

HB 488 - Oppose



January 25, 2026

The Honorable Chair and Members
Rules and Executive Nominations Committee

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the State Freedom Caucus Network, I submit this written testimony in opposition to House Bill 488.

The State Freedom Caucus Network advocates on legislation affecting the liberty, safety, and prosperity of all Marylanders, with an emphasis on election integrity, constitutional restraint, and limiting the expansion of government power.

House Bill 488 enacts a mid-decade congressional redistricting plan for the 2026 election and places that plan directly into the Maryland Constitution on a temporary basis. This approach represents a troubling misuse of the constitutional amendment process for short-term political objectives and undermines the Constitution's role as a stable governing document.

The bill further exempts congressional districts from constitutional compactness and contiguity standards while authorizing the General Assembly to grant original jurisdiction to the Supreme Court of Maryland for congressional redistricting disputes. These changes weaken longstanding redistricting safeguards, increase the likelihood of litigation, and further politicize the judiciary.

Mid-cycle redistricting without a new census destabilizes voter representation and erodes public confidence in the fairness and predictability of elections. Embedding census-block-level district descriptions into the Constitution—even temporarily—sets a dangerous precedent and invites future abuse.

For these reasons, House Bill 488 raises serious constitutional, procedural, and election-integrity concerns. The State Freedom Caucus Network respectfully urges the Committee to issue an unfavorable report on House Bill 488.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Ali Rak
Maryland State Director
State Freedom Caucus Network