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STATE OF ILLINOIS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

HEARING HELD
APRIL 25, 2011

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STATE OF ILLINOIS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

Hearing held, pursuant to Notice, on the 25th day of April, 2011, between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 4:50 p.m., at the Illinois State Capitol, 2nd and Capitol Streets, Room 114, Springfield, Illinois.

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

1 PRESENT:
2 Representative Barbara Flynn Currie,
Chairperson
3
4 Representative Mike Fortner, Republican
5 Spokesperson
6 Representative Lou Lang
7 Representative Frank J. Mautino
8 Representative Chapin Rose
9 Representative Timothy L. Schmitz
10 Representative Raymond Poe
11 Mr. John R. Kreigher, Assistant Counsel to the
Speaker
12
13 Mr. Andrew G. Freiheit, Special Assistant to the
House Republican Leader
14
15
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17
18
19 Court Reporter:
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24

1 MADAM CHAIRPERSON: The meeting will come
2 to order. I'm Barbara Flynn Currie. I am Chair of
3 the committee, and I am chairing today's hearing. We
4 are also joined by Representative Lou Lang,
5 Representative Frank Mautino, Minority Spokesman
6 Representative Mike Fortner, Representative Tim
7 Schmitz, Representative Chapin Rose and Representative
8 Ray Poe.

9 I thank you all for coming and joining with us
10 today. As you know, at the end of 2010, the United
11 States Census Bureau gave Illinois and all the other
12 states information about population shifts and totals
13 and both the United States and Illinois Constitution
14 in the year following the new census numbers, the
15 General Assembly has to redraw the lines that cover,
16 govern congressional, legislative and representative
17 districts to account for population shifts over the
18 last ten years. This hearing today is part of that
19 process.

20 The Redistricting Transparency and Public
21 Participation Act requires that we hold at least four
22 hearings throughout the state. In fact, today is the
23 15th. Our intention is to hear from as many people as
24 possible to ensure that this process is open to all of

1 the residents of Illinois. We are guided in this task
2 by the United States Constitution which is required
3 with respect to One Person, One Vote principle as we
4 draw districts that are of substantially equal
5 population.

6 We will also comply with the Federal Voting
7 Rights Act which makes sure that we provide minorities
8 an equal opportunity to participate in the electoral
9 process, selecting candidates of their choice.

10 At the state level, the Illinois Constitution
11 says districts have to be substantially equal in
12 population, compact and contiguous, and finally the
13 Illinois Voting Rights Act further says that we have
14 to make sure that minorities have a voice in the
15 electoral process after complying with the federal and
16 constitutional requirements I have just sketched.

17 In addition to these requirements, there are a
18 variety of principles that have played a role
19 traditionally in redistricting. We want to hear from
20 you w. We are interested in relevant demographic
21 information, social, political, economic, religious or
22 other characteristics that are unique to your
23 community. We are interested in maps of your
24 community. If you want to present them to us, we

1 would be happy to see them, and, again, if you have
2 specific views that you think are relevant to your
3 community that we want to know about.

4 So we want to hear all testimony relevant to
5 us as we draw the new maps for Congress, for the State
6 Senate and for the State House of Representatives. If
7 you have a proposed map, show it to us. We will be
8 happy to take it under consideration.

9 If you want to draw your own map but aren't
10 quite sure how you can do that, we have information on
11 the table outside the door that will tell you about
12 two sites, one in Springfield and one in Chicago,
13 where there will be resources available that will help
14 you draw whatever kind of map you would like to draw.
15 You can this get information about how you can access
16 these sites, make appointments and then it also tells
17 you also how you can email us and how you can put
18 information on the General Assembly's web site.

19 We are transcribing all testimony at each of
20 these 15 hearings. We are posting that testimony on
21 the web site. That information is outside as well.
22 Any documentary evidence we receive, written or oral,
23 will be part of the web site. Any proposed map will
24 be part of the web site, too. Our only concern is

1 that because of security issues, we can't take maps
2 today on a disk or flash drive. We like hard copies.

3 Today we are going to start with a small
4 slideshow presentation explaining the principles of
5 redistricting, making sure we are all on the same
6 page. Following that we will hear from people who
7 have signed in ahead of time wanting to provide
8 testimony. There certainly would be ample opportunity
9 for those of you who didn't sign in in advance but
10 would like to share their testimony with us this
11 afternoon. We ask everybody to limit testimony to
12 three minutes, and we will likely bring you up in
13 panels, and to the extent that the panels represent a
14 particular perspective, we'd like you to hold
15 questions from members of the committee until after,
16 after that whole panel has had a chance to speak.

