



**SPONSOR TESTIMONY OF:**

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**IN SUPPORT OF:**

Maps proposed by the Ohio Citizens' Redistricting Commission  
submitted to the Ohio Redistricting Commission

**[Akron, Ohio]** Jeniece Brock, Vice Chair, Ohio Citizens Redistricting Commission  
Policy & Advocacy Director, Ohio Organizing Collaborative

Co-Chair Antonio, Co-Chair Faber and members of the Ohio Redistricting Commission thank you for the opportunity to be here today. My name is Jeniece Brock, my pronouns are She/Her. I am the Policy & Advocacy Director at the Ohio Organizing Collaborative, a Health Scientist, and the Vice Chair of the Ohio Citizens Redistricting Commission.

This testimony is offered in support of the maps submitted to you by the Ohio Citizens Redistricting Commission.

Our maps reflect the true diversity of Ohio. There are almost 2 million Black and Brown Ohioans who are too often left disaffected and apathetic about the political process because they don't see themselves represented. In Akron, over 30% of the population is Black, and the Ohio Redistricting Commission needs to include and uplift their voices when drawing our maps. With fair maps, we can make sure folks from Akron, Toledo, Columbus, and Dayton have the fully funded schools, vibrant neighborhoods, excellent public transit, and quality healthcare that they deserve.

Over and over again during hearings the Ohio Citizens Redistricting Commission heard from constituents from every corner of Ohio frustrated with the unreasonable district lines splitting apart their neighborhoods, campuses, and communities. Community leaders in Columbus and Cincinnati whose next door neighbors live in different senate districts. Countless families from across Ohio who have trouble knowing who to call for help when in need of critical constituent services. Of course, these decisions that carve up communities and take their toll on Ohio voters, are in pursuit of partisan gain that ensure that there is not a correlation between the

statewide preferences of Ohio voters and the composition of the legislature.

As community members engaged in the process of mapping their community of interest, you could hear the joy and passion for the people and places that make up their community. Our lives are shaped by the regular everyday interactions at our schools, libraries, places of worship, rec centers, corner stores and our post offices. Our district maps should reflect the communities that are bound together through these incredibly meaningful shared experiences.

After complying with the constitutional criteria, our mappers used a broad set of qualitative, quantitative, and spatial community of interest data submitted by thousands of Ohioans and compiled by MGGG to ensure that the number of communities of interest kept together within district boundaries were maximized.

No matter who we are or where we are from, we all deserve to stand on equal footing when it comes to having a say in who represents us in the Statehouse and in Congress. We finally have a chance to keep communities and allow all of us an equal say in how our futures are drawn — but this only happens if we have fair maps.

The Ohio Citizens Redistricting Commission modeled an open, transparent, and inclusive process and drew maps that met the constitutional requirements, kept communities together, and considered the extent to which minority voters can meaningfully influence elections. We are calling on the Ohio Redistricting Commission to do the same.