

TESTIMONY AGAINST REDISTRICTING – HB2100
SPECIAL SESSION – AUGUST 3, 2026
HOUSE GLE COMMITTEE

DEBORAH YATSUK
418 FOX HOLLOW LANE, ANNAPOLIS 21403

Dear Delegates:

I respectfully ask that you DO NOT support creating a ballot question that allows congressional districts to be created that does not reflect natural geographic boundaries, communities, or are not compact in form. These characteristics make sense and are understandable to the public. Having the same requirements for state and federal districts also make sense and are not confusing to the public.

Gerrymandering is opposed by the majority of voters of all flavors nationwide, if they understand how it is done. No side likes it if it doesn't behoove them. I know you will say Trump started it, and he did - this time. But he is also wrong to have done so, and it could backfire. However, Marylander has been one of the worst for gerrymandering long before President Trump, and what you are doing here could backfire too. Some red and blue states have devised redistricting strategies to gain seats for their party, *but some states have also elected not to*.

What doesn't make sense, in a state that has approximately 50% Democrats, 25% Republicans and 25% Unaffiliateds, is to have all 8 Congressional districts represented by Democrats. How is that protecting democracy? Who is representing half the voters? How is that balanced or even healthy? I remember when there were 5 D's and 3 R's, then 6 D's and 2 R's, and then gerrymandering the last time created 7 D's and 1 R. Are you really ready to subject your reputation and spend all this time and taxpayer dollars for just one seat? Trump will not be in office forever, but your conscience will be.

Please stand up for all the people of Maryland. Let us know that we all have a voice, not just the politicians. Do not choose to perpetuate the

divisiveness that is abounding. Be inclusive. Be prudent and pragmatic. Be courageous, not disingenuous.

Maryland is one of the states losing population. Of concern, is that the people leaving are the givers of time and money, the community servants that improve their surroundings. Or they are the younger families who can't afford to live here. Democrats have had a super majority in the MGA for decades, so you can only look at yourselves with where we are. You are pushing good people out, and I know if conservatives and moderates feel they have no representation, they will continue to leave which is very unfortunate for our society.

I hope you will stand up for balance and fairness, and let all voters be represented in our democracy.