17 So our intention is to let everybody
18 participate. I am going to start with Minority
19 Spokesman, Representative Fortner. If you would like
20 to make any statements, now is the chance.

21 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Thank you very
22 much, Madam Chair. I want to start by thanking you
23 for going beyond your required four hearings that the
24 Illinois Voting Rights Act called for, for bringing

1 public testimony.

2 It has been a whirlwind these last nine days.
3 We have been to the far reaches of northern Illinois
4 all of the way down to East St. Louis, hearing
5 testimony from you, the public, in a way that I think
6 will provide us valuable information about things that
7 are important to you in a process that is often not
8 given as much attention precisely because it only
9 comes up once every ten years. But yet it only comes
10 up once every ten years, it shapes the political
11 landscape of Illinois for a decade to come, and
12 therefore it is an incredibly vital task we are
13 undertaking, and your input is vital to that.

14 I'm going to start by saying I have been
15 extremely impressed by all of the testimony I have
16 heard so far. I have learned an awful lot about the
17 needs and interests of our communities, about the
18 importance of communicative interests that the public
19 lives in, the importance of some of the political
20 integrity of certain subdivisions whether they be
21 counties or municipalities, even community areas in
22 the City of Chicago; the fact that when we look at
23 minority districts, the repeated statement that a
24 minority district elect a candidate of choice as

1 preferred to merely having one of influence, one that
2 came from a preponderance of witnesses who spoke on
3 that subject.

4 At this time, I guess, I would like to ask the
5 Chair, there's been a number of questions that have
6 come up. I just what to find in terms of the
7 procedure of this committee going forward, is the
8 Chair prepared to answer any questions at this time?

9 MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Well, the Chair will
10 take under advisement any question you want to ask
11 her, but it is unusual members of the committee to
12 quiz one another. But carry on. We will see.

13 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Well, I ask it
14 because this is our last scheduled hearing, and I
15 think the public would like to make sure we understand
16 what comes next. I think one of the most important
17 things that we have heard frequently is whether or not
18 there will be hearings after a map is proposed that we
19 would take a vote on.

20 MADAM CHAIRPERSON: We are taking that
21 question under advisement.

22 As you know, we have discussed this in earlier
23 hearings. It will be wonderful if we have an
24 opportunity to do just that. At this point I don't

1 know how far we will be in the process of map drawing
2 that we can actually do it, but we certainly hope that
3 we can, and we take the issue under advisement.

4 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: And a connected
5 piece of that is if it is possible, a great number of
6 witnesses had spoken to the fact it would take about
7 two weeks in order for them to digest and understand
8 the impact of a map on their particular interests.

9 Is that something that -- if it is possible to
10 hold those hearings, is two weeks going to be possible
11 to fit in?

12 MADAM CHAIRPERSON: We will certainly see
13 how the legislative schedule works around a two-week,
14 two-day or whatever request.

15 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Another area that
16 we have heard some questions raised have been on the
17 subject of the specifics of how does one go to drawing
18 a map?

19 In trying to be transparent, the hearings have
20 been an important step. Will this committee be
21 looking at any criteria or methodologies, any proposed
22 map?

23 MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Well, I think I
24 already outlined the federal and state constitutional

1 requirements, the requirements of the Federal Voting
2 Rights Act, the requirements of the Illinois Voting
3 Rights Act and traditional issue that have helped
4 govern the drawing of your representative and
5 legislative lines.

6 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: So you don't see
7 anything necessarily beyond that in terms of a
8 specific method of how one would apply those criteria
9 to a specific situation in Illinois?

10 MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Well, at this point we
11 are busy gathering information, and if you have
12 suggestions for us, we'd be happy to take them.

13 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: I will take that
14 under advisement.

15 Also, when it comes to any proposed map, I
16 know in the last cycle there were available files. We
17 were concerned about, as you stated, about electronic
18 submissions to the state. Presumably we can produce a
19 clean file.

20 When a map comes forward, will there be
21 shapefiles, other electronic documents so that we can
22 process it rather than just see a long bill with
23 census blocks and metes and bounds when that time
24 comes?

1 MADAM CHAIRMAN: Technologically I'm not
2 able to answer your question.

3 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Okay. Well,
4 that's something hopefully we would like to be able to
5 know so we are prepared when that time comes for
6 looking at a map.

