



MARYLAND **REPUBLICAN** PARTY

July 31, 2026

The Honorable Melissa Wells
Chair, House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
145 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Wells and Members of the House Committee on Government, Labor, and Elections:

We have come to a Special Session of the Maryland General Assembly, another burden on our budget and the hardworking Maryland taxpayers, to discuss a constitutional change to how and when congressional districts are mapped in the future.

First, I believe that gerrymandering is wrong, no matter who is drawing the maps. It doesn't give a balanced representation of the residents of a state, and it can dilute the voice of communities. Whether gerrymandering is done by race, occupation, urban/suburban/rural, or by political party doesn't matter—diluting the voice and representation of any citizen within the state is wrong.

Second, I believe that congressional districts should be drawn based on the same criteria as has been codified for our State Senate and Delegate districts. Districts should be drawn for like-communities, with respect to geographical boundaries, and they should be as compact and contiguous as possible. Maryland has long been known for its gerrymandered district boundaries, and while they stick to the +/- 2 people Congressional rule for size, they have been anything but fair and uniform to the communities and geography of our great state. Allowing redistricting at anytime will also take away the only strict foundation of our current borders—having a current census that dictates a fairly accurate size equality across the state's eight congressional districts.

Third, making it possible for the State legislature to redistrict in any cycle, or even every cycle takes away stability from our residents. People have a hard enough time knowing who their representatives are and trying to build a relationship with them. Potentially putting people in different districts every 2 years or even every 4-6 years will discourage the average person from engaging politically and from feeling heard and represented. I understand that congressional members are elected every two years and may be voted out and change will occur, but putting the extra burden of a resident not knowing their district or not realizing who will be on their ballot in any given cycle can be extra confusing. As members of the Maryland General Assembly, each of you should feel responsible to foster growth and interaction with your constituents, and to make it easier for leaders at every level, whether local or federal to have the same ability and stability for interaction.

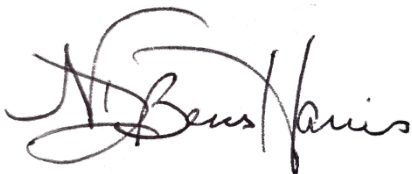
**AUTHORITY MARYLAND REPUBLICAN PARTY;
R. CHRISTOPHER ROSENTHAL, TREASURER**

Fourth, let's just quickly mention the potential implications on the State of Maryland's budget if redistricting was allowed to happen more than once every ten years. Simply put, the state cannot afford to pay for commissions, map makers, public hearings, etc. every two years. If the State of Maryland tries to do a census to keep a foundation on equal sized congressional districts, how much more of a financial burden will the taxpayers have? Much like this Special Session is costing the taxpayers more money, and each of you time which equals money, redistricting based on purely political reasons is a waste of resources. As leaders, protecting the State's resources should be of the highest priority. Please take this into account.

Fifth, if the ability to redistrict is put on the ballot and it passes in November, this will be a constitutional change that will affect generations to come. This conversation may be happening because Minority Leader Jeffries in DC is pushing for it, or maybe Governor Moore, but every elected Senator, Delegate, and Member of Congress needs to realize that while it may be aimed at trying to get rid of the last Republican district we have in Maryland currently, what's to say it won't be used to get rid of a fellow Democrat in the future? If this becomes law, it could be used as a weapon against any Congressional Member who isn't voting as the majority in Annapolis tries to dictate. It won't matter if it's the opposite party or the same party, it will be codified and could be used against any member.

To summarize, I firmly stand against this bill and I stand against any plan for redistricting without the ten-year census, redistricting for political motives, redistricting for political expediency, redistricting that does not stay compact and within natural geographical boundaries, and any plan to severely limit the voices of a political party, a race, or a community whether urban/suburban/rural. This bill should not have been brought forward and our General Assembly most certainly should not have had an emergency special session called.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Nicole Beus Harris", with a stylized, cursive script.

Nicole Beus Harris
Chairwoman
Maryland Republican Party