

Illinois House Redistricting Committee  
300 Capitol Building  
Springfield, IL 62706

May 21, 2011

Dear Members of the House Redistricting Committee,

The redistricting process demands careful attention to a multitude of interests. A new district map must not only abide by constitutional and statutory principles, but also balance the interest of all Illinois citizens and communities. It is the position of the Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP) that the map proposed by the Illinois House adequately addresses these elements; thus, we support this map.

The growth in Illinois' Latino community commands an increase in their representation in the General Assembly. The proposed map adequately allows Latinos to elect the candidates of their choice. Furthermore, while the proposed map optimizes the number of Latino district across the state, it also respects communities of interest such as Pilsen, Little Village, Humbolt Park, Logan Square and Chinatown.

Moreover, the proposed map respects the interest of other communities that have toiled for decades to increase their representation in the General Assembly; specifically African-Americans. The Southwest Organizing Project believes that the proposed map fairly balances the Latino community's increase in population and the African-American community's interest in protecting their majority districts.

For these reasons, The Southwest Organizing Project supports the House's proposed map. We are committed to continuing an open dialog with the legislature throughout this redistricting process.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please call Jeff Bartow. I can be reached at 773-562-0218 (cell) or 773-471-8208, ext 11. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,



Jeff Bartow  
Executive Director,  
The Southwest Organizing Project

## SWOP

Recognizing the diversity of our community, we are building a broad-based organization of churches, schools and other institutions in Southwest Chicago, which will enable families to exercise common values, determine their own future and connect with each other to improve life in our neighborhoods.

**Additional Submissions**  
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