

Submission from:

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Today, I respectfully ask our Commonwealth Senate to not only consider but to pass this legislation. I believe that my reason for asking this of both our Senate and House is one that should resonate with each of our Legislators, regardless of party.

I am a life-long Pennsylvanian and I have been a Camp Hill resident since 1972. I retired from the Commonwealth after 35 years in 2003. And although in my 40 plus year IT career I specialized in developing and managing computer and communications networks, when I served under the Ridge/Schweiker Administration I was also assigned to work with their economic development team on multiple economic development proposals. In that Administration, I worked with a group of dedicated public servants that included Glen Grell, the predecessor to my current Commonwealth House Representative from the 87th House District, Greg Rothman. In working closely with Mr. Grell and many others during this time, I saw and experienced how well bipartisan governing can work.

Having Pennsylvania improve its economic development future is still a hope I fervently hold. And I want to use that experience to make the case for why I believe the Legislative and Congressional Redistricting Act (LACRA—HB22/SB222) matters...

It is about our economy.

1. The bad news of the 2020 census for Pennsylvania is deeper than the loss of a Congressional seat. Attachments 1 and 2 present a summary of the the first official census results, which tells me that a disturbing trend I learned about from the experts during the Ridge/Schweiker years has only worsened. While the U.S. population gained only 7.4%, the second lowest rate since the first census in 1790, Pennsylvania's population gain was even lower, a disappointing 2.4%. Yet, a deeper dive into the numbers reveals worse news: 19 states plus D.C. gained at a higher rate than the U.S., and 14 of those grew at a rate greater than 10%.
 - Those other states gains came at the expense of those, like Pennsylvania , that lost population or had low rates of population growth.
 - But that is not the worst of the news I read there: the breakdown of our population by age group is telling. PA ranks 49th (!) in the 19-25 age group; 32nd in the 35-54.
 - We rank in the top 10 only in the age groups over 55 and over 65.

2. This is not a promising picture of our likely economic future: we are being out competed by other states for the age group talent that represents future economic growth. Puzzling during my career, I believe this trend is even more troubling today.

3. Contrast these population distributions with the fact that Pennsylvania also has many of the best higher education institutions in the world, attracting students from all over the country and the world, eager to graduate with degrees from their world-class business and STEM programs, like those from Penn State, Carnegie Mellon, Pitt, Penn, Lehigh, and so many more, including lesser known but respected programs at IUP, Shippensburg, and Harrisburg University.
 - These graduates will be the ones creating the businesses of the 21st Century economy.
 - But, we are not keeping most or even many of these young people, Pennsylvania citizens or those from outside Pennsylvania, in Pennsylvania after graduation. This despite the fact that most of them find Pennsylvania's mix of urban and outdoor attractions and activities very appealing. **WHY?**

4. Yes, I understand that there are multiple reasons. But an important one I learned about in supporting economic development during my career may be Pennsylvania's reputation among young people as a backward state. I know our reputation was not improved by becoming known as the most gerrymandered state in the union following the Redistricting process after the last Census.
 - This is very personal to me. My opinion on this link is reinforced by the intentions expressed by my four university-attending grandchildren: All four are attending respected universities; they all have had great experiences growing up in Pennsylvania, yet only one of four is even considering making Pennsylvania their home after graduation.
 - Like my grandchildren and their friends, these highly motivated young people are also engaged participants in our democracy. And many of these young, talented people do not see their future as fully participating citizens here.
 - Others can speak to the overwhelming support among voters for redistricting reform this time, but I want to stress why I believe it is important
5. Governor Schweiker, a person I know to be committed to increasing economic development and expanding opportunity in our commonwealth, is a leader in Draw The Lines PA, a bi-partisan effort to increase the transparency and the public participation in the Legislative Redistricting Commission that will create the next set of maps for our re-drawn Congressional and Legislative Districts following the 2020 Census.
 - These are the goals of LACRA, keeping Legislative involvement but increasing both the transparency and the citizen involvement in the process.
 - Draw the Lines PA has already engaged many high school and college students in Pennsylvania in competitions to draw fair district maps using the technology tools they are so very comfortable using.
 - This has only deepened the interest in our young people. They want to see their state fully engage its citizens in this critical, once in ten year Redistricting process.
 - They also want to see legislators working together to produce real change. Gerrymandering pushes voter sentiment to the extremes. We need to pull it back to the center so we can pass legislation that has been waiting years for passage, like, for instance, completing the mission on rural broadband.

6. This is why I believe LACRA matters: It can be an important driver of economic development.
- If we are to increase the economic development opportunities in our Commonwealth, we have to increase Pennsylvania's ranking in the most productive age groups.
 - To do that, we need to seed our growth by keeping and attracting more young, energetic talent, the life blood of the 21st Century economy, to remain in Pennsylvania to build their careers and their families here.
 - Increasing transparency and engaging full public participation in a truly non-partisan Redistricting process is one way of persuading those young people that they have a real future as full citizens in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It could be a true difference maker for our future.
 - Pennsylvania needs to be more than just "open for business." It needs to be open. And young, energetic, and engaged young people must see it that way. Because they are voting. But, unfortunately for us and our beautiful, aging state, they are voting with their feet.

