

Chairman, Vice-Chair, Ranking Member, and members of the House Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Julia Cattaneo. All my adult life I have been community and politically aware and active. I am a retired Social Worker and 20 years ago held an elected position in Pennsylvania. I am here to testify for legal fair maps and equal districts.

Today I'm going to speak specifically about bill number 479. I should clarify, I cannot really speak on this bill because I have not seen it nor was I given the time or information to review it before this hearing.

What I can do is remind you that the drawing of district maps is a great honor and responsibility. These maps are the foundation of our democracy, they protect the right for our votes to count, our voices heard, and our legislators to fairly represent Ohioans. The people of Ohio felt so strongly about these responsibilities that in 2018, they voted in huge numbers, to add a fair, transparent redistricting process to our state Constitution. BUT the Redistricting Commission given this great responsibility has failed Ohioans.

During my years of advocating for my community, or families as a Social Worker, or the school districts I lived and worked in, I know how damaging gerrymandering is. It robs those communities and families of fair and invested representation and services. It is shameful that this is a deliberate thought-out process to harm, silence, and disenfranchise individuals. Those legislators that support gerrymandering are taking away what makes America great and the oath they have taken.

District maps should NOT be drawn to support a party but to support "we the people". Voting is one of our greatest rights as Americans. The maps should not break up communities, they SHOULD represent the TRUE percentage of how Ohioans vote. NOT drawn to give one party an unfair advantage as we see in the new illegal Ohio State District Maps.

I ask you to consider my testimony carefully. I ask you to honor what you have been given and protect our democracy. Please show you have integrity, honesty, and respect for the Ohio Constitution and the legal process it demands for fair districting. I ask you to fairly, legally, and honestly respect "We the People" and NOT "We the Party". We cannot settle for anything less than a fair, representative map. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Julia Cattaneo

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