

# HB 482 - Oppose



January 25, 2026

The Honorable Chair and Members  
Rules and Executive Nominations Committee

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the State Freedom Caucus Network, I respectfully submit this written testimony in opposition to House Bill 482.

The State Freedom Caucus Network engages in legislative advocacy on behalf of policies that affect the liberty, safety, and prosperity of all Marylanders, with a particular focus on constitutional governance, limited government, and accountability to voters.

House Bill 482 would fundamentally restructure Maryland's redistricting process by transferring authority from elected officials to a newly created unelected commission and expanding the role of the judiciary in what has historically been a core constitutional responsibility of the legislative and executive branches. While framed as a reform measure, the bill creates a permanent new government entity with broad powers, staffing authority, and guaranteed funding, while reducing transparency and democratic accountability.

The bill also embeds detailed redistricting procedures directly into the Maryland Constitution, making future reforms far more difficult and entrenching a rigid framework that cannot easily respond to changing legal or demographic circumstances. Additionally, vague and subjective standards such as "communities of common interest" invite manipulation and litigation rather than neutral map-drawing.

From a constitutional and governance perspective, HB 482 raises serious concerns regarding separation of powers, the growth of unelected bureaucracy, and the removal of voter accountability from an inherently political process. These concerns outweigh the bill's stated goals and present long-term risks to Maryland's constitutional structure.

For these reasons, the State Freedom Caucus Network respectfully urges the Committee to issue an unfavorable report on House Bill 482.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ali Rak  
Maryland State Director  
State Freedom Caucus Network