

September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Special Committee on Redistricting State Capitol 201 W Capitol Ave. Jefferson City, MO 65101

Community Health Commission of Missouri opposition to HB 1 – Creates Provisions for redistricting federal congressional seats.

Chair West and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Community Health Commission of Missouri (CHCM) and as a Kansas City resident, I submit this testimony in respectful opposition to House Bill 1. CHCM is a statewide organization dedicated to strengthening Missouri's health systems and communities so that all Missourians can contribute fully to our state's future.

Our concern with HB 1 is grounded in both process and principle. Missouri's Constitution clearly directs that congressional redistricting occurs once every 10 years following the decennial census; that process was completed in 2022 (<a href="https://www.sos.mo.gov/RedistrictingMaps">https://www.sos.mo.gov/RedistrictingMaps</a>). Any attempt to reopen districting now undermines confidence in government, injects unnecessary instability, and risks wasting taxpayer resources.

Additionally, HB 1 would disrupt communities in Kansas City and elsewhere by splitting apart neighborhoods with shared interests and needs. Districts drawn without regard to community integrity weaken representation, hinder responsiveness, and erode public trust in the legitimacy of Missouri's democratic process.

We urge this committee to uphold the constitutional timetable for redistricting, protect communities of interest, and ensure that Missouri's districts are drawn in ways that keep representation fair, stable, and accountable to the people—not partisan interests.

Thank you for your service and for considering these concerns. Please feel free to reach out to me at rgibson@chcmissouri.org if you have questions or would like additional information.

In health.

Robert Gibson, MS, MPH
Director of Policy and Advocacy
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