

7113 Oxford Rd.,
Baltimore,
MD 21212

25th Jan 2026

Chair Healy, Vice-Chair Holmes, and members of the committee,

My name is Fergal Mullally, I am a voter living in district 43B, and I write in SUPPORT of HB0488, adopting the map recommended by the mid-cycle redistricting commission.

It is a lamentable thing that the supreme court saw fit to endorse partisan gerrymandering. By allowing states to draw congressional districts that predefine political outcomes, they struck a dagger at the heart of the voting rights act, not to mention the right to due process that every citizen is supposed to enjoy. Political gerrymandering and racial gerrymandering are but two sides of the same coin.

But we must face the world as it is, not as we wish it to be. Partisan gerrymandering is now the law of the land, and is being actively pursued in red states such as Texas and Ohio. Maryland can choose to wring our hands about how sad we are that we no longer have representative government, or we can choose to step up to the plate.

Simply put, the democratic will of the vast majority of Maryland citizens such as myself count for nothing if other states pick Republican congressional representatives against the will of their voters, and Maryland does not respond in kind. Maryland must bend the principles of democracy to preserve democracy, acting as a balancing force to counteract those who prefer that the peoples' representatives be chosen in smoke-filled back rooms.

I wish this were not true, but it is. Until the supreme court comes to their senses and realises that their decision was wrongly decided, this committee has a duty to act and to restore balance. HB0488 is part of that balance.

To the republican members of this committee I say this: If you object to this bill and its consequences, this is not the venue to complain. Pick up the phone and call your colleagues in the Texas statehouse. Let *them* know what you think of partisan gerrymandering. Explain to them how their rash action is disenfranchising your voters, and how you would rather have an extra GOP congressional seat in Maryland than in the lone star state. Convince them of the damage they are doing to your party, and watch the motivation for this bill melt away.

Until then, I urge to members of this committee to SUPPORT bill HB0488.

sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fergal Mullally". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Fergal" on the first line and "Mullally" on the second line.

Fergal Mullally