

Committee: Rules and Executive Nominations

Testimony on: HB488

Election Districts - General Assembly and Representatives in Congress

Organization: Thomas Potyraj (self)

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: January 27, 2026

Chairperson Healey and Members of the Committee:

My name is Thomas Potyraj. I am a resident of Catonsville. I am here today to speak in support of HB488.

Maryland is already feeling the consequences of an unchecked federal government that does not reflect the will of the voters.

- Thousands of Marylanders have lost federal jobs.
- Federal funds are being threatened or cut for healthcare, education, transportation, and childcare.
- Immigrant communities are being targeted and terrorized.
- Political opposition is being treated as something to suppress rather than represent.

Across the country, Republican-led states are aggressively redrawing congressional maps to entrench power and silence voters. This is not speculation... it is already happening. Republican-led states such as Texas, Florida, Missouri, Ohio, and North Carolina have already moved forward. Although Democrat-led states have taken action, the balance favors Republicans. Maryland's inaction does not preserve a balance.

Republicans already have an advantage in the Senate that is not based on population. Because each state has two senators regardless of their population, more power is assigned to less populous and more conservative states. This bias is greater now than when the U.S. Constitution was ratified.

Maryland is at a critical moment, and the path forward is clear. We must act to counter efforts to undermine the system of Checks and Balances.

Dr. King repeatedly reminded us that the inaction of good people was the greatest threat to the pursuit of justice. We must continue to stand up, speak up, and fight back. Therefore, I support HB488.