

## Redistricting Hearings: 8/24/2021 Dayton and Cincinnati

My name is Bill Ebben. I lost my son, Tim, to a fentanyl overdose. What does that have to do with redistricting? Let me tell you. Currently, Ohio is not a red state. Ohio is a rigged state, and this is costing 200 Americans their lives every day. It is costing serious money and it is responsible for making every Ohioan miserable in many ways we don't even think about such as prostitution, property crime, armed robbery, and violence in our streets. All of these problems are the direct result of the War on Drugs. We just accept these problems in our lives while we do very little to help Ohio citizens who are addicted to opiates— often through the medical system and through no fault of their own.

When either party has a rigged stranglehold on our government, we no longer have a marketplace of ideas. This stifles our progress as a state and a nation. A slavish devotion to the status quo prevents growth, ignores new ways to deal with our problems and stifles competition in the marketplace of ideas.

Gerrymandering is rigging the system. If one party wins the battle to rig the system, it means that for the next ten years they don't even have to listen to the minority party. There is no debate in the legislature. The rigged party doesn't have to give any more than lip service to the ideas of the minority party and the millions of Ohio citizens they represent. This has been most obvious lately in the passage of anti-voting bills. They are un-American and undemocratic, but the rigging party can jam one-sided, undebated bills through to the governor's desk without any worry that someone can stop them in any meaningful way. These bills will just make the power of the gerrymandering stronger and more absolute! This is killing people.

My son, Tim, was a Cisco Certified Network Engineer who worked until the day he died. Tim died alone of an overdose because the War on Drugs punishes addicts instead of helping them. The War on Drugs stigmatizes addicts and forces them to take their drugs alone where they often die, even with Narcan in the room, because there is no one there to give them the Narcan. I've been running for just one term in Congress to introduce legislation to fix the War on Drugs. The Ohio 8th Congressional District is ridiculously gerrymandered. The district is so racked, stacked, and packed I have to drive an hour through two counties that are not in my district to get to a county that is in my district. The Republican candidate in the 8<sup>th</sup> district has a 17% advantage before anyone knows his name. All I want is a fair fight. A chance to change America for everyone. A chance to save 200 Americans from dying of a completely preventable overdose EVERY DAY. Gerrymandering is killing people! Gerrymandering makes a mockery of the American ideal of One man, One vote. Gerrymandering kills any chance of a new idea being considered by Congress. Help me stop the killing of 200 Americans every day. Help me end Thanksgiving dinners with an empty chair at the table for thousands of Ohio families next year. Do the right thing.