

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you. My name is Rajyalakshmi Alladi. I live in Aurora and vote in the 76th State House District and the 18th Senate District.

Today is the last day of the hearing and my testimony will not be any different than the others'. I am here because I want my voice too to be heard on this issue.

America is supposed to be the role model of democracy to the world. Even the fact that I can stand here and present this testimony is a testament to the fact of democracy operating as it should. But, what bothers me is why is it that all of us have to turn up and present testimony at all, saying we need fair districting? Why do politicians need prompting to make this all a fair process? What are "they" afraid of? Is it that if districting is done fairly, they would lose? I suppose it is naive to assume the politicians would have faith in their own policies and let that speak for themselves instead of rigging the districts.

Unfair maps, weird shapes, packing and cracking the districts end up giving power to those who are overriding the voice and wishes of their constituents; It ends up serving the special needs of only those few. The legislators effectively do their will as they are all in "safe" districts.

For my part, I am deeply interested in making voting accessible to all (which is the bedrock of democracy), women's reproductive freedom, gun control laws and allowing science to rule in matters of public health. Right now, it appalls me that the so-called policy makers are furthering bogus science and putting at risk people's health and lives. There is not enough opposition to this taking over in the statehouse. I know most people are also interested in seeing changes. This will however not see the light of day if the districts are maintained the way they are now.

As you all know it is the wish of the people of Ohio that the maps be drawn fairly. I was one of the many, many people who worked hard to collect those petition signatures that made this into a reality. Now that we are here, I would ask that please show up, please play fair and do the right thing and shape history in the right direction.

Thank you for your time.

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