

My name is Susan Muenzer, and I live in Providence Township, in Lucas County, Ohio, Representative District 47, Ohio Senate District 2, Ohio Congressional District 5. I love Northwest Ohio and love living in the country where my husband and I have operated a landscaping business for 47 years.

I'd like to tell you a little bit about the problems we've faced as a family and as Ohio business owners, because I can't help thinking there's a bit more government could do to make life easier for us. Sometimes it seems as though there's "no will and no way" to accomplish things. From what I understand, one-party rule like we currently have in Ohio, lends itself to complacency and a failure of getting things done to help the people of the state. So I would like to see more equal representation between the parties to address a broader range of concerns than we are seeing now.

One thing that makes it difficult to run a business out in the country is internet access. We desperately need broadband to operate more efficiently. I realize that the new state budget allocates funds for this, which I believe will be supplemented by the Biden administration. I'm very grateful, but this has been talked about for years and, meanwhile, we are still doing reports and payroll online with constant interruptions and unreliable internet service. During the COVID shutdown, lots of people in our township had to work remotely, and everyone had huge difficulties getting online and using the sites they needed.

Another major problem is health care. As small business owners, my husband and I wanted to pass our life's work on to our daughter and son-in-law. They wanted that, too, but those plans were derailed by the rising costs of insurance, deductibles, and the threat of losing protection for pre-existing conditions. Our daughter has Multiple Sclerosis and Ulcerative Colitis. She needs to be assured of access to care in order to be a productive member of society. This caused our family a lot of anxiety when the majority of our Ohio US congressional delegation was planning to overturn the Affordable Care Act, that brought us those protections.

It was a great disappointment when our daughter and son-in-law were forced to the conclusion that they'd be safer switching careers and going to work for a healthcare company with reliable insurance coverage. Due to the uncertainties of running a small business, they won't be taking over our company.

I have faith that, if our government officials would all work together, problems like these would not be so stressful for millions of families. If voters chose our leaders, and officials paid attention to all their people, instead of drawing crazy-shaped districts to self-select the voters they want, I believe much more could get done for the good of everyone.

Susan Muenzer

Testimony for Aug 26, 2021 Redistricting Commission meeting at the University of Toledo