

Redistricting

I would 1st like to thank our esteemed legislators for inviting me to speak today. My name is Michael Childress and I am president of the DuPage county branch of the NAACP. Voting singularly is the most important of our rights. It is the bedrock of democracy. It is the only means of holding our elected officials accountable to “We the People”. Without it we have autocratic rulers run amuck. Without it we have corrupt leaders only accountable to themselves.

The declaration of Independence states “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that [all men are created equal](#), that are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, among these are [Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness](#).-- To secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the *consent of the governed*,

The right to vote is so important redistricting is an exercise that happens once every 10 years. Since the presidential election we have seen 253 voter suppression bills introduced across the county. In one short year and a half we will be facing another congressional election with new districts.

These districts must be drawn to reflect the will of the people. These districts will determine whether we will hear honest debate and intelligent thought or unchecked partisanship. These districts will determine whether I can vote in 10 minutes or 10 hours. These districts will determine whether the consent of the governed will be heard over the voices of the lobbyist.

This Redistricting is so gravely important it will go well beyond the next election. January 6 showed us we are at the intersection of freedom and tyranny. We have to get this right and there is no room for error. It is not hyperbolic to state this redistricting effort holds the fate of democracy not only in this state but the entire country.