

Bill Title: HB 0488 - Election Districts - General Assembly and Representatives in Congress

Position: FAVORABLE

To: Rules and Executive Nominations Committee

Hearing Date: Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Dear Chair Healey and Members of the Committee,

I am a retired physician, a Maryland resident for nearly 30 years, and a US citizen by choice.

For me, free and fair elections are not an abstraction. They are very personal. I spent 24 years in political exile because of a dictatorial regime that, among other things, murdered dissenters and rigged elections. I returned to the land of my birth for the first time in 1993. My return to Guyana was possible because international pressure, including by the United States, succeeded in ensuring that the first free and fair elections in 28 years were held in 1992, and the regime was voted out.

Here in the United States, Republican-led states are redrawing Congressional maps nationwide in an anti-democratic push to rig the 2026 elections. We are in the midst of an authoritarian takeover and the opportunity to prevent its consolidation of power is diminishing very rapidly. Please listen to those of us who have experienced first hand — or studied — authoritarian takeovers and regimes. This is a five-plus alarm fire! Every tool at our disposal must be used to stop the takeover!

We ALL need to do whatever we can lawfully to halt the regime's authoritarian takeover — our democracy needs all of us to fight. What will you say when your children, grandchildren, and future generations ask you what you did — and what you didn't do that you could have — to stop this authoritarian takeover?

I implore you to do all you can to ensure that Maryland immediately commences redistricting to help level the electoral playing field ahead of the November 2026 elections.

If — dare I say when? — we are able to stop the authoritarian regime, we can begin the long task of repairing the immense damage being done, and rebuilding our country to become even better. This includes eliminating any future possibility of gerrymandering and ensuring Congressional districting cannot be used to rig subsequent elections.

I respectfully urge this Committee to vote to fully support House Bill 0488.

Sincerely,

Yvette Delph, MBBS, DA
14907 Running Ridge Lane
Silver Spring, MD 20906