7 One other question that's come up is whether
8 or not, has there been any -- we certainly see members
9 of the public who have suggested maps, and the
10 question has come up from some members of the public
11 whether or not there are maps that have been drawn
12 internally by the majority whether in whole or in
13 part.

14 MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Not to my knowledge.
15 My understanding is that we are information gathering
16 at these hearings, and that internal discussion
17 continues to be about information gathering.

18 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Okay. Well,
19 again, I hope that as you take those questions under
20 advisement, we will be inform -- the public will be
21 informed because we still have a number of weeks to go
22 forward in this process, and I look forward to further
23 comments from this group of witnesses today.

24 MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Thank you,

1 Mr. Fortner. We are about -- Mr. Rose, we are about
2 to do the slide show, but if you have a question,
3 please feel free to state.

4 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: I actually have a
5 question, and I would echo Spokesperson Fortner's
6 comments that when we were out, I went to three of the
7 hearings statewide. Virtually every witness had asked
8 for time to look at a map before there was a vote.

9 But as you had noted in the flurry of hearings
10 around the state, you noted -- I would note in that
11 flurry of hearings that downstate Illinois was left
12 almost largely out. From East St. Louis to Cairo is
13 153 miles of territory according to the MapQuest.
14 From here to Cairo is 240 miles, and from Champaign to
15 Cairo is about 240 miles.

16 Is there a plan to have a downstate hearing?

17 MADAM CHAIRPERSON: At this moment, as far
18 as I know, there are no additional hearings planned.
19 It doesn't mean that more hearings could not be added
20 to the schedule. But, as you know, every hearing was
21 devoted to issues involving the entire state. So this
22 was not a proposal where we went to one community and
23 said we are only interested in what is going on in
24 your region.

1 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: But Madam Chair, to
2 the communities of interest question in particular, at
3 each one of those committees we often delved into
4 those particular communities of interest and those
5 particular communities. To the extent that, you know,
6 south of here is a community of interest, I would
7 suggest that we are, by this scheduling, ignoring
8 that, and we should have a hearing farther south than
9 Springfield, East St. Louis and Champaign.

10 MADAM CHAIRPERSON: But the invitation
11 went far and wide. It went everywhere, and we are on
12 a limited time frame. But I appreciate your point and
13 I'm glad -- I hope that you were able to bring
14 evidence and testimony from these various places that
15 you feel were not given a full opportunity to
16 participate so that at least we would have had the
17 advantage of their wisdom.

18 Okay. We are now going to go to the slide
19 show which will put us all on the same page when it
20 comes to what redistricting is about and what the
21 principles are that will guide us.

22 MR. FREY: Hello, everyone. My name is
23 Dan Frey. I work for the Illinois House of
24 Representatives. I am here to give you a brief

1 overview of our state redistricting procedure. I will
2 briefly discuss the procedures and background of
3 redistricting and information on the Voting Rights
4 Act. I will also be going over new state
5 redistricting guidelines recently signed into law.
6 Finally, we will go through the results of the 2010
7 census and what those results say about the
8 Springfield area.

9 Redistricting is a process that ensures all
10 Illinois residents are afforded full representation in
11 the state legislature, federal Congress as guaranteed
12 by the Illinois State Constitution. The US Supreme
13 Court held in a series of rulings in the 1960's
14 congressional and state legislative districts, each
15 state must be equal population, establishing the
16 principle of one person, one vote. As a result,
17 states redraw congressional and state districts every
18 ten years to reflect changes in population as shown by
19 the census.

20 The timeline for redrawing the legislative map
21 is based on the Illinois Constitution. On December
22 21st, data collected by the 2010 census was delivered
23 to the President. A full block-by-block census
24 profile of Illinois that will be used in the

1 redistricting process was released in February.

2 The Illinois State Legislature has the initial
3 responsibility of passing the new congressional and
4 state maps. Both the state House and state Senate
5 must pass a plan of majority votes. The plan must be
6 signed by the Governor.

7 If the new map does not go into effect by the
8 Constitutional deadline of June 30th, responsibilities
9 for creating a new map passes from the legislature and
10 Governor to a legislative redistricting commission.
11 The commission shall consist of eight members, no more
12 than four from the same political party. A majority
13 vote of five or more commission members will
14 constitute final approval of a new map.

15 However, if the commission does not agree to a
16 map by September 1st, the Illinois Supreme Court will
17 submit two names, one from each party, to the Illinois
18 Secretary of State and will choose one name at random
19 to serve as the ninth member of the commission.
20 Five of the nine members of the commission must agree
21 to a plan no later than October 5th.

