

### **Testimony of Barbara Grover (Allegheny Regional Hearing)**

I am greatly concerned about the way the redistricting process is occurring NOW and the way it has occurred over the past 50 years. I have 3 points to make.

1. Gerrymandering has consistently eroded the opportunity for competitive races to occur in each district. Some districts have become 'safe' for Democrats and others for Republicans. I live in Allegheny County and many of my representatives at the local, state and federal level are 'safe' Democratic districts. That is not fair. The current redistricting MUST result in allowing for competitive races in EVERY district.

2. The process being used by State Senate and State House committees is not easily accessed by the public. To the best of my knowledge, no Pennsylvania government websites offer a citizen the opportunity to learn about proposed redistricting meetings, watch those meetings via Zoom, how to give testimony, or submit ideas for redistricting maps. This lack of transparency for the redistricting process is unacceptable. Redistricting defines how a citizen's voice can be heard for the next 10 years. Citizens MUST have access to the process and be able to offer comments about it.

3. Given the time crunch faced by legislators because the Census data has only recently been made available, JOINT committee hearings between the House and Senate should occur immediately. However, it is my understanding that the Senate State Government Committee has not even started to set up such committee meetings. This delay is irresponsible, a dereliction of duty. These Joint meetings MUST begin immediately AND be accessible to the public.