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Ohio Redistricting Commission
Ohio House Finance Hearing Room (Room 313)
Ohio Statehouse
1 Capitol Square 43215-4275
Columbus OH 43215-4275
testimony@redistricting.ohio.gov

Dear Commission Members:

I write concerning the Commission's proposed redistricting maps for the state House of Representatives.

Overall, both maps do not maximize the criteria set out in the Ohio Constitution: the number of splits of political subdivisions, compactness, competitiveness, minority representation. Competitiveness is the outstanding failure of the maps. The proposed maps result in a far more politically skewed arrangement than we currently have. Analyzed strictly by these criteria, both the House map (<https://davesredistricting.org/maps#viewmap::694919f7-6a5d-445b-b4f8-532be7635f3a>) and Senate map (<https://davesredistricting.org/maps#viewmap::861381ea-cc5a-49ae-87a2-337f503a5b34>) reduce competitiveness and increase the number of Republican seats in a way that is not representative of the state's population as a whole. This politically motivated set of maps are so dramatically misdrawn as to have been characterized by a columnist writing in the *The Cincinnati Enquirer* as the "epitome of gerrymandering" (Jessie Balmert, September 10, 2021)

There are a number of alternative maps that do a much better job than either political party's maps or the proposed maps. The following examples indicate the degree to which implementation of Ohio Constitutional guidelines for districts can be maximized:

- Geoff Wise Ohio House: <https://davesredistricting.org/join/e208c87d-53c4-4794-8913-f43d041dc2f3>
- Geoff Wise Ohio Senate: <https://davesredistricting.org/join/95808260-2728-4550-aca3-ecd5946c9703>
- Pranav Padmanabhan Ohio House: <https://davesredistricting.org/join/c48a229f-2597-43a5-a238-cc7e96ca5ca4>

- Pranav Padmanabhan Ohio Senate: <https://davesredistricting.org/join/f97f0523-ea00-4879-aebe-9f372ee5beca>

Maps such as these represent approaches that do more to increase competitiveness and compactness while limiting the splitting of precincts and doing at least as well as the proposed maps in addressing issues of minority representation.

These approaches deserve your serious consideration before adopting the proposed maps already submitted to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Philip C. Brown".

Philip C. Brown