22 Members of the House to draw up new districts
23 must have several legal principles. The first of
24 these principles is equal population. State law

1 mirrors the federal one person, one vote standard and
2 mandates congressional and state districts to contain
3 substantially equal population.

4 As a result of the 2010 census, the target
5 population of each House district is 108,734
6 residents. The ideal population for a Senate district
7 is 217,468.

8 Federal and state law also require all
9 districts to be contiguous which means all parts of
10 the district must connect to each other unless
11 connected by water. Annexations and unincorporated
12 areas in municipalities and counties sometimes are
13 discontinuous. However, congressional and state
14 districts must be based on connected at all points.

15 The more difficult requirements are defined as
16 compactness. There are at least 30 different
17 scientific ways to measure how compact a district is.
18 No statute or court precedent identifies standard
19 criteria of compactness.

20 In theory, compactness focuses on the shape of
21 a district's boundaries, how spread out a district is
22 from the central core or a district's population
23 center of gravity is.

24 In practice, compactness is geography and

1 common law reality, so often the interpretation of
2 compactness involves more than a visual test.

3 Illinois is one of 14 states that nests two of
4 its House districts, also called Representative
5 districts, inside one of its Senate districts, also
6 called Legislative districts.

7 The mapmakers will also look, where possible,
8 to follow political and geographic boundaries in order
9 to maximize a community's opportunity to have its
10 interests represented.

11 As we know, however, county, municipality,
12 township and natural geographic boundaries are not
13 always compact and contiguous. By studying census
14 data, holding public hearings like this, listen to
15 thousands of residents across the state, lawmakers
16 look to identify what are known as communities of
17 interest.

18 A community of interest is a group of people
19 concentrated in a geographic area where socially,
20 culturally, ethnically and economically, religiously
21 are otherwise alike and can be joined in a district to
22 most effectively have their voices heard. The fact
23 remains in any particular community, interests will
24 vary throughout the state.

1 Federal law requires redistricting plans to
2 respect minority representation. Principles of the
3 Federal Voting Rights Act are in place to prevent
4 reduction of opportunities for the minority population
5 to participate equally in the electoral process.
6 However, districts cannot be drawn solely on the basis
7 of race.

8 Further, this year Governor Quinn signed
9 legislation to protect representation of racial and
10 language minority groups. Senate vote 3976, now known
11 as Public Act 96-1541, helps prevent minority fracture
12 or dividing concentration of minorities among two or
13 more districts, requiring mapmakers to consider
14 creating crossover districts, coalition districts or
15 influence districts.

16 Crossover district is one in which a racial
17 minority may elect a candidate of its choice with the
18 help from voters of a majority group.

19 Coalition district brings racial and language
20 minority groups together to elect a candidate of their
21 choice.

22 Influence district allows a group to influence
23 an election outcome without being the majority
24 population in a district.

1 These new state law requirements come into
2 play only after compliance with the federal law and US
3 and state constitutional requirements on
4 redistricting.

5 In addition, the law includes transparency by
6 requiring public hearings across the state; one of
7 which we're having here today. The hearings will
8 provide a chance to share thoughts on the
9 redistricting process, key components to create a map
10 that best represents the people of Illinois.

11 At the end of the presentation we will display
12 an email address on the screen where you can submit
13 your ideas for consideration. The committee is also
14 accepting written testimony or documentation today.

15 Now that we have covered the redistricting
16 process, we are going to take a look at the census
17 data that will be used to draw new districts. All
18 maps you are going to see are drawn in census blocks.
19 It is the smallest level of geography necessarily used
20 to report population data.

21 As of the 2010 census, the total population of
22 the state of Illinois was 12,830,632. That's compared
23 to the state's 2000 population of 12,419,293, an
24 increase of about 410,000. The counties with the

1 largest population percentage increases since 2000 are
2 Boone, Grundy, Kane, Kendall and Will Counties.

3 Demographically speaking Illinois has seen a
4 lot of changes over the past decade. The white
5 population has risen statewide by .6% to 8,167,753.
6 Illinois African American population has fallen
7 statewide by .6%, 1,832,924. The Illinois Hispanic
8 population has risen statewide 32.5% to a total of
9 2,027,578. The Illinois Asian population has also
10 risen statewide by 38.6% to 580,586.

11 Now, when we look at the Springfield metro
12 area, which means Springfield, Chatham and various
13 other small towns in the vicinity, it is an area
14 located entirely in Sangamon County and located within
15 Senate Districts 44, 50 and Representative Districts
16 87, 99 and 100. In 2000, the area's population was
17 140,836. In the last ten years the area's population
18 has increased to 141,742.

