

I am concerned about the inclusion of HB2101 in this special session.

Maryland residents were told that this special session was being convened to address congressional redistricting. The inclusion of legislation affecting state employee arbitration raises questions about the scope of the special session and how decisions were made regarding which issues would be considered.

If the General Assembly has determined that additional policy matters beyond redistricting warrant consideration during this special session, I question why other urgent issues facing Maryland residents were not also included. Maryland families continue to face rising housing costs, instability in disability services, healthcare workforce disruptions, and other significant challenges that have immediate impacts on their daily lives.

As a constituent, I am concerned that the issues selected for this special session do not reflect the priorities that many Marylanders have been asking their elected officials to address. If exceptions can be made to the stated purpose of the special session, those exceptions should be based on the needs of the people of Maryland and applied transparently and consistently.

I urge the General Assembly to clearly explain why HB2101 is being considered during this special session while other pressing issues affecting Maryland residents remain unaddressed.

Ashley Johnson