



TESTIMONY FOR HB0488

Election Districts – General Assembly and Representatives in Congress

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Wilson

Committee: Rules and Executive Nominations

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0488 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

We live in unprecedeted times. With a president who does not respect the law, or norms and rules of any kind, we find ourselves in a place where elections are no longer about the will of people. They are about the gaining of power by whatever means, whether legal or illegal. Intimidation, having a census out of cycle, not counting people who have always been counted, and trying to disenfranchise whole groups of voters.

So, with that background in mind, Maryland has decided to do what we did not expect to do – to counter the redistricting effort called for by the President in Republican-led states in order to ‘fix’ the next election. The maps have been drawn and proposed by a committee established by the Governor.

This bill, if enacted, would apply only to elections for the Senate and the House of Representatives in Congress. It would allow the General

Assembly to grant original jurisdiction to the Supreme Court of Maryland to review the Congressional districting in the state. The revised maps that the Supreme Court would be asked to approve expire in 2030 and we will go back to the current congressional districts.

No one wants to be in this place. It's not something that we expected to have to do, but playing by the rules and norms has already allowed our country to descend into anarchy. We can't afford more of this.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.