

Opponent Testimony of HB 479
Dr. Tommie Radd
1075 Arcaro Court
Gahanna, Ohio, 43230
November 9, 2021

Chair Wilkin, Ranking Member Brown and Committee Members. My name is Dr. Tommie R. Radd and I am in strong opposition to the House Republican Map in HB 479. I worked with thousands of Ohioans to pass the 2018 Constitutional Amendment Issue 1 to reset Ohio and the Congress to Preserve and Protect our Constitutional Democratic Republic. The House Republican Map submitted does not follow the letter and spirit of the Constitutional Amendment and is an insult to the over 70% of Ohio voters who expect a fair voting process based on:

- representational fairness and partisan balance that reflects how we vote
- minority representation with real pathways for minority votes to be kept together and not cracked apart
- communities kept together with common legislative needs and priorities

My community Gahanna is a diverse community of approximately 36,000 people evenly split along party lines with many independent voters. Gahanna citizens voted with 81% of the vote for a Congressional Map that meets those criteria. Four of every five Gahanna voters overwhelmingly said enough is enough! This is a democracy issue and one of fairness and representation.

The House Republican Congressional Map fails Gahanna in all three areas:

1. The proposed House Republican Map keeps Gahanna in Congressional District 3 but separates Gahanna from the hub of Columbus City Center. The Democrat Senate Map is in Congressional District 1 and keeps Gahanna in the entire Metropolitan Columbus area with voters with common legislative issues and priorities.
2. The proposed House Republican Map splits our growing Somali community from other like minority voters, diluting their voice and vote. The Democrat Senate Map keeps our growing minority community as a part of the greater Columbus area while keeping Gahanna together.
3. The proposed House Republican Map cracks Franklin County into 3 Congressional Districts with no representative fairness. This impacts Gahanna and others in Franklin County. Instead, the Democrat Senate Map splits Franklin County into 2 Congressional districts.

Based on 10 years of voting data, statewide proportional representation indicates that a fair new Congressional Map would have 7 Democrat Districts and 8 Republican Districts with competitive districts having no more than a 4-point partisan differential in the vote. The proposed House Republican Map is so gerrymandered it is obvious and blatant cheating to maintain a supermajority of

Congressional Districts in Republican power and control with a 13 Republican to 2 Democrat Districts. Constitutional Amendment Issue 1 was passed to stop this cheating and protect voters so they could vote for Congressional Representation who will listen to constituents and respond to needs.

When my community's story is replicated statewide the impact is that the Ohio representation sent to Washington DC does not represent me, my community and Ohio. You have an opportunity to work in a bipartisan way Now to follow the will of Ohioans. I'm a lifelong educator. How many of you would go into a school parent conference and justify your child's behavior if blatantly found cheating? What example are you setting? Let's be clear, the House Republican Congressional Map is cheating my community and Ohioans. Your grab for power and control, cheating to get what you want and blatant disregard for the will of Ohioans is unacceptable and needs to stop. You have time to change this. What will your legacy for Ohio be?

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this critical issue to protect our vote, representation and our democratic republic per the Ohio and US Constitutions.

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