

TESTIMONY OF:

Jihad Khan
7836 Spring Garden Ct
West Chester, OH 45069

IN SUPPORT OF:

Fair Maps for Ohio districts
Ohio Redistricting Commission

West Chester, OH, 8/23/21

Dear Committee,

I am a 4th-year student at the University of Cincinnati and I have lived in the West Chester area for the last 15 years. I am a proud member of the Muslim-American and Indian-American communities.

I have seen the impact of gerrymandering in the last couple of years primarily during election times. I voted in my first presidential election in 2020 and for most of the local elections, there was only one candidate. There were no candidates that represented me or my issues. This reduces the impact of my vote and voice in local government. The lack of representation in my elected officials also discourages me and others in my community from participating in democratic processes. This is a serious issue, as lack of participation reduces the effectiveness of the local democracy to improve society.

The current redistricting process is unfair and undemocratic. There needs to be more emphasis on getting everyone's voice heard. The public hearings are a great start, but it is unacceptable that there is only one hearing for each major area, and that the hearing is in the middle of the workday. For the sake of preserving the democratic process for future generations, the redistricting process needs to be expanded to allow for more citizen participation.

I had hoped to attend the Cincinnati hearing in person, but as of writing this, I may not be able to. However, I will still be submitting my testimony to be read in my stead.

Thank you for your time,
Jihad Khan