

PROPONENT/OPPONENT TESTIMONY OF:

Tariq Rehman
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Mason, OH 45040

IN SUPPORT OF:

Fair District Maps

Ohio Redistricting Commission

Testimony

[Mason, OH, August 24, 2021] — I currently live in Ohio's 1st Congressional District, in Warren County. I was born and raised in the Greater Cincinnati region, often wondering why the Muslim-American voice has often been overlooked in our region.

As a Muslim-American who lives in one of the most gerrymandered states in the country, I am concerned that my community's voice and voting power is getting diminished and divided unfairly.

A large number of Muslim families and professionals live in the Greater Cincinnati region, with a substantial population in Butler and Warren Counties. However, due to gerrymandering and congressional district lines, our votes and our ability to advance issues that concern our community often get swept aside. Many of these issues concern a large number of minority communities living in Butler and Warren Counties. We are not fairly represented by being divided among two districts. I would like to see Butler, Warren, and Hamilton County as the 1st Congressional District to fairly represent a large number of minority families, including Muslim-American families, moving to the region.

Having our districts divided heavily impacts how our Muslim community in the Greater Cincinnati region can advance issues. In a time where Americans hold overwhelmingly negative ideas and biases towards Muslims, where sometimes even being assaulted and discriminated against, it is essential that we have the ability to elect representatives to uphold our rights.