

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0488. Maryland must compensate for republican gerrymandering to maintain any semblance of a democracy. We cannot change the rules to benefit ourselves but when others change the rules we can and must play that game.

Personally, I do not want a one party country even if it were governed by the left. A one party state will not benefit republican Marylanders in the long run even if their party is that one.

These new maps strengthen representation for Marylanders who have been underserved by old district lines. Polling shows that voters are in favor. Now is the time to act to preserve our democracy. Please, be brave and be the leaders we elected you to be.

5 republican states are already moving forward to gain up to 19 republican seats. These are undemocratic actions by those who know that they need to cheat to win. Maryland has the opportunity and obligation and must respond now.

Our president says "we shouldn't even have an election" there is no longer high ground to take. Democracy is being stripped away, act now.

I urge the Rules and Executive Nomination Committee to give a favorable report for HB0488.