

January 28, 2022

Dear Chairman Gray and Members of the Senate Election Law & Municipal Affairs Committee:

Please oppose and further amend HB52 to create more competitive congressional districts.

The congressional districts have been very competitive over the past 140 years, often flipping between Republican and Democrat-held. Competition ensures that politicians have to appeal to a wide variety of voters to win, and therefore that more voters will have their voices heard and needs met. When politicians pick their voters, as in the gerrymandered congressional districts in HB52, they create party-majority districts where politicians no longer need to appeal to all voters to win.

Elections are not a game. Elections determine the health and wellbeing of our neighbors, family, and friends, our environment, our economy, and on. Politicians should not toy with these district maps like a game, gerrymandering districts for an easy win. Districts must be made for competitive elections, as we have had for 140 years, so that Granite Staters can continue to thrive.

Please take your time considering how to amend HB52 to create competitive districts based on communities of like-interest (beyond political party) in which voters have their voices heard and needs met. Please, also, give the public ample time to consider any amendments that may be forthcoming. These are maps we must live with for the next 10 years, it is in all of our best interests to take the time to get it right.

Thank you for your time and service.

Take care,
Sara Lobdell