

Good evening,

I'm Jesse Peed, Chairman of the Prince George's County Republican Central Committee. My testimony today is of a personal experience. I am not going to give statistics; I know that this point has been brought up. I want to talk about the nature of redrawing the district lines. I ran for State Senate in District 27 twice and did fairly well. When the seat became open, I was perceived as a competitive candidate for that District. When the new district lines were published, my district was moved over one road to make sure I could not run in 27. I was drawn out of my district simply because the Democrats decided that's the best way to keep their seat was to choose voters instead of voters choosing their elected officials. I had a good following in District 27 to run for office. The redistricting moved the line down the center of my road placing me in a different District, alienating the citizens that supported and voted for me in the previous elections. Gerrymandering is unfair, unconstitutional, and partisan; not because I felt short changed, but because the Marylanders in my old District were.

Now the majority wants to eliminate the last Republican Congressional district in Maryland, in clear violation of the state's Constitution. I urge this panel to think twice before sanctioning any such action.

In closing, shouldn't we put the will of the people first?