

Good afternoon/evening to the committee members. I'm Dr. Brenda Thiam and I live in Washington county. I'm also a candidate for lieutenant governor, as the running mate for John Myrick who is running for governor of our great state.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer my testimony in opposition of this bill. Not long ago, I served in the Maryland General Assembly as a state delegate, and I'm familiar with "bad bills". HB488, is a bad bill that must receive an unfavorable vote. Passing this bill into law will set the standard for future maps.

Maryland has one Republican representative in the US Congress. This significantly gerrymandered map is an attempt to rid the Maryland delegation of the only Republican representative in Maryland. There is no fairness in this new proposed map.

As of December 2025, Maryland has over 1 million registered Republican voters according to the Maryland State Board of Elections website. That is not the majority of Maryland, but it's large enough to ensure that we have representation for Marylanders who identify as Republican and need their voices heard.

Passing HB488 would be grossly negligent regarding addressing what is important to Marylanders. This map is a means to an end to satisfy Democrats at the national level. As a candidate, I've had the benefit of talking to Republicans, Democrats, and everybody in between across the state, to know what is important to them. I can assure you, it's not a new map. It's high electric bills, increased fees for car registrations, out of control property taxes, students who can't read and do math on grade level (after billions of dollars have been poured into education).

Many Democrats I've spoken to understand that their party is the majority party, and they often ask, "what does the governor want?" Power; that's what he wants. The greater the power, the more dangerous the abuse. As lawmakers, I ask that you focus on what's important for Maryland; not what's important for Washington, DC.

I ask that you vote in opposition of HB488. Thank you for your time and have a productive session.

Honorable Dr. Brenda J. Thiam  
January 22, 2026