As a citizen of the US and resident in New York state and presently New Rochelle, I am concerned that separating the Bronx from lower Westchester can negatively impact citizens in both areas.

The recent overpopulation of the Bronx leads into increase population of the same demographics in the surrounding jurisdictions -Yonkers, New Rochelle and Mount Vernon.

Therefore, Resources needed to address concerns in the Bronx such as jobs, small business support, housing, healthcare (ie. urgent care) and crime prevention needs to be aligned with those areas in Yonkers, New Rochelle and Mount Vernon to ensure that societal concerns and issues are adequately addressed.

I am a health care provider working in education. I have personally serviced children in the Bronx and lower Westchester. What I have witnessed while treating these vulnerable children are that they have the same needs and would benefit from shared resources that would allow all of these children to grow up thriving and contributing to society.

As a child, I grew up in the Baychester section of Bronx, bought my first home in Mount Vernon and currently live in New Rochelle where my children attend its public schools. I see first hand how residents in the Bronx and lower Westchester have similar needs. There are common demographics of people in the northern Bronx and lower Westchester sharing everything from economics to cultural commonalities such as food and language. Issues of housing, immigration and healthcare is shared by this population and separating us would further disenfranchise the very people we are supposed to uplift and empower. By separating the districts, it drowns out the voices and concerns of these people.

There will be obvious negative impacts to disenfranchised communities if redistricting of the Bronx and lower Westchester is approved. It would result in a fractured approach in addressing the needs of historically disenfranchised communities in Yonkers, New Rochelle, Mount Vernon and the Bronx. Our voices should not be weakened by dividing communities of color.