

SB20-186 Colorado Redistricting Commissions

Chair, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 186.

My name is Amanda Gonzalez and I'm the Executive Director at Colorado Common Cause, a *nonpartisan* nonprofit that works for open, honest, and accountable government and seeks to strengthen public participation in civic life.

Coloradans love fair maps. By an overwhelming margin, our state approved independent redistricting commissions in 2018. After all, as we're taught since at least elementary school, voters are supposed to pick their representatives and not the other way around. These two commissions will draw our legislative and congressional district lines using ranked criteria including following the Voting Rights Act, keeping communities of interest together, compactness, maximizing the number of competitive districts, all the while not protecting incumbents or political parties.

It's important that the state has the power to implement Amendments Y and Z well. Not only because the integrity of our maps depend on it, but also because the rest of the nation is looking to us as a leader. In *Rucho v. Common Cause* the Court pointed out that, when it comes to redistricting, the states continue to be important incubators for fair and equitable public policy. Chief Justice Roberts cited Colorado as an example of a state that had taken proactive steps to restrict partisan consideration in map making. Now we must ensure that our state and our commissions have the tools they need to ensure successful implementation of our state's brand new policy. This bill will do that.

Colorado Common Cause encourages a yes vote on SB20-186.

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