

January 9, 2022

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

I am writing you to express my opposition to SB 240 and SB 241. We need every vote to represent the voice of voters in our community. We need both parties to have an equal and fair chance of representing the voice of the voters. Gerrymandering is nothing short of voter suppression. There are proposed alternate voting maps for both the Senate and Executive Council (e.g. SB254) that are more representative of voters in a community and we encourage you to support them.

SB 240 and 241 make the Senate districts even less competitive than 2010, and the Executive Council map is identical to gerrymandered 2010 map which includes the packed "District 2". The Executive Council map, again, shows the infamous "Dragon" that leaves adjacent districts more Republican and ignores communities of interest like regional high schools and county borders. District 2 stretches from the Vermont/Massachusetts border to Maine and the ocean. Rural western towns have little in common with the needs of coastal communities. The resulting deviation now exceeds 5%, despite claims otherwise from Senator Gray & the committee. The shift in population while using the same boundaries is likely the reason here, and if bad enough, could invalidate the map.

The Senate map shows these are sprawling districts, not compact, and increases the margin for Republicans in 16 districts, making the districts less competitive & locking in incumbents. Additionally, it ignores communities of interest like regional high schools and county borders. Packing of districts means votes both minority and majority voters will matter less, lowering turnout. This packing makes the votes of Republicans in those districts matter less and will suppress turnout.

Fair voter representation is the foundation of our democracy; it is my hope that you will vote down SB 240 and 241.

Walter King & Cora Quisumbing-King
Dover NH