

To: New York State Independent Redistricting Commission  
From: Dr. Selma K. Bartholomew, Bronx Resident of Congressional District 16  
Date: November 8, 2021  
Re: Congressional District 16

Thank you for your service. I am writing to note my disapproval in the proposed Redistricting Maps for Congressional District 16. I am a resident of the Bronx and disappointed with the proposal to remove the southern Westchester from Congressional District 16 and moving the border lines North. The communities of the Bronx and areas including Mount Vernon are close knit communities. Many members of the Bronx have family members who also live in the Mount Vernon and Southern Westchester. The latest census counts failed to capture the overwhelming and shared interests of the people within Congressional District 16. I am writing to ask that our communities remain united.

The proposed map fails to consider the economic issues—specifically the current median household income for those in CSD 16 is less than \$75,000. The proposed map fails to consider how the dollar circulates in the community. Families spend money grocery shopping within both sides of the Bronx and Westchester borders which include the local Stop and Shop, Targets, Restaurants etc. Why should our resources and economic interests be divided? The proposed redistricting map fails communities of color.

Most importantly, the united communities of CSD 16 have shared “Quality of life” goals and concerns which require leadership who understand, represent those issues and who are able to advocate for those needs. The communities in Congressional District 16 have shared quality of life concerns include affordable housing, improving schools, sanitations, water quality, safety, and developing an economic agenda to move our communities into the future with an investment in STEM jobs.

I ask that you keep the communities of the Congressional District 16 United.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Selma K. Bartholomew  
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