

Testimony of Jana Kyle (Southwest Regional Hearing)

Chairman Grove and the Members of the House State Government Committee

My name is Jana Kyle and I am the Executive Director of Fayette County Drug and Alcohol Commission. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding the redistricting issue being faced within our Commonwealth.

Fayette County Drug and Alcohol Commission serves as the Single County Authority for Fayette County. As the Single County Authority, we receive state and federal dollars through contracts with the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, to plan, coordinate, programmatically and fiscally manage and implement the delivery of drug and alcohol prevention, intervention and treatment services at the local level.

As an agency that serves the residents of Fayette County, I am requesting that the Committee reflect on the local needs and issues being faced within our diverse county during any redistricting considerations.

From an agency that serves the residents of the entire county, there are basically two requested considerations:

- Any redistricting would keep Fayette County with “like” counties that share our local issues and needs and are contiguous.
- Minimize splitting the County among multiple political districts. Redistricting should encourage community cohesion, rather than division. I would request that consideration be given to ensure that any redistricting does not divide our ‘communities of interest’ or use portions of our county to meet any population requirements. Additionally, a cohesive and contiguous redistricting could make it easier for legislators to serve their constituents.

I would like to thank the committee for making available this forum for public input and appreciate the opportunity to provide comments regarding this upcoming important decision.