

PA House Majority Policy Committee Hearing  
“Southwest PA Policy Hearing on State Legislative Redistricting”

January 4, 2022

Personal Testimony for Jan K Lewis

Franklin Park Borough, PA

To the Honorable Rob Mercuri, PA 28<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Representative and Distinguished Members of this Committee, Good Afternoon. Thank you for allowing me to address this Committee to voice my concerns over the proposed Redistricting.

- I would like to begin by reading Article I, Sections 2 & 5, and Article II, Section 16 of the PA Constitution (not attached) to remind the citizens of this Commonwealth, whom are present at this forum, the Foundational Laws as set forth in that very Document.

- As a retired United States Air Force Officer, I took an Oath to “support and defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic.” While I no longer wear the uniform, it doesn’t mean that my obligation to that Oath ended when I retired.

- In reference to the proposed new PA State Legislative Redistricting of 2021, I object to this very partisan gerrymandering that indisputably violates the PA Constitution and does nothing for the citizens of Pennsylvania except divide and confuse them more than ever before. We, the citizens of this Commonwealth, deserve and demand fair and consistent representation that is on solid ground and not one of shifting sands.

- As of today, the PA 28<sup>th</sup> Legislative District that I am currently a resident of, has basically existed unchanged for nearly 20 years. It has consisted of only two major school districts here in northern Allegheny County, North Allegheny School District and Pine-Richland School District. It is of my opinion, that the 28<sup>th</sup> is the perfect example of community integrity. Five neighboring municipalities, with two of the largest school districts in western PA, under one State Representative.

- With the new proposal of 2021, the 28<sup>th</sup> District will basically splinter the North Allegheny School District by sending half of McCandless Twp to the PA 30<sup>th</sup> Legislative District and add two additional school districts into the 28<sup>th</sup> District, Quaker Valley School District and part of Avonworth School District, which are currently in the Legislative Districts of 16 and 44 respectively. Why would this be of any benefit to the constituents of any of these four districts? There is no common sense explanation for any of this.

- Splitting, separating and destroying community integrity is only beneficial for those that seek more power, and it is quite obvious with the untimely release of this redistricting plan and the partisan gerrymandering, who this actually benefits? And the finger points directly at the democrats! This was a sinister plan, put solely in place to be the arm of confusion and to prevent more, suburban republican voters from voting in the 2022 Primary, as they will not have nearly enough time to figure out what district they are in or who they are voting for.

- In closing, it is to my amazement and disbelief that we have a republican majority in both the House and Senate, yet the democrats are the ones who control the Government. If we ignore history and disregard the lessons of the 2020 elections, and continue to allow the distortion and destruction of the very lawful document of our

Constitution, without the voices of the citizens being heard, then we are doomed for the fall of our democracy and sovereignty. The National spotlight is on Pennsylvania and we need to show this Country that our Commonwealth is governed by WE THE PEOPLE.

-Thank you for your time.