

## **Testimony of Nathan Rybner (Southcentral Regional Hearing)**

Thank you, members of this Committee for convening this public hearing. Holding this hearing makes certain that the residents of the South Central Pennsylvania Region have an impact on this redistricting process and through this process an impact on who represents us in both Harrisburg and Washington D.C. for the next decade. As a 20-year-old resident of Manheim Township, I am concerned about the future of the 97th Pennsylvania State House District, the 13th Pennsylvania State Senate District, and the United States Congressional 11th House District.

For the past decade, there has been a noticeable increase in population in South Central Pennsylvania. Our municipality has not escaped this population growth and we are much more populated compared to ten years ago during the last redistricting process.

This growth has resulted in the 97th district being tasked with representing roughly 10,000 people more than the average House District population. This has to be corrected.

Manheim Township is bordered to the north by Warwick Township and Lititz Borough. It's rather clear that Warwick Township is too small to be split up, considering it has a population of roughly 20,000. The borough of Lititz is entirely surrounded by Warwick Township, and the population of Lititz is roughly 10,000. Manheim Township's population is nearly 44,000. The total population of these three municipalities exceeds the average house district of approximately 64,000 residents. Therefore, it is clear that the lines for the 97th need to be redrawn to ensure that our township is more efficiently represented.

To make the 97th District much more compact, I suggest that you use the center point of Route 30 as a demarcation point for the southern border of the 97th District. Any precinct that is entirely above this point in Manheim and Warwick Townships should remain in the 97th District. This demarcation line, because of population, would lower the population of the new 97th district to be just a few thousand shy of the average of 64,000. To correct this, simply add two precincts out of the nine below the geographic point, and we will close the gap. Given the fact that multiple new neighborhoods and developments are being built in Manheim Township and Warwick Township, this change will ensure that there is not as large a disproportionate ratio of residents to a representative as we are currently witnessing.

I want to explain the beliefs that some residents who won't be honest about our districts have about combining our district with Lititz and Warwick. I have heard it said that "Warwick would be better represented by a completely rural district, together with any of its other neighboring rural communities", yet the only way to do this would be to split another township in Lancaster County. Lititz and Warwick come as a package deal. I believe that the proponents of this statement are making this suggestion due to the mistaken belief that Warwick is a rural district. In fact, Warwick has hardly more rural land than Manheim Township. Virtually all townships in Lancaster County have had substantial development occurring. The northern area of Manheim Township is as rural as any part of Warwick Township, which is why changing the southern border of the 97th makes sense not only for creating a compact well-organized district but also for ensuring that similar interests are represented.

Radically transforming the district would involve Manheim Township residents being unable to access their representative's office, one that is in the center of the district. There is a high per capita ratio of nursing home residents to a representative in the 97th district and for that seniors-access to their

representative is crucial. The convenient office location located on the same roadway as many of the senior care facilities in our district ensures that our beloved senior citizens who care about their government have the access they require.

To keep this map clean and ensure that the Pennsylvania House Legislative District mirrors the Senate District, I recommend using Route 30 as the demarcation between our two state senate districts, the 13th, and the 36th. Not only is this roadway a convenient geographic divider for purposes of drawing the senatorial districts, but it is also how our county population is split.

Now, I would like to talk about my federal house district. I believe some fellow residents of Manheim Township are copying and pasting the same letter. I believe that this letter has been provided by a special interest national organization. This national organization wants you to believe that we should draw Manheim Township, Lancaster City, into the same House district as York City, Harrisburg, and the immediate Harrisburg suburbs. This suggestion would be to create a situation where we see "Goofy kicking Donald Duck." My recommendation for our federal house district is to either keep it similar to what we have now, drawing in more of York County, or to draw in what we historically have done over the last two centuries, and draw in parts of Southern Chester County. If you draw a federal legislative map that respects local community boundaries and meets the population average, draws a district that keeps the entirety of Lancaster County together.

Finally, I would like to urge you to take the genuine word of a constituent, and not that of a national organization trying to disrupt local communities. We have a nice, beautiful, quiet community, and we currently have nice districts, but due to population increases, we need moderate adjustments to account for these population increases. We don't need a chaotic makeover of our county.

Thank you, and God bless you all!