

Mr. Anthony Martinez
Executive Director
The Civil Rights Agenda
2129 North Western Ave.
Chicago, IL 60647

May 23, 2011
Via Electronic Mail, ILRedistricting@gmail.com

The Honorable Barbara Flynn Currie	The Honorable Mike Fortner	The Honorable Edward Acevedo
The Honorable Marlow Colvin	The Honorable Jim Durkin	The Honorable Lou Lang
The Honorable Frank Mautino	The Honorable Chapin Rose	The Honorable Timothy Schmitz
The Honorable Jill Tracy	The Honorable Karen Yarbrough	


Members of the Illinois House Redistricting Committee:

Thank you for allowing The Civil Rights Agenda (TCRA), Illinois' leading advocacy group for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) civil rights, to testify before the House Redistricting Committee. As a non-partisan organization we found the process to be both open and thorough.

We are also pleased that the voting rights of the estimated 1,000,000 LGBT people in the State were taken into consideration with your proposed map. This is specifically the case on Chicago's north side, where The Civil Rights Agenda's census data shows a high concentration of LGBT constituents. Speculation concerning the elimination of the current 14th Legislative District would have had an adverse effect on an already low threshold of LGBT representation. In addition, substantial changes to districts 11, 12, 13, and 40 would have hindered the LGBT community as an influence minority.

We are pleased to voice our support of the Chicago north side districts as they stand, and more specifically, the districts held by LGBT Legislators: 13, 14, and 40. In our opinion, these districts, as they stand, allow LGBT constituents in Chicago to continue the work of community building and organizing in the years to come.

Sincerely:



J. Anthony Martinez
Executive Director
The Civil Rights Agenda