and it expects citizens to hand over that power without ever seeing a proposed map! We should be able to evaluate the proposed boundaries and the rules governing them at the same time, not be asked to surrender existing protections before seeing what will replace them and trusting politicians to do the right thing.

Redistricting rules are meant to be clear, consistent, and designed to restrain political power, keeping power in the hands of the citizens. Those protections should apply equally, no matter what party controls state government. I urge you to vote against HB2100. Thank you, Lisa Allison 551 Devonshire Ct Severna Park, MD 21146 410-703-1586