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Thank you, Chairman Wilkin, Vice-Chair White, Ranking Member Brown and members of the Government Oversight Committee for allowing me to present testimony today for Substitute Senate Bill 258. After considering multiple maps presented by Democrat and Republican Caucuses in both the House and the Senate, and listening to the public's input on all of those maps, we offer this map that is not only constitutionally compliant, but the most competitive map offered by any caucus to date. It is also a map that splits the least counties of any map offered by any caucus, keeps Ohio's largest cities whole, installs compact districts and implements many of the requested changes we heard in testimony.

Article 19, Section 2(B)(5) of the Ohio Constitution describes the process that must be followed when splitting counties in a congressional map. In essence, a map may have up to 23 split counties with up to 18 being split once and up to five being split twice. This map splits only 12 counties with only two of those counties being split twice. The counties that are split once are Clark, Fairfield, Franklin, Holmes, Lorain, Ross, Shelby, Summit, Washington and Wood. The Counties split twice are Hamilton and Cuyahoga. Notably, for the first time since the map passed thirty years ago, Lucas County will be whole and for the first time since the map passed twenty years ago Stark County will be whole. The impact on several of Ohio's other large counties is also minimized by Franklin and Summit County having the least splits since the maps passed thirty years ago. Finally, the map complies with Article 19, Section 2(B)(8) by including an entire county in each district where possible. If passed, this map would have the least counties split in over fifty years. Additionally, this map splits two less counties than both the House and Senate Democrat proposals.

Since the introduction of SB258, we have maintained that it is important to keep Ohio's largest cities whole. With exception to Columbus, which must be split under the Constitution and cities that straddle county lines and, therefore, do not count as a split under the Constitution, 98 of Ohio's 100 largest cities are kept whole in this map (Rocky River, Cuyahoga Falls). In total, only eight townships and six municipalities are split in this proposed map, which more than adequately complies with Article 19, Section 1(C)(3)(b)'s requirement that the general assembly not unduly split governmental units.

Article 19, Section 2(B)(2) also requires that districts be compact. This requirement is not applicable to a four-year map, however, under Section 1(C)(3)(c). In such an instance, the

general assembly shall attempt, but is not required to draw compact districts. Nevertheless, the districts presented before you are compact.

Finally, the map before you is the most competitive map offered by any caucus to date and the most competitive Ohio congressional map in decades. Ohio is subject to swings in voter preferences, particularly in federal elections. Even though, with exception to 2006, Republicans have swept every election for statewide constitutional office since 1994, Ohio has voted for a both a Democrat and a Republican for President in the past four presidential elections and continues to be represented by both a Democrat and Republican in the United States Senate. Clearly, Ohioans are bifurcating between federal and state elections and issues. Therefore, because the map before you is for United States Congressional districts, it makes sense to judge competitiveness based upon statewide federal elections over the last ten years. This allows us to capture the true nature of Ohio’s voting tendencies in federal elections and to insulate from outliers. When evaluating these districts in the federal statewide context and defining a competitive district as one with a 46%-54% Republican index, this map has six seats that lean Republican, seven seats that are competitive and two seats that lean Democrat. The indexes are as follows:

Congressional District #	Population	Deviation	Federal Statewide Elections 2012-2020
1	786,630	0	51.5
2	786,630	0	65.1
3	786,630	0	30.4
4	786,630	0	66.0
5	786,630	0	58.8
6	786,629	-1	52.9
7	786,630	0	56.7
8	786,630	0	62.0
9	786,630	0	47.7
10	786,630	0	52.2
11	786,630	0	19.4
12	786,629	-1	61.3
13	786,630	0	48.6
14	786,630	0	53.2
15	786,630	0	53.7

Article 19, Section 1(C)(3)(a) states that a map shall not unduly favor or disfavor a party or its

incumbents. There have been some that have suggested that we simply take the fifteen seats and split them eight districts to one side of the aisle and seven to the other and that somehow captures the spirit of what the voters passed in 2018. I strongly disagree with that sentiment. What captures the spirit of what the voters passed in 2018 is competitive districts that are subject to the changing political winds and changing tides of what is going on in the state of Ohio. No sporting event should ever favor or disfavor a team by some predetermined final score before either team walks on the field. A congressional map should not be judged to favor or disfavor either party that way either. Rather, it should be judged based upon how many districts are going to be determined by the various important issues and candidates in that election. This map embodies that belief by ensuring a plurality of the districts will be competitive in any given cycle. Its seven competitive districts are two more than any House or Senate Democrat proposal and five more than the map passed in 2011. Further, this map neither favors nor disfavors either party's incumbents. It accomplishes this by only combining two incumbents, who are required to be combined through the prohibition against splitting Cincinnati.

This bill also addresses the quickly approaching filing deadline for congressional candidates. The current filing deadline is February 2, 2022. Recognizing this process has been delayed due to the Census data being late; we have moved the filing deadline to March 4th to allow candidates ample time to collect the required number of signatures to file for the election.

The map before you complies with the requirements placed upon the General Assembly under the Ohio Constitution. It is the product of a deliberate effort to draw compact districts, minimize county splits, keep Ohio's largest cities whole and ensure a plurality of Ohio's congressional districts will be competitive. I am pleased to say Substitute Senate Bill 258 passed the Senate with a vote of 24-7. Thank you Chairman Wilkin, Vice-Chair White, Ranking Member Brown and members of the Government Oversight Committee for allowing me to present testimony on Substitute Senate Bill 258 and the proposed congressional district map contained therein. I would be happy to take any questions.