19 Now, here is a map of the area's African
20 American population. In 2000, the area's African
21 American population was 17,441. 2010 census reports
22 show the African American population of the area now
23 is 21,6888, with the highest concentration in the
24 eastern part of Springfield and 99th District.

1 In 2000, the Hispanic population was 1,573.
2 Now shown here in 2010, the population of the Hispanic
3 minority group was 2,702.

4 Finally, here is a map of the area's Asian
5 population, numbering 2,830 as compared to 2000
6 population of 1,817.

7 Thank you very much for attending today's
8 hearing, sharing your thoughts and opinions with us.
9 If you have any comments, you can email us at
10 ilredistricting@gmail.com or visit the web site at
11 www.ilhousedems.com/redistricting. Thank you.

12 MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much.
13 Just a reminder to everybody that we do have a web
14 site. Anything you want to say and didn't have a
15 chance to say at the hearing, you are welcome to email
16 us, welcome to put it directly on the web. The
17 information about how to contact us, again, is
18 available outside on some of the descriptive pieces of
19 paper.

20 We will go now to our first panel, and that
21 panel is Martin Torres from Latino Policy Forum,
22 Yesenia Sanchez from West Suburban Action Project and
23 Elisa Alfonso representing the Mexican American Legal
24 Defense Education Fund.

1 So if you three would come forward, that would
2 be great. We do have a court reporter. It is really
3 important for you to spell your name so that the court
4 reporter has a chance to get it right, and, again, if
5 you would please keep each of your statements to under
6 three minutes, we would be grateful.

7 So are we going to start with you, Mr. Torres?

8 MR. TORRES: Actually can we start with
9 Elisa?

10 MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Make sure your
11 microphone is on. There is a little button. Please
12 begin.

13 MS. ALFONSO: My name is Elisa Alfonso,
14 E-L-I-S-A, A-L-F, as in Frank, O-N-S-O. Good
15 afternoon. As I said, my name is Elisa Alfonso. I'm
16 the Midwest Redistricting Coordinator for MALDEF, the
17 Mexican America Legal Defense Educational Fund.
18 MALDEF is a national civil rights organization that
19 conducts community education, policy advocacy and
20 awareness litigation.

21 For four decades MALDEF has worked to protect
22 the voting rights of Latinos and thus has played a
23 nationwide leadership role in local, statewide
24 redistricting. MALDEF also has a long history of

1 collaboration with other groups protected under the
2 Voting Rights Act. This includes organizations that
3 represent African Americans and Asian American/Pacific
4 Islanders.

5 Over the course of the past month, MALDEF has
6 testified at both Senate and House hearings, and one
7 of the areas that has been of great interest is the
8 south side of Chicago. This area contains not only a
9 large Latino population but also a growing Chinese
10 American population.

11 My testimony today is to recommend the
12 creation of five Latino Section 2 districts and one
13 coalition district which would include Latino and
14 Asian American residents in the south side of
15 Chicago/Cook County. This proposed map will fully
16 comply with the Federal Voting Rights Act and also
17 keep communities of interest of Little Village, Back
18 of the Yards and Chinatown together. In coming up
19 with these proposed districts, MALDEF respected the
20 interests of these communities by unifying
21 neighborhoods with common characteristics including
22 economic, cultural, linguistic and historical
23 commonalities.

24 MALDEF's proposed map complies with the

1 Federal Voting Rights Act and respects strong
2 communities of interest, meeting the legal
3 requirements set forth in the Seventh Circuit which
4 state that Latino opportunity districts in the Chicago
5 area must be at least 65% to 70% Latino in total
6 population.

7 Looking at the five proposed Latino majority
8 districts in MALDEF's plan, excluding the Chinatown
9 Coalition District, all five districts exceed 65%
10 Latino total population, and, further, all five
11 districts exceed 60% Latino voting age population.

12 According to the 2010 census, the Latino
13 community has grown by 33% or nearly 500,000 people in
14 Illinois. Latinos now represent the largest
15 population increase among all racial and ethnic groups
16 in the state. MALDEF feels this growth and
17 demographic change must be respected by the plans --
18 excuse me, must be respected in plans eventually
19 passed by the Illinois State Legislature and that the
20 south side configuration will ensure that the Latino
21 community as well as the Asian American community of
22 the south side will have a strong and effective voice
23 in state government.

