

# **Testimony for the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission**

November 16th, 2021

Thank you to the Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) for organizing this second series of public hearings.

My name is Ekram Alrowmim. I work with the WECNYC. WECNYC is a non profit community based organization in south brooklyn. We provide Adult Education classes, civic engagement and social services in addition to other training and resources. WECNYC is a member of the Mapping Our Future coalition .

Fair districting is the foundation for a fair political and social representation for our communities that have been marginalized for far too long

WECNY is located in the heart of a heavily concentrated Arab and immigrant population. So I work on the grassroot level and from working directly with our clients and ESL students I see the difficulties that our communities are going through as a result of unfair districting. The separation of Arab communities from the district by a single block makes our job so much harder.

The Assembly redistricting separates us more than it unites us. Because of our shared values and interests we need to stay together in order to hold weight in demanding fair representation,

We as Arabs and people of color have been marginalized for far too long and if the redistricting results separate our communities it will only further the marginalization and political suppression that we continue to face.

Thank you for your time and I hope you truly consider the interests of the different communities who will be impacted by having their voices suppressed and separated in this crucial process.