

Written Testimony in Opposition to the Gerrymandering Bill

To the Honorable Members of the Maryland General Assembly,

My name is Rebecca Tittermary, and I submit this testimony in strong opposition to the proposed gerrymandering bill currently under consideration.

Maryland's current congressional and legislative maps are already widely criticized as gerrymandered. Rather than correcting these shortcomings, this proposal would worsen them. The new maps further distort district boundaries, fracture communities, and intensify the perception that electoral outcomes are being engineered rather than earned.

For residents of **Wicomico County and Maryland's Eastern Shore**, the impact is especially concerning. Our region already struggles to have its voice fully represented in Annapolis. The proposed map further divides and dilutes Eastern Shore representation, effectively **disenfranchising voters** by weakening our collective influence in state and federal decision-making. Communities with shared economic, educational, and regional priorities are split apart, making it harder for elected officials to advocate effectively for local needs.

Free and fair elections are the foundation of our democracy. When district lines are manipulated—particularly in ways that marginalize rural and regional communities—public trust erodes and civic participation declines. Gerrymandering, regardless of political party, prioritizes power over people and undermines representative government.

Marylanders deserve districts that are compact, contiguous, and reflective of genuine communities of interest. Wicomico County residents deserve representation that recognizes our shared identity and ensures our voices carry appropriate weight in the legislative process. When voters believe their influence has been intentionally diminished, faith in government falters.

At a time when confidence in democratic institutions is already strained, this legislature should be working to improve transparency and fairness, not deepen existing inequities. Independent or bipartisan redistricting, clear mapping criteria, and meaningful public input offer a more equitable path forward.

I urge you to reject this bill and instead pursue reforms that place voters—not politicians—at the center of Maryland's electoral system. Maryland has an opportunity to correct existing flaws and strengthen representation for all communities, including those on the Eastern Shore.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Tittermary

Wicomico County, Maryland