24 As these hearings continue today, we will hear

1 testimony from other colleagues such as the Asian
2 American Institute, Latino Policy Forum, United
3 Congress of Community and Religious Organizations and
4 many others. While our proposed maps may differ, what
5 does not change is the unified position in support of
6 six districts in the south side area to respect the
7 Federal Voting Rights Act and communities of interest.

8 We commend both the House and Senate
9 Redistricting Committees for holding these hearings
10 across the state, but the proof is in the pudding.
11 For this redistricting process to be truly meaningful,
12 MALDEF respectfully asks this committee to hold
13 additional hearings after the map is drawn and at
14 least two weeks before it is approved. The Illinois
15 Senate has agreed to hold two public hearings to show
16 their map prior to the vote. MALDEF urges this
17 committee to do the same.

18 Thank you for the opportunity to testify
19 before you today.

20 MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much,
21 Ms. Alfonso. Thank you so much for staying in the
22 allotted time.

23 Which of you wish to go next? Mr. Torres,
24 please, again, spell your name.

1 MR. TORRES: Good afternoon, Madam
2 Chairman and committee members. My name is Martin
3 Torres, last name T-O-R-R-E-S. I am a policy analyst
4 at the Latino Policy Forum. The Latino Policy Forum
5 is a non-profit research and advocacy organization
6 focused on the reaching out education for just policy
7 for immigration and community engagement.

8 A major component of the forum's community
9 engagement is the role of co-convener of the Illinois
10 Latino Agenda which is a 49-member coalition of Latino
11 non-profit organizations.

12 Over the course of the last month, members of
13 the Illinois Latino Agenda have testified at eight
14 House and Senate redistricting hearings combined.
15 Thus far, our collective remarks have focused on the
16 dramatic growth of the Latino population, the need for
17 greater transparency throughout the remainder of the
18 redistricting process and the creation of seven new
19 Latino majority, influence or coalition districts
20 throughout the suburbs of Chicago.

21 All of the maps that have been submitted to
22 the legislature were formally adopted by the Illinois
23 Latino Agenda. The Illinois Latino Agenda wishes to
24 express gratitude to the Mexican American Legal

1 Defense and Education Fund, United Congress of
2 Community and Religious Organizations and Draw the
3 Line Illinois coalition for feedback through this
4 process. Today I'm pleased to share our
5 recommendations for legislative district boundaries on
6 the north and south sides of Chicago.

7 If you refer to the north side of the maps or
8 the summary document that's been presented for you,
9 you see each of the three majority Latino districts
10 that we have proposed on the north side have a total
11 Latino population greater than 65%. Although the US
12 Voting Rights Act does not establish specific
13 thresholds for minority-majority legislative
14 districts, we believe 65% is an important threshold to
15 strive for given the relative youth of the Latino
16 population and drop-off between voting-age population
17 and citizen voting-age population in many Latino
18 communities.

19 The legislative district boundaries in the
20 north side also account for local interests that have
21 been expressed by members of the Illinois Latino
22 Agenda and other community groups. For example,
23 efforts have been made to ensure the Humboldt Park
24 Community, particularly the Paseo Boricua, maintains

1 its presence within one set of district boundaries.
2 It is also our understanding that community leaders in
3 the Albany Park Neighborhood are still deliberating as
4 to their preference for inclusion in the Latino
5 majority district, labeled LN2 on our map, which is
6 why I submitted two versions of the north side of the
7 map. Given that the exclusion of this neighborhood
8 would not lower either of the districts -- Latino
9 population in either of the three districts to Latino
10 population threshold below 65%, members of the
11 Illinois Latino Agenda are comfortable with either map
12 and would defer to the preference of community leaders
13 in Albany Park.

14 On the south side, the Illinois Latino Agenda
15 are recommending the creation of six Latino majority
16 districts, five of which have a Latino population
17 greater than 65% and the other serving as a coalition
18 district between Latino and Asian residents of that
19 area.

20 Our goal in the creation of a south side map
21 as all maps was to be in compliance with the US Voting
22 Rights Act while at the same time respecting the
23 cultural and economic interests of specific
24 neighborhoods in that area. I have been in several --

1 or excuse me, as such, this map keeps Little Village,
2 Back of the Yards and Chinatown together within their
3 own respective legislative districts. Currently each
4 of these communities of interest is divided between at
5 least three legislative districts. I have been in
6 several House hearings throughout the state where
7 community leaders from these neighborhoods have
8 expressed to you the perils of political
9 fragmentation. The proposed map initiates a process
10 of resolving those issues and provides an opportunity
11 for those residents of those communities to seek more
12 effective political representation.

