July 31, 2026

BILL: *HB 2100 – Election Districts – General Assembly and Representatives in Congress*

COMMITTEE: *Joint Hearing of House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee & Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee*

POSITION: *UNFAVORABLE*

NAME: *KYLE STURM*

Dear Speaker Peña-Melnyk and the Maryland House Of Delegates,

I am Kyle Sturm, a student that attends an Anne Arundel County high school and I am a Young Republican. I am writing to express my opposition to HB2100 due to its contents of the bill. HB2100 lets Maryland redistrict all house districts so Maryland can be more democratic. As a Young Republican, I strictly oppose the idea due to the contents of gerrymandering. I believe Maryland should keep their one Republican district let Andy Harris keep his district.
I believe that Maryland already has enough democratic districts. Maryland, if you want to add more democratic seats so badly, maybe consider adding a 9th and 10th district then.

“ WHEREAS, This amendment clarifies the long–standing understanding and case law that Article III, § 4 of the Maryland Constitution governs only General Assembly districting plans, not congressional districting plans; “(HB2100). This law targets trying to eliminate Maryland's lone Republican district trying to make it more Democratic. Take a look at democratic states such as California, Colorado, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Virginia and Washington state. They are democratic states but also have one or more Republican districts.

Four states were unable to redistrict due to court rulings blocking them. They were Arkansas, New York, Virginia and Wisconsin. The New York case was brought up to the Supreme Court where they voted to block the congressional redraw from happening.

Maryland has had a history of favoring democratic seats, but this one has hit the line. In 1992 and 2002, Maryland has redistricted to make their congressional districts more democratic by altering maps to make it more successful for Democrats to win. Following the 2010 census, Governor Martin O’Malley targeted

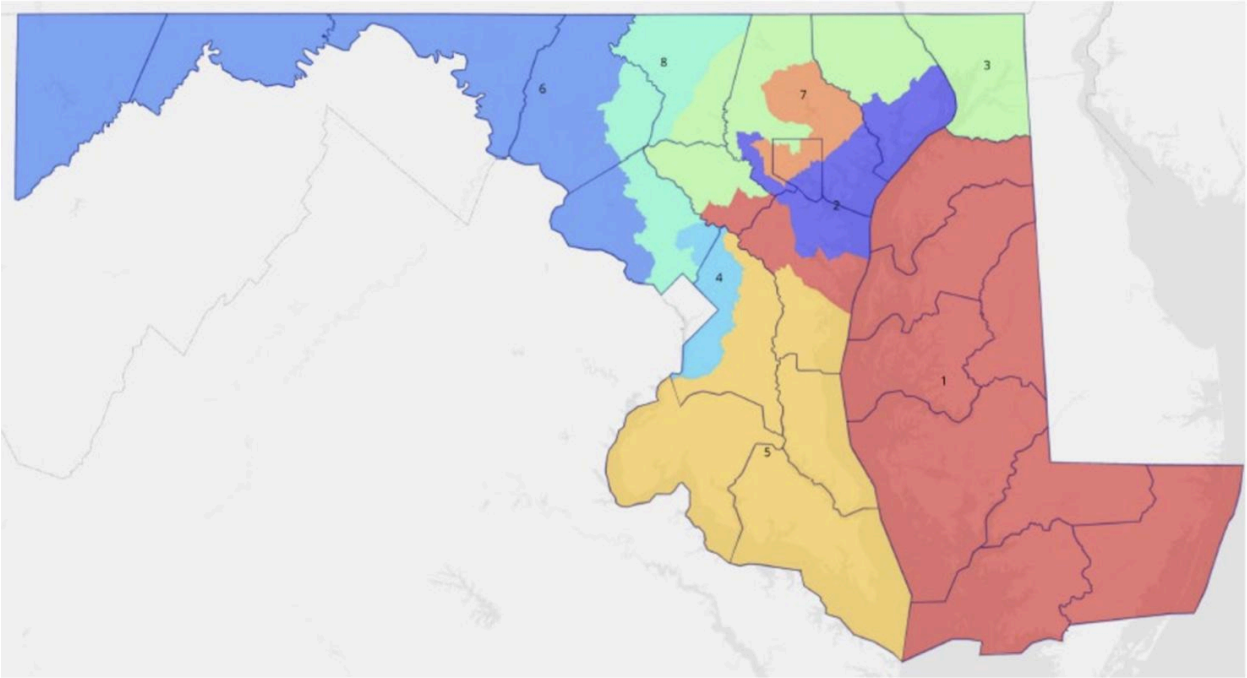
the 6th congressional district and he openly admitted " everything in my power to draw a map that would be more favorable to the election of a Democratic congressional delegation". The mapmakers moved over 711,000 residents into or out of the district making the Republican incumbent, Roscoe Bartlett unable to win re-election. This map lead to the 2018 Supreme Court case Benisek v. Lamone and the court decided to decline to intervene. If another redistricting case happens in 2028, it could lead to the Supreme Court intervening again making it go to history. Speaking of court cases, In March of 2022, Senior Judge Lynne Battaglia struck down a redistricting map in court due to the map being labeled as an " extreme partisan gerrymander ". I believe that Maryland needs to stop trying to add more democratic seats or at least reach out to the courts for their opinion to avoid gerrymandering in redistricting.

This isn't the first time the Maryland General Assembly has ignored its constituents and county leaders. During the 2026 legislative session, there was a troubling trend of top-down mandates that disregarded the clear preferences of local communities.

For instance, the passing of the Community Trust Act ignored local law enforcement and county sheriffs' concerns about public safety. This overreach by the state led many Maryland sheriffs to file a federal lawsuit against it. We witnessed similar partisan pushback during the passage of the Maryland Voting Rights Act of 2026. Major opposition was dismissed, leading to a shouting match on the floor of the House of Delegates in the final minutes of the session. Conservative priorities were consistently ignored, including lenient crime measures like the Youth Automatic Charging Reform Act and gun ownership restrictions that hinder personal protection. Similarly, with the Joanne C. Benson Maryland Phone-Free Schools Act, the state stripped away local control and bypassed the independent input of county school boards and parents. When looking at the MSDE cellphone task study, excluding Howard County due to its independent ban, the state ignored the input from Allegany, Anne Arundel, Carroll, Cecil, Dorchester, Frederick, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester counties. A large number of parents, students, and even educators had never heard of the bill before it was passed. They only paid attention to the task study, teachers, researchers, and the Montgomery County PTAs. As a concerned resident, I wrote emails and called many politicians to express these specific worries, but most of the time, my voice was ignored.

This proposed constitutional rewrite follows that same pattern. It alters fundamental constitutional standards to benefit one political party. It undermines

fair representation and weakens the voices of over one million Republican voters in our state. Maryland has neglected its counties and voters for too long. HB 2100 takes this legislative overreach to a dangerous new level.



I strictly oppose this Map idea as they should redraw more of Anne Arundel to fit into Anne Arundel and keep the Annapolis and southern parts of Anne Arundel County to District 5.

I believe that special sessions should only be used for Budget Crises, Natural Disasters and bigger issues in the state of Maryland. Redistricting should not be an issue to bring up in a special session as I believe at least it should be saved for an interim study for the 2027 legislative session.

Thank you for your time in reading this.

Best Regards,
Kyle Sturm