

January 25th, 2026

Good afternoon,

My name is Hannah Wilson, and I am a resident of Anne Arundel County.

Redistricting is one of the most consequential powers entrusted to this body. It does more than shape electoral outcomes, it determines whether voters believe those outcomes are earned or engineered.

This proposal pushes that power to its constitutional limit. When district lines are drawn to predetermine results rather than reflect compactness, continuity, and neutral criteria, courts have recognized that such maps can burden political association and dilute votes in ways that implicate both the First and Fourteenth Amendments.

An 8-0 congressional map is not unlawful by itself, but it provides clear evidence of a design that eliminates meaningful electoral competition and systematically disadvantages a politically identifiable group of voters. Therefore going beyond the constitutional limit.

Maryland's experience demonstrates the legal and financial risks of aggressive redistricting. Maps drawn chiefly for political gain are unlikely to survive judicial scrutiny, making the record we establish today critical for any future challenge.

But the concern extends beyond litigation. A system that guarantees results before a single ballot is cast weakens accountability and erodes public confidence in representative government.

The standards adopted today will govern future legislatures of every political composition. Choosing restraint now preserves legitimacy later.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge this body to reject the proposed map and draw districts that treat all voters equally, ensuring that no district is engineered to guarantee predetermined outcomes.

Representation should reflect the people, not a blueprint for one party to consolidate control.