2 Attachments:

- 1. 2020 Census— 1st Results**
- 2. 2020 Census— Analysis of Population Growth by State per Decade**

Attachment 1: 2020 Census—1st Results

(Source: U.S. Census Bureau data 2010-2020, Attachment 2)

- ◆ **U.S. population gain: 7.4%—a decline in our rate of growth, the 2nd lowest decennial growth since 1790**
 - ◆ **And only slightly higher than the 7.3% growth rate from the 1930s in the aftermath of the Great Depression**
 - ◆ **Projection for PA's population: a small gain of 2.4%**
 - ◆ **PA rank was 44th out of 51: 50 states plus D.C.**
 - ◆ **Other states + D.C. projected to have gained at higher rates than the U.S. rate of 7.4%**
 - ◆ **20 (19 states+D.C.) exceeded 7.4%**
 - ◆ **This means these 20 gained at the expense of the other 30**
 - ◆ **14 (13 states+D.C.) grew at a rate of 10% or greater**
 - ◆ **Utah grew at the highest rate: 18.4%**
 - ◆ **This is the reason PA is losing a Congressional seat**
 - ◆ **Note: D.C. is not counted for Congressional Districts**

- ◆ **Breakdown of PA population by age group:**

(Source: Kaiser Family Foundation using 2019 final estimates from U.S. Census Bureau Data)

 - ◆ **Age 0-18: PA ranks 18th**
 - ◆ **Age 19-25: PA ranks 49th (!)**
 - ◆ **Age 26-34: PA ranks 17th**
 - ◆ **Age 35-54: PA ranks 32nd**
 - ◆ **Age 55-64: PA ranks 7th**
 - ◆ **Age 65+ : PA ranks 9th**

- ◆ **Ranking out of the top 10 in all but the oldest age groups does not make for a promising economic future.**

- ◆ **Clearly, these projections suggest that PA is being outcompeted by other states for the age group talent that represents future economic growth.**

