

## Ohio Redistricting Committee Testimony

Thank you for allowing me to speak to you. My name is Alice Schneider. I vote in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District in Hamilton County. I would like to draw your attention to the issue of Fair Drawing of the Congressional Districts of Ohio.

In 2011 I testified at the University of Cincinnati before the state legislators who were taking testimony for Redistricting as you are today. I urged the committee to draw the map so most of Hamilton County was together. What happened? The Mapmakers met secretly in a small hotel room and drew a very gerrymandered map of Ohio in which they split Hamilton County into two pieces. They sliced my neighborhood-a suburb(Wyoming) in Hamilton County-from District One into Congressional District Two which comprises most of Adams County-a rural countryside. While I like rural areas... what did I (and my suburban neighborhood) have in common with this rural area? The map makers gerrymandered the district so that mostly Republican voters were the majority. It assured that only one party(Republican) would be elected. As a result, the elected representative in district 2 was extremely partisan - completely blocking the efforts of one president(Democrat) and then slavishly following the disastrous presidency of another(Republican). I did not feel represented nor heard.

I hope this disastrous map making will not be repeated this time.

I ask you to

- create districts that fairly represent all Ohioans, not districts that are barely congruent and divide counties and communities and represent only one party.
- We need the Commission, and the Legislature stay true to the requirements and the intent of the Constitutional Amendments, to create Fair Districts and Fair elections.

Thank you for your time

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