

## **Testimony of Viktor Kagan (Philadelphia Regional Hearing)**

Hello all. My name is Viktor and I am a resident of Northeast Philadelphia. Throughout my life, I have lived in gerrymandered seats, designed as Democratic voter sinks -- it is frustrating that general elections were predetermined for me, as well as for almost every Pennsylvanian in almost every Congressional district. Redistricting was created to ensure every Pennsylvanian, of voting age, can partake in an election to elect, and hold accountable, Congresspeople. For most of my life, that was never the case. I am here today because as elected officials, you have the duty to Pennsylvanians like myself to quickly and fairly design our Congressional Districts. They ought to be compact, not spread across many counties, running along highways and splitting neighbors into different districts. Partisan bickering only embarrasses you and if no fair districts are passed, the inevitable is the Pennsylvania Supreme Court drawing fair districts, as it did in 2018. I hope that this redistricting cycle entails an open, fair, and productive redesigning of our Congressional map. The Commonwealth deserves more than what we continue hearing from the state legislature, as we are sick of the ineffective, partisan debates and bills that do nothing to benefit the residents. I will repeat my asks: I hope for a fair, compact map that keeps similar communities together. I ask for no voter sinks that ensure the success of the other party in gerrymandered districts. The 2012 to 2018 maps ensured that millions of Pennsylvanians were not in fair districts and were guaranteed to be represented by a predetermined party, invalidating democratic elections. My district was a voter sink that combined so many different communities that did not belong together. I also ask for you to consider our welfare and struggles -- the more you bicker over petty differences, the less time you will have to pass bills that help the Commonwealth. And the inevitable is that others elected, by way of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, will draw the maps, if you choose to play politics. Take this process seriously and actually hear us out. I want a fair district that has similar communities in it, represented by a Congressperson who understands my needs and fights for me in Washington. I want to know what district I will live in and who is running to represent me in an election that is only seven months away. Don't play politics. Do your job.