



14 June 2018

Speaker Mike Turzai
139 Main Capitol
PO Box 202028
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2028

Dear Speaker Turzai:

We are writing to you regarding Senate Bill 22, the redistricting reform legislation, the fate of which now lies with you. We respectfully urge you to refer SB 22 to the House Rules Committee, where we believe it has the greatest chance of moving quickly and fairly. As has been reported, the House State Government Committee Chairman has shown himself unwilling to work on a citizen's commission for redistricting, and we believe SB 22 would find an untimely death in this committee.

There is still work to be done on Senate Bill 22, and that work would best be done in the Rules Committee.

As you may be aware, when the bill left the Senate chamber it contained a last-minute amendment designed to gerrymander the process of electing appellate court judges. The additional constitutional amendment (Aument amendment) was only introduced in the Senate as a stand-alone bill 25 days before it was added to SB 22, and in fact the measure had not been introduced in the Senate for several legislative sessions. As a result, there were no hearings conducted, or input gathered from stakeholders and advocacy groups. Given the significance of this amendment and lack of proper hearings and discussion, the amendment received no Democratic votes, and even lost the support of Republican members of the Senate.

We were not given enough time to hold hearings on this provision, and it drastically changed the nature of Senate Bill 22, a *legislative* redistricting proposal that was the product of years of work with a bipartisan cohort of Senators, House members, constituents, and advocacy organizations. We are asking that once assigned to the House Rules Committee, the members of that committee move to strip out the amendment and allow the prior version of SB 22 to be considered by your body.

Fixing gerrymandering in Pennsylvania should not be controversial or partisan, but that is what the judicial districts amendment has made it.

We look forward to working with like-minded members of the House, as well as advocacy organizations – like Fair Districts PA, Common Cause, Committee of 70, and the League of Women Voters – to remove the provision on judicial elections.

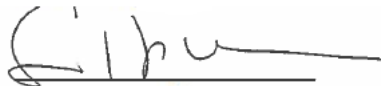
We sincerely believe that if you refer SB 22 to the Rules Committee and we begin to negotiate again in good faith, we believe that we can succeed in this first step to end gerrymandering before the July 6 deadline for this constitutional amendment.

Please contact us with any questions, and we look forward to working together to restore the faith of voters in our process.

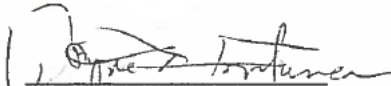
Sincerely,



Senator Jay Costa
Democratic Leader



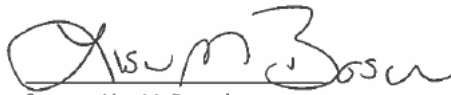
Senator Anthony H. Williams
Senate Democratic Whip



Senator Wayne D. Fontana
Democratic Caucus Chairman



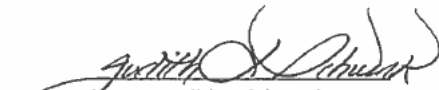
Senator Christine M. Tartaglione



Senator Lisa M. Boscola
Democratic Caucus Policy Chair



Senator Lawrence M. Farnese
Democratic Caucus Secretary



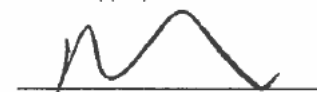
Senator Judith L. Schwank
Democratic Vice-Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee



Senator John P. Blake
Democratic Caucus Administrator



Senator John T. Yudichak



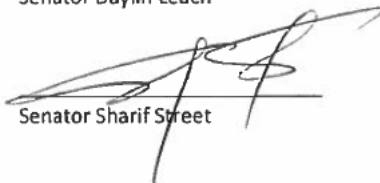
Senator Art Haywood



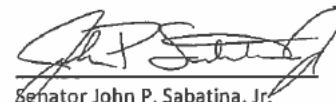
Senator Daylin Leach



Senator James R. Brewster



Senator Sharif Street



Senator John P. Sabatina, Jr.



Senator Andrew E. Dinniman