I’m a lifetime resident of Windsor Terrace, Brooklyn. I am active in my community and I was surprised to learn from a neighbor that the assembly district lines are being redrawn for my community and as a result half of our neighborhood would be redistricted to District 51, which is primarily composed of Sunset Park and Red Hook. I am concerned about this potential outcome and feel especially dismayed that these changes haven’t been widely publicized. I have spoken to a number of senior, longtime residents who are among the most active and invested in the community and none of them were aware of these changes. As these changes have the potential to impact the neighborhood in terms of advocacy, I fear that many of the most vulnerable voices are not being heard in this process due to lack of publicity of the changes.

The existing lines of Assembly District 44 have been in place and largely unchanged for over 30 years. As someone who lives outside of the neighborhood you might see the Prospect Expressway and think that’s a natural dividing line, however, Windsor Terrace is an old established working class community that long predates Robert Moses cutting through this area with the Prospect Expressway. Though a highway tears through our neighborhood the two sides are united footbridges and surface streets that have kept the community intact. People who live in Windsor Terrace regularly cross over from one side to the other throughout the course of the day without thought or care to access shopping and the trains/buses, churches and schools. We are one community. We are all Windsor Terrace.

According to the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission Website

*"A community of interest is a population which shares enough social and economic interests of importance that suggest said community should be included in a single district for effective and fair representation. These might include similar standards of living, shared methods and patterns of transportation, or similar economic and societal concerns. The commission shall consider the maintenance of cores of existing districts, of pre-existing political subdivisions, including counties, cities, and towns, and of communities of interest."*

With this is mind Windsor Terrace should be kept whole and in the 44th assembly district, if we are divided our voices will not be heard and we will have poorer representation in Albany. Currently our neighborhood is facing potential cuts to bus service that will impact both sides of the neighborhood and it makes sense to have one assembly member taking those transportation concerns to the MTA. I am taking the time to write in because I know for many of my senior neighbors navigating your website is challenging and you aren’t going to be getting the feedback from the hundreds of other people who feel the same way. So in writing today, I am speaking for myself and my many neighbors who are unable to get online due to lack of awareness or access. Thank you for your hard work, I know it must not be an easy job, I hope this gives you a better understanding of our neighborhood and how we need to have the same representation.