Greetings!

It has come to my attention that the recently released maps for the NYS Senate District has separated the Northern Bronx from the Southern Westchester community. I think this is a bad idea. While we are two counties, we are one community of interest – sharing culture, concerns, and aspirations. When my immigrant parents from Trinidad moved to the Bronx in the early 1960s, they aspired to live in New Rochelle. Their friend, Dr. Alexander Jordan, had an office in New Rochelle and eventually helped them find a house near his own. My mother wanted her kids to see trees every day. At the same time, she wanted to find some of the foods that she grew up with. While there were few blood relations in our little circle, we had what my mother called – a community of love: people who supported us and with whom we shared culture, advise, and support. While my story is a Caribbean one, I have heard similar stories from my 95-year-old, Jewish neighbor who until recently volunteered at Wave Hill, and current friends who are LatinX and connect with friends every weekend. Why mess with a good thing? There’s an aspirational element to Westchester -- as so vividly captured in Imbolo Mbue’s novel *Behold the Dreamers*, but it goes two ways. It seems that keeping the districting as is allows for healthy and fair representation.

Sincerely,

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