

Members of the Ohio Redistricting Commission:

My name is Bailey Culp, and I am a resident of Hilliard and the 24th House District and 16th Senate District. I am writing to you today not with any partisan agenda or political motives, only to encourage you all to consider my experience and input when crafting district maps. I won't discuss the problems that I have with gerrymandering, as I know you all understand the negatives of such behavior and have received a high volume of testimony about that already. I want to discuss my personal experience, and what I would like out of the redistricting process.

My experience comes from growing up in Hilliard/ Central Ohio. Life in Central Ohio is much different than outside of it; the culture, the politics, the work, even the landscape. In high school, the schools that we compete against and work with are other schools in Central Ohio. Hilliard schools often cooperate and interact with Dublin schools, Upper Arlington schools, and Westerville, Olentangy, and Worthington schools. Most people in Central Ohio frequent restaurants and small businesses that operate in other places throughout the Columbus area. Furthermore, when talking about "going to work" or "going downtown", the vast majority of people in my community are referencing driving *further into Columbus*; not outwards. As a student at Ohio State, **my community lies entirely within Central Ohio as do many of my fellow students from the Columbus-area.**

You are tasked with keeping *communities of interest* whole, not with separating them for political benefit or packing them into districts that *do not* share their values. I love places outside of Columbus! I have family that live further out in Ohio, and I love the diverse nature of our state. That being said, I want my political representation to be focused on my community and my values; the values that are unique to Central Ohio and Columbus. I find it ridiculous to consider that my community should be included in districts that don't contain other Central Ohioans. Those communities are different from mine, and they should be represented by elected officials who best understand their specific culture, their specific values, and their specific needs. Breaking up my community for the sake of partisan gain, whether to benefit Republicans or Democrats, hurts all members of my community. It dilutes our cohesive relationship with those in our suburb and in the city of Columbus, and it is for that reason that I am asking you all to **keep my community whole**. I enjoy my political representation as it exists today; both my Representative and Senator value the input that Hilliard gives them, and they consider the uniqueness that is our suburban/ Central Ohio culture when making decisions for us. I don't feel as though my Congressional District (the 15th) is drawn even remotely with this fairness in mind, but your primary task is to draw state maps.

Though you are firstly tasked with drawing State House/Senate maps, it is likely that you will also consider congressional maps later on. With respect to both roles you may or may not play, I am urging you all to **keep my community of interest whole, and draw a district that contains my community of interest without dilution or partisan gerrymandering.**