

Proponent Testimony of  
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Dublin, Ohio

In support of Ohio House Redistricting  
Ohio Redistricting Commission Fair Maps

August 25, Zanesville, Ohio. Speaker Cupp, Co-Chair Sykes and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to present this testimony in support of redistricting my gerrymandered community in OH86, OH 67 and OH 21.

I am a concerned Ohioan, mother and community volunteer waited 10 years then had to drive nearly 90 minutes to this hearing because this commission decided not to allow testimony in Columbus, the state capital and largest gerrymandered city in the state. We've lived in the Columbus suburb of Dublin since 1993. We chose to raise our family in Dublin and our kids attended K-12 and graduated from Dublin City Schools. I've volunteered in the Dublin community & Dublin City Schools for 28 years. We remain in Dublin today because we are part of this community, but one thing has us considering other options: we're stuck in a district with horrendous partisan gerrymandering because we live on the Union County line. That leaves us unrepresented in District 86 ( Senate 26 and Congressional OH4) which is focused on Marysville and rural communities. I'm here because we need a fair map for Dublin that gives us a fair shot at actually electing our candidates as one community instead of representatives who choose their voters in 3 separate districts. This intentionally undermines our political power guaranteed by the Constitution.

Living in Ohio is exhausting. In addition to this testimony, I just submitted testimony opposing HB 248, the anti-vaccine bill that would endanger all of us (our Rep supports it). Next week, I'll probably be writing testimony to protect voting access or opposing permit-less carry because our rep supports whatever her party puts forward and they've held the gerrymandered majority for 10 years. Our representative actually told us in constituent meetings that she was elected and that means her constituents support her views. Never mind the HB6 money she has in her coffers or that only 42% of voters voted in her race in 2018. She misrepresents us. The only time our OH86 Representative is in Dublin is for an election or a school opening. In our first constituent meeting in 2019, she threatened to end our meeting as soon as we told her that we opposed the abortion ban she was co-sponsoring. In another meeting, we told her that HB413, the "ectopic pregnancy transplant bill" with penalties including abortion murder charges she supported was based on a procedure that does not exist. She scoffed and said that she "interpreted it differently". These are just two examples of how gerrymandering has impacted us, codifying dangerous nonsense into laws. Gerrymandering leads to representatives who are unaccountable and only focused on pleasing their primary voters & donors because their district is in the bag for them.

We are one Dublin community, not 3. Our school district is the 10th largest district in the state (15.5 K students) with neighborhoods spanning 3 counties united by common interests, goals and activities. Forty percent of Dublin schools families live outside the city limits in neighborhoods that border the line. There are 2 elementary schools, a middle school and a high school in Union County. The city of Dublin is larger than both Marysville and Delaware but nearly 10K Dublin City Schools residents are cracked into District 86 in Union County and 8200 DCS residents are broken off into District 67 in Delaware County. Dublin City Schools are where the largest portion of our tax money goes but Marysville, Delaware and voters from other rural communities set the policies that impact our daily lives. Approximately 25% of Dublin

students reside in Union County where we make up less than 20% of the county's voters, but a much higher percent of tax revenues. Yet policies in my district OH86, do not focus on us. We essentially have taxation without representation in Union & Delaware County. Voices diluted intentionally for 10 years. Dublin is not a suburb of Delaware or Marysville, it's a suburb of Columbus. Delaware and Union County are the fastest growing counties in Ohio thanks to thriving Dublin neighborhoods, but this growth is pulled away from our community. Dublin is home to a large immigrant community (20% of our total) which is also split into 3 districts. Current maps split our neighborhoods by house and street. It was not this way when we moved in. We're the 2nd house on our street at the Delaware / Union County line. We're in District 86, yet the house 2 up from ours is in District 67 and it's like this in neighborhoods throughout our community. Dublin neighbors are confused about who their representative is because there are 3 of them. When we organize for elections, we have 3 slates of candidates. Our community functions as one. In fact, many residents in Franklin county are unaware that so many of us are in another county and another district because Dublin is Dublin to us. Delaware and Marysville do not share needs or concerns with Dublin. Neighbors split into Districts 86 and 67 have the same priorities as their neighbors in District 21. In our daily lives we don't divide by county, our policies shouldn't either. It's unreasonable for a suburb of 50K+ to be cracked into 3 districts! Our voices in Dublin have been intentionally silenced by throwing us in with rural counties using geography instead of community. We ask you to put our community back together in the statehouse. Unite the Dublin City School community in one district.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.