

PROPONENT TESTIMONY OF:

Mary Ellen Bennett
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Columbus, Ohio 43219

IN SUPPORT OF:

HB 55

Allow House committees/sessions be conducted virtually
House Government Oversight Committee

I speak in favor of Ohio HB 55.

Our democracy works best when all citizens/voters are involved in the legislative process. We can't be involved without equal access to our legislators. Virtual testimony would make access to our legislators available to everyone, especially people with disabilities and/or no easy access to the Ohio Statehouse. We need all affected citizens to be able to voice opinions about the 2021 Redistricting Process.

It is embarrassing that Ohio has some of the most gerrymandered districts in the U S A.

Skewed district map drawing has to end. The people have the right to vote for their legislators; it's not the legislators' right to determine in advance who their voters will be.

In order to claim that our state is a credible democracy, it is important that our legislators pass Rep. Brigid Kelly's House Bill 55.

In addition, we need an Ohio Statehouse mandate that our legislators be masked. This would give citizens safe access to them. and be in compliance with the State of Ohio Mask Guidelines.

Thank you.