13 In summary, the Illinois Latino Agenda
14 recommends the creation of three Latino majority House
15 districts of the north side, six Latino majority
16 districts on the south side of Chicago and adjacent
17 communities. These nine districts, coupled with the
18 seven suburban districts we have already presented,
19 total the creation of 16 Latino majority, influence or
20 coalition House districts throughout the state. The
21 16 proposed legislative districts provide an
22 opportunity to create at least four Senate districts;
23 one north side and three on the south side of Chicago.

24 Lastly, I would like to briefly comment on the

1 transparency in this process. All Illinoisans deserve
2 an opportunity to view and comment on proposed maps
3 before it is presented, or voted upon I should say.
4 Absent an opportunity to view and comment on the
5 proposed legislative districts, the Latino Policy
6 Forum in unconvinced incoming legislators would keep
7 the best interests of the Latino community in mind.
8 The Latino Policy Forum also calls members of this
9 committee to hold additional hearings before a final
10 map is voted on. Thank you very much.

11 MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Ms.
12 Sanchez?

13 MS. SANCHEZ: Good afternoon. Good
14 afternoon, Chairman, members of the Illinois House
15 Redistricting Committee. My name is Yesenia Sanchez.
16 First name is Y-E-S-E-N-I-A, last name Sanchez,
17 S-A-N-C-H-E-Z. I'm the lead community organizer
18 PASO-West Suburban Action Project. I'm also a
19 resident of Franklin Park, Illinois.

20 PASO-West Suburban Action Project is a
21 non-partisan, non-profit community organization that
22 works to engage community members to act through their
23 faith and values to address the issues that affect
24 them, their families and neighbors with the mission to

1 build stronger communities.

2 We have been working with the Illinois Latino
3 Agenda, a 49-member coalition of Latino non-profit
4 organizations to protect the voting rights of Latino
5 residents and to increase their ability to elect
6 candidates of their choice through the development of
7 new legislative boundaries across the state.

8 I join this hearing today because of the
9 importance of the redistricting process to our
10 communities we serve and specifically regarding the
11 need in the creation of new House legislative
12 boundaries that keep key communities of interest
13 together in a majority Latino district that includes
14 the areas of Melrose Park, Stone Park, Maywood,
15 Northlake, Franklin Park, Des Plaines, Mount Prospect,
16 Bensenville and Addison. Such map has already been
17 submitted by the Latino Policy Forum on behalf of the
18 Illinois Latino Agenda.

19 The dramatic increase in Latino population
20 growth in these areas must be accompanied by new
21 legislative district boundaries that enable greater
22 Latino representation in the Illinois General
23 Assembly. It is of great importance that communities
24 with shared interests be able to select candidates

1 that reflect their priorities and have an opportunity
2 to hold them accountable for their actions.

3 As stated under the US Voting Rights Act of
4 1965, minority voting rights cannot be diluted where a
5 majority minority district can be created.
6 Furthermore, under the Illinois Voting Rights Act of
7 2011, minority communities are also protected in the
8 creation of influence, coalition and crossover
9 districts. Our communities are protected under both
10 of these laws, and we will be watching the legislature
11 in this process to ensure that these laws are
12 followed.

13 Currently the communities I mentioned before
14 are split among several legislative districts. Once
15 districts are connected and joined together, they
16 conform over 60% of the population, Latino population.
17 These are also currently divided into four House
18 districts, including 77, 78, 65 and 46. It is crucial
19 to create a district that is contiguous and allows for
20 the Latino population to be compacted within it, with
21 a representation that does not dilute the Latino
22 voting power within this region.

23 Of particular significance over the last nine
24 years is these communities have seen an increase and

1 shift in the Latino population. The 2010 census data
2 shows percentages of Latino population areas as
3 follows: Melrose Park is now 69.6% Latino; Stone Park
4 is 88.1% Latino.

5 MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Ms. Sanchez, you've
6 pretty much run out of time, but may I just make a
7 suggestion that -- we are not going to shut you off,
8 but you have given us complete written testimony. If
9 you can just summarize the remainder of what you have
10 written, that would be a good idea.

11 MS. SANCHEZ: So in essence, to finalize
12 those percentages, Maywood 28.8, Northlake 52.9,
13 Franklin Park 43.1, Mount Prospect 15.5 and
14 Bensenville 47.8.

