

Opponent Testimony for SB 258
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November 9, 2021

My name is Reverend Joel L. King, Jr. I am an opponent to SB 258. My testimony is to demand fair voting Congressional districts for my community and state. I serve as a leader in the Columbus NAACP, Baptist-Pastors Conference and Ministerial Alliance of Columbus. I am a life-long advocate for all citizens' basic right to vote.

The unfairness of our current Congressional districts and the proposed Republican Congressional Map is one of the barriers to the vote because it discriminates against minorities and vulnerable citizens. Our history of unfairness and lack of access to the vote is far from a new story. There has been blatant unfairness for generations. This proposed Republican Congressional Map continues that blatant unfairness.

The present Republican Congressional Map as drafted fails to meet the baseline requirements for representation fairness and the Voting Rights Act. The Senate Democrat Map meets the criteria and is far superior to the Republican Map you advanced.

We need to stop pushing partisan gerrymandering of our Congressional districts now. This is a critical first step to guarantee the basic right to vote for all Ohioans. We need the Ohio Senate to listen to the voters and work together to deliver on the promise of fair maps the voters intended.