

Submitted by: Michele Copper

Bill: HB0488 - Election Districts - General Assembly and Representatives in Congress

Committee: Rules and Executive Nominations

Position: Favorable

I am a resident of the State of Maryland who resides in MD01. Please accept this written testimony in **favor** of HB0488 - Election Districts - General Assembly and Representatives in Congress. This bill would alter Congressional districts starting with the 2026 election cycle.

I support this bill for two reasons. First, it is necessary to counter-act the gerrymandering which is occurring in other parts of our country (such as in Texas) to ensure that there are checks and balances at the federal level. Gerrymandering in other states has created a situation where Congress is currently not upholding its Article 1 duties of serving as a check on the Executive Branch. Redistricting Maryland would provide an opportunity for voters to counteract unchecked authority at the federal level.

Second, our existing map is gerrymandered, as evidenced by the fact that MD01 is represented by one of the most ideologically driven, hyper-partisan members of the House of Representatives. Many of us in MD01 do not feel that we have a voice in the House. Redistricting the maps would create a more competitive MD01 district, and competitive districts put pressure on those seeking and obtaining office to speak more towards the middle majority of the electorate.

As HB488 does not impact representation in the Maryland General Assembly, Marylanders living in MD01 will not see a change to state-level representation.

For these reasons, I support HB0488 and request a **favorable** vote in Committee.