

MEMORANDUM

January 25, 2011

TO: All Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Rep. Babette Josephs

SUBJECT: Co-sponsorship of Legislation Requiring Openness and Fairness in Redistricting

I will be reintroducing legislation, in the near future, that would require openness and fairness in the redistricting process. In particular, it would:

- Permit any resident of the Commonwealth to submit reapportionment plans for legislative districts. The Reapportionment Commission would be required to consider these plans. The Commission would be required to make software and demographic data available to the public for use in developing such plans.
- Require the Reapportionment Commission to hold public hearings to solicit public testimony from as many Commonwealth residents as possible, as follows:
 - Prior to development of the preliminary plan, five hearings would be required to be held in different geographic regions of the state; and
 - Prior to development of the final plan, five hearings would be required to be held in different geographic regions of the state.
- Require the Reapportionment Commission to establish an Internet website for the purpose of dissemination of data used to formulate reapportionment plans, written communications between the Commission and other persons, preliminary and final plans, citizen plans, notices of hearings and meetings of the Commission, transcripts of hearings and minutes of meetings.
- Require the Reapportionment Commission to comply with the Sunshine Act and the Right-to-Know Law.

If you would be interested in cosponsoring this bill, please contact Jenn at 787-8529 or at Jbelz@pahouse.net.