To Members of New York State Independent Redistricting Commission:

My name is Bryan Christian. I am an African-American of West Indian descent who was born and raised in the Bronx, and have lived in the Northeast section of the Bronx my entire life. Thank you for this opportunity to submit this testimony to you regarding the redistricting of the 16th Congressional district (CD 16). I want to be sure that the northern Bronx and southern Westchester should stay as one district.

CD 16 consists of mostly a white population but both the northern Bronx and southern Westchester consists of mostly black and brown people with Caribbean ancestry (see attach map which gives a breakdown of demographics). Historically, politicians have used redistricting to dilute the political power of black and brown people by fracturing these communities into different congressional districts served by different representation. It is important that communities of interest have fair government representation in their district to work for them and help towards a better future.

The northern Bronx and southern Westchester communities also deals with common environmental issues. According to an October 24, 2020 Spectrum News NY 1 article, "the sewage pipes in the Westchester County, City of Mount Vernon are in such a state of disrepair, sewage spills into the Hutchinson River" (Yensi). It would be most beneficial for northern Bronx and southern Westchester to stay as one district to tackle the water pollution and other environmental issues together with one representative that understands the common goals and obstacles of these communities.

I respectfully request that the Commission keeps the northern Bronx and southern Westchester together as one congressional district. Once again, thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony.

Common demographics

	Current NY-16 CVAP	Proposed Map CVAP
Black	30%	23% (-7%)
Latinx	26%	19% (-7%)
Asian	5%	5%
Other (mainly white, but also includes other races and ethnicities)	37% (34% white and 3% other)	53% (+16%)

Share Black population

Percent Black Population
- 0 – 23% Black
- 23 – 46% Black
- 46 – 69% Black
- 69 – 92% Black
- Current NY-16
- Proposed Redistricting Map