Senate Building
1 Capitol Square, 1st Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Senator Coley,

I am writing to express my opposition to Senate Joint Resolution 5 until it is amended to truly address the need to end partisan gerrymandering in favor of fair districts. I am opposed to gerrymandering whether it favors Republicans or Democrats.

Instead, I wholly support Fair Districts that favors the voice of Ohio residents and gives them the means to elect representatives who truly reflect their concerns and political will.

As we have seen over the past decade, extreme partisan gerrymandering leads to extremist candidates who often outright refuse to listen to constituents. This same feeling of being untouchable because of the way districts are drawn also encourages corruption and echo chambers within our State House.

This also means no "backdoor" to passage with minimal minority party approval. Districts need to respect all communities and keep them together as much as possible.

Bottom line: Gerrymandering discourages democracy—and makes a representative government impossible to achieve. It is a travesty.

I believe future district maps must require meaningful bipartisan support and transparent mapmaking, preferably using algorithms that will draw maps fairly.

Needless to say, I am watching this vote and will discuss this issue with friends, neighbors and on social media until Fair Districts are ubiquitous. Ohioans are educated and active on this issue, and we will not accept sham reform that perpetuates our current broken, hyper-partisan system.

Please feel free to contact me at klykins@mac.com or on my mobile at 312.799.0106.

Regards

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