

# WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 11/2/2021

Name: Julia Cattaneo

Are you representing: Yourself  Organization

Organization (If Applicable): N/A

Position/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 6699 Meadow Creek Dr. Unit 207

City: Columbus State: Ohio Zip: 43235

Best Contact Telephone: 520-977-8692 Email: jewelcatt@gmail.com

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes  No

## Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): SB 258

Specific Issue: Congressional districts map

Are you testifying as a: Proponent  Opponent  Interested Party

Are you testifying: In-Person  Written-Only

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes  No

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require? 3 minutes

Please provide a brief statement on your position:

The drawing of Districts maps is the foundation of our democracy, the protection of every person's vote to count. The Commission given this great responsibility has failed.

Please be advised that this form and any materials (written or otherwise) submitted or presented to this committee are records that may be requested by the public and may be published online.

Chairman, Vice-Chair, Ranking Member, and members of the Senate 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 SB 258. 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

[jewelcatt@gmail.com](mailto:jewelcatt@gmail.com)

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