

Unfavorable Testimony on HB 482 and HB 488

Maryland General Assembly – Rules and Executive Nominations Committee

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Brent Myers, and I am a Maryland resident.

I am here today to express my **unfavorable position** on House Bills 482 and 488. My opposition is not rooted in party loyalty, but in a fundamental concern about **representation and democratic legitimacy**.

Maryland is a diverse state — politically, geographically, and culturally. Yet these bills, taken together, advance a redistricting approach that risks eliminating meaningful representation for a significant portion of Maryland’s population. When district lines are drawn in a way that virtually guarantees one party controls all congressional seats, the result is not fairness — it is **disenfranchisement by design**.

No matter where one falls politically, a system that effectively removes competition and silences minority viewpoints erodes public trust. When voters believe outcomes are predetermined, participation declines, cynicism grows, and confidence in government weakens. That is not healthy for our democracy — and it is not what Marylanders deserve. As a citizen who does not align with the majority party in this state, I already feel that my voice carries little weight in statewide decision-making. These bills would deepen that sense — not just for Republicans, but for independents and moderates who value balance, accountability, and debate.

A legislature that draws maps to entrench itself may achieve short-term political gain, but it does so at the cost of long-term institutional credibility. Representation should be earned through persuasion and performance, not engineered through boundary manipulation.

Redistricting should strive to:

- Reflect genuine communities of interest
- Preserve competitiveness where possible
- Ensure that all Marylanders, regardless of party, believe their vote matters

HB 482 and HB 488 move us in the opposite direction.

I respectfully urge the committee to reject these bills, or at minimum reconsider them through a lens that prioritizes **fair representation over partisan advantage**. Maryland can and should lead by example — not by proving that absolute political control is the ultimate goal.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Brent Myers
Harford County, Maryland