

Ryan Scala

Redistricting Committee Testimony

Dear Senator Kelly, Rep. Haddad, and members of the Reapportionment Committee,

My name is Ryan Scala. I live in Avon and I am a public policy graduate student at UConn. I am also a member of the Princeton University Gerrymandering Project (PGP), which works with state partners and performs nonpartisan analysis to try and eliminate gerrymandering nationwide. I am testifying (as a resident, not on behalf of the PGP) regarding the decennial redrawing of Connecticut's congressional and state legislature districts.

One of the important metrics many states and organizations use to gauge if a map is gerrymandered or not is if "communities of interest" (COIs) are split. COIs are groups that could be similar racially, economically, geographically, etc. Many other "fair map" advocates and I believe that because of these similarities, these communities should have the opportunity to vote as a bloc for someone that represents them.

The current congressional and state legislature maps do not preserve certain COIs. For instance, the congressional map splits the Naugatuck Valley, Farmington Valley, and Litchfield Hills, diluting the influence voters in these regions should have. In addition, the current state Senate map splits the Litchfield Hills into three districts, when the region can be put into one Senate district, and Senate District 28 takes Fairfield, which part of the Gold Coast, and combines it with Newtown, which is a very different area of the state. These are just a few examples of COI splits in the current maps. This committee and the subsequent nine-person

commission can correct this and draw congressional and state legislature maps that preserve Connecticut COIs.

I have submitted a congressional and a state senate map into the public record along with my testimony. Both maps largely keep major Connecticut COIs together in either one district or a set of districts, depending on the map. I hope that you and the commission use this data as a guide when making your final deliberations. Thank you for your time, and I am willing to answer any questions you may have.

From: [Ryan Scala](#)
To: [Reapportionment](#)
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Attachments: [Ryan Scala - Redistricting Testimony.pdf](#)

Good afternoon-

I plan on attending the virtual redistricting hearing next Tuesday. I have attached my prepared remarks and two maps I have made. Both maps are examples of districts that preserve communities of interest, which I talk about in my testimony. If you need anything else from me before the 14th, let me know. I look forward to addressing the committee next week.

Thanks,
Ryan Scala

State Senate map: <https://davesredistricting.org/join/a89913c4-3acd-4489-a400-7a7da15cafe7>

Congressional map: <https://davesredistricting.org/join/0081316a-d4de-42e9-ad7e-3abddabdbf36>