Attachment 2: 2020 Census—Analysis of Population Growth by State per Decade

Rank by % 2010-2021	State	Percent Change										Rank by % 2010-2021
		1920-1930	1930-1940	1940-1950	1950-1960	1960-1970	1970-1980	1980-1990	1990-2000	2000-2010	2010-2020	
1	Utah	13.0	8.4	25.2	29.3	18.9	37.9	17.9	29.6	23.8	18.4	Utah
2	Idaho	3.0	17.9	12.1	13.3	6.8	32.5	6.7	28.5	21.1	17.3	Idaho
3	Texas	24.9	10.1	20.2	24.2	16.9	27.1	19.4	22.8	20.6	15.9	Texas
4	North Dakota	5.3	(5.7)	(3.5)	2.1	(2.3)	5.7	(2.1)	0.5	4.7	15.8	North Dakota
5	Nevada	17.6	21.1	45.2	78.2	71.3	63.8	50.1	66.3	35.1	15.0	Nevada
6	Colorado	10.2	8.4	18.0	32.4	25.8	30.9	14.0	30.6	16.9	14.8	Colorado
7	D.C.	11.3	36.2	21.0	(4.8)	(1.0)	(15.6)	(4.9)	(5.7)	5.2	14.6	D.C.
8	Florida	51.6	29.2	46.1	78.7	37.1	43.6	32.7	23.5	17.6	14.6	Florida
9	Washington	15.2	11.1	37.0	19.9	19.5	21.2	17.8	21.1	14.1	14.6	Washington
10	Arizona	30.3	14.6	50.1	73.7	36.0	53.5	34.8	40.0	24.6	11.9	Arizona
11	South Carolina	3.3	9.3	11.4	12.5	8.7	20.5	11.7	15.1	15.3	10.7	South Carolina
12	Georgia	0.4	7.4	10.3	14.5	16.4	19.0	18.6	26.4	18.3	10.6	Georgia
13	Oregon	21.8	14.2	39.6	16.3	18.2	25.9	7.9	20.4	12.0	10.6	Oregon
14	Delaware	6.9	11.8	19.4	40.3	22.8	8.4	12.1	17.6	14.6	10.2	Delaware
Top 14 with Growth over 10% from 2010-2020 (13 states + D.C.)												
15	Montana	(2.1)	4.1	5.6	14.2	2.9	13.3	1.6	12.9	9.7	9.6	Montana
16	North Carolina	23.9	12.7	13.7	12.2	11.5	15.7	12.7	21.4	18.5	9.5	North Carolina
17	South Dakota	8.8	(7.2)	1.5	4.3	(2.2)	3.8	0.8	8.5	7.9	8.9	South Dakota
18	Tennessee	11.9	11.4	12.9	8.4	10.0	17.0	6.2	16.7	11.5	8.9	Tennessee
19	Virginia	4.9	10.6	23.9	19.5	17.2	15.0	15.7	14.4	13.0	7.9	Virginia
20	Minnesota	7.4	8.9	6.8	14.5	11.5	7.1	7.3	12.4	7.8	7.6	Minnesota
20 with Growth Greater Than U.S. Total Population Growth of 7.4 % from 2010-2020												
21	Massachusetts	10.3	1.6	8.7	9.8	10.5	0.8	4.9	5.5	3.1	7.4	Massachusetts
22	Nebraska	6.3	(4.5)	0.7	6.5	5.1	5.8	0.5	8.4	6.7	7.4	Nebraska
23	Maryland	12.5	11.6	28.6	32.3	26.5	7.5	13.4	10.8	9.0	7.0	Maryland
24	Hawaii	43.9	14.9	18.1	26.6	21.5	25.5	14.9	9.3	12.3	7.0	Hawaii
25	California	65.7	21.7	53.3	48.5	27.0	18.6	25.7	13.8	10.0	6.1	California
26	New Jersey	28.1	2.9	16.2	25.5	18.2	2.7	5.0	8.9	4.5	5.7	New Jersey
27	Oklahoma	18.1	(2.5)	(4.4)	4.3	9.9	18.2	4.0	9.7	8.7	5.5	Oklahoma
28	Alabama	12.7	7.1	8.1	6.7	5.4	13.1	3.8	10.1	7.5	5.1	Alabama
29	Indiana	10.5	5.8	14.8	18.5	11.4	5.7	1.0	9.7	6.6	4.7	Indiana
30	Iowa	2.8	2.7	3.3	5.2	2.4	3.2	(4.7)	5.4	4.1	4.7	Iowa
31	New Hampshire	5.0	5.6	8.5	13.8	21.5	24.8	20.5	11.4	6.5	4.6	New Hampshire
32	Rhode Island	13.7	3.8	11.0	8.5	10.1	0.0	5.9	4.5	0.4	4.3	Rhode Island
33	New York	21.2	7.1	10.0	13.2	8.7	(3.7)	2.5	5.5	2.1	4.2	New York
34	Kentucky	8.2	8.8	3.5	3.2	5.9	13.7	0.7	9.7	7.4	3.8	Kentucky
35	Wisconsin	11.7	6.8	9.5	15.1	11.8	6.5	4.0	9.6	6.0	3.6	Wisconsin
36	Arkansas	5.8	5.1	(2.0)	(6.5)	7.7	18.9	2.8	13.7	9.1	3.3	Arkansas
37	Alaska	7.7	22.3	77.4	75.8	32.8	33.8	36.9	14.0	13.3	3.3	Alaska
38	Kansas	6.3	(4.3)	5.8	14.3	3.1	5.2	4.8	8.5	6.1	3.0	Kansas
39	Vermont	2.0	(0.1)	5.2	3.2	14.0	15.1	10.0	8.2	2.8	2.8	Vermont
40	Missouri	6.6	4.3	4.5	9.2	8.3	5.1	4.1	9.3	7.0	2.8	Missouri
41	New Mexico	17.5	25.6	28.1	39.6	6.8	28.2	16.3	20.1	13.2	2.8	New Mexico
42	Louisiana	16.9	12.5	13.5	21.4	11.8	15.5	0.3	5.9	1.4	2.7	Louisiana
43	Maine	3.8	6.2	7.9	6.1	2.4	13.4	9.2	3.8	4.2	2.6	Maine
44	Pennsylvania	10.5	2.8	6.0	7.8	4.2	0.6	0.1	3.4	3.4	2.4	Pennsylvania
45	Ohio	15.4	3.9	15.0	22.1	9.7	1.4	0.5	4.7	1.6	2.3	Ohio
46	Wyoming	16.0	11.2	15.9	13.6	0.7	41.3	(3.4)	8.9	14.1	2.3	Wyoming
47	Michigan	32.0	8.5	21.2	22.8	13.4	4.4	0.4	6.9	(0.6)	2.0	Michigan
48	Connecticut	16.4	6.4	17.4	26.3	19.6	2.5	5.8	3.6	4.9	0.9	Connecticut
49	Illinois	17.7	3.5	10.3	15.7	10.2	2.8	0.0	8.6	3.3	(0.1)	Illinois
50	Mississippi	12.2	8.7	(0.2)	(0.0)	1.8	13.7	2.1	10.5	4.3	(0.2)	Mississippi
51	West Virginia	18.1	10.0	5.4	(7.2)	(6.2)	11.8	(8.0)	0.8	2.5	(3.2)	West Virginia

Source: William H. Frey analysis of U.S. Census Bureau decennial census data

THE 2010's SAW THE SECOND-LOWEST POPULATION GROWTH IN U.S. HISTORY

The 331,449,281 U.S. residents counted in the 2020 census represent a **population increase of 7.4%** from the 2010 count of 308,745,538. This is the second-smallest decade-long growth rate since the first census was taken in 1790—**only slightly higher than the 7.3% growth rate from the 1930s in the aftermath of the Great Depression**