

Chairwoman Gavarone, Vice Chair O'Brien, Ranking Member Maharath, and members of the Senate Local Government and Elections Committee,

Thank you for allowing the opportunity for written testimony today. My name is Lis Regula. I am a dad, widower, member of the Central Hilltop community of Columbus, and professor. I am here to testify for fair maps and equal districts.

As kids, we are very much brought up with the concept of fairness- sharing equitably, including others, listening and talking in turns, taking care of our personal possessions, and helping out in the household as some simple examples. The maps proposed in SB 258 do none of those things. Instead, they continue to further aggregate disproportionate power by making maps that are even less representative than our current maps, which have been deemed some of the worst in the nation. In 2011, after our redistricting process involved closed meetings in hotel suites and only one side of the political aisle, Ohio citizens organized and passed two constitutional amendments in 2015 and 2018, trying to ensure fair maps going forward. The Ohio Redistricting Commission, which has let deadlines pass and has met only the barest of minimum requirements in their process, has been a step in the right direction as it at least has nominal bipartisanship, and yet we are still faced with maps that give 53% of the state 86% of the power in our state.

The maps presented in SB 237 come far closer to being representative of our great state. Governor DeWine himself has pointed out that people and businesses are attracted to places with progressive values. He understood this enough to put millions of dollars into marketing campaigns to demonstrate that Ohio shares those values. The maps drawn in SB 237 are attractive to people and businesses looking to relocate because they show Ohio learning from its past and correcting course to be more representative, build a better democracy, and oligarchic. Ohio wins with better maps, and SB 237 describes the better maps.

I work hard to raise my child to understand and be fair in all the ways that I mentioned above. I would greatly appreciate it if our Ohio legislature would not demonstrate so many of the things that I teach my child not to do. I ask you to consider my testimony carefully. Do not settle for anything less than a fair, representative map. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

I am happy to take any questions you may have.