



Reapportionment Committee  
September 14, 2021

Senator Kevin C. Kelly, 21st Senatorial District, Co-Chairman  
Representative Gregg Haddad, 54th Assembly District, Co-Chairman  
Senator Douglas McCrory, 2nd Senatorial District Senator Mary Daugherty  
Abrams, 13th Senatorial District Senator Paul Formica, 20th Senatorial  
District Representative Tammy Exum, 19th Assembly District  
Representative Vincent J. Candelora, 86th Assembly District  
Representative Jason Perillo, 113th Assembly District

My name is Stacey Zimmerman, and I am here representing the Service Employees International Union Connecticut State Council. SEIU CT represents 65,000 members both in the public and private sectors; SEIU has over 2 million members in the United States and Canada.

Connecticut has a strong and fair, bipartisan redistricting tradition but it has often been seen as a back smoke-filled room incumbent protection committee. With the advent of technology, you the members and staff of this committee have the ability to change this perception.

We applaud the way our state has come to determine the districts free of monopoly party or leader control as a way forward for the nation in these fractured times. The misinformation and conspiracy theories that plague our state and nation can only be solved through transparent process. These hearings are part of the disinfectant that lets the sunlight clean what in many states is a system that maintains power for the few at the expense of the many.

Real or perceived gerrymandering of districts burn a hole in the fragile belief that a person's vote matters and those elected leaders can be held accountable by those they represent.

We encourage frequent updates of information pertaining to the reappointment of districts to be available on the website including but not limited to public testimony, maps, and minutes. The public's ability to see and participate in the process can be a first step in rebuilding the societal trust in our democratic institutions and help fight the corrosive disinformation that is purposely propagated to build dissension among our state and nation's citizens.

While, transparency is the key ingredient to sustainable redistricting and trust as you craft the lines it is important to look at the state as a whole and not just districts your colleagues hold. Keeping communities of interest and geography together is a key to success. Remembering that as the lines are drawn on a map they cut through neighborhoods and common issues that should be held in higher regard than location of a fellow Rep. or Sen. Address.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify to and be part of such a momentous project.