15 As you can see, the area that we are
16 mentioning is highly Latino.

17 In essence to summarize, we are definitely
18 supporting a new district, House redistricting in this
19 area that will make sure the Latino community is
20 represented fairly. Also that it represents the needs
21 of the community both economically. There is business
22 districts that have provided to prosperity
23 economically in this area as well as certain
24 challenges including language barriers, immigration

1 issues and rights as well as issues to access of
2 government agencies and quality services.

3 In closing, as I said, it is very important
4 for the new House district creation of this area.
5 Especially as was mentioned by my colleagues, it is
6 very important that we have a fair and transparent
7 process. Just as we have shared our maps, we are
8 looking and will be looking for the legislature to
9 share your maps. We are asking for a two-week process
10 so we can review the maps to ensure our communities
11 are fairly represented. Thank you.

12 MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much.
13 Are there questions for the panel? Representative
14 Fortner?

15 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Thank you, Madam
16 Chair. I guess it was good to see it was worth the
17 wait. Been kind of a teaser since Cicero about these
18 districts. Very nice to get your ideas now on the
19 record. We appreciate it.

20 I want to make sure I understand some of the
21 parameters that went into your maps, and I guess I
22 will start with Elisa, if I may. So I understand the
23 threshold of the 65% total population. Now, was --
24 and I see in the data you have some see back numbers

1 in the table in the back.

2 Was there a general parameter applied
3 throughout the districts, or was that brought
4 separately from different census tract information?

5 MS. ALFONSO: It was drawn from the census
6 tract information.

7 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: So might be
8 different percentages from different areas based on
9 what the census tracts showed in those areas?

10 MS. ALFONSO: Correct.

11 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: And was there a
12 threshold for CVAP or threshold only for the overall
13 Latino total population?

14 MS. ALFONSO: Well, the person that was
15 going to answer that for you is not with us. I would
16 defer that answer to a later time.

17 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Perhaps you can
18 submit that through the other channels as part of the
19 additional testimony.

20 MS. ALFONSO: We plan on doing that.

21 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Thanks.

22 So the specifics on the maps here, they are
23 listed as House districts, but we nest House districts
24 in Senate Districts, so we are responsible for both

1 the House and Senate at the same time in the map.

2 Was -- has there been a look at how these
3 House districts would perform as part of Senate
4 districts?

5 MS. ALFONSO: Again, I would have to get
6 back to you with that specifically.

7 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Sure. And then
8 in terms of the districts there and specifically with
9 respect to Ms. Sanchez' testimony, one of the things
10 that you didn't have was a district in around Franklin
11 Park, Melrose Park, Stone Park area that was just
12 referred to, and I would note that from what you are
13 saying would have a higher Latino population than
14 Waukegan which did appear in the MALDEF map.

15 I was just wondering if anything in particular
16 went into that decision to not have the presentation
17 with us today?

18 MS. ALFONSO: Each presentation focused on
19 where we have a slight difference in our maps.
20 Otherwise with the suburbs and other parts, we were in
21 total agreement with my colleagues, Latino Policy.

22 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Except I -- on
23 the pamphlet we got, I didn't see anything in the
24 Franklin, Melrose Park area.

1 MS. ALFONSO: Franklin Park is where we do
2 have a slight difference, and we are working on that.
3 So similar to what was going on in Albany Park.

4 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: So you anticipate
5 there might be some additional testimony that would be
6 providing the committee on that?

7 MS. ALFONSO: Yes, yes.

8 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: That would be
9 great.

10 We turn to Mr. Torres now, questions on your
11 map. Let me start out with some of the same general
12 questions I asked Ms. Alfonso.

13 The, as you said, VRA does not establish
14 thresholds, but you used the threshold, I guess the
15 same 65% total population for gauging the maps.

16 Was there any electoral analysis to look at
17 the performance of how particular districts might
18 perform, or just really was it the straight threshold?

19 MR. TORRES: For the most part we used
20 straight threshold. Some of our colleagues who have
21 done, who have been engaged in some specific work on
22 the south side have expressed to us the need to ensure
23 these districts have at least 65% threshold because
24 not only the drop-off from voting-age population, but

1 the level of civic engagement among residents in some
2 of these communities unfortunately is not turning out
3 the numbers as we should.

4 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: So that applies
5 to the south side. Would you characterize the north
6 side as having the same background for purposes of
7 threshold?

8 MR. TORRES: Well, we see the 65%
9 threshold of voters in Latino communities in Chicago,
10 the suburbs.

11 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: I also want to
12 ask a question about the nesting districts together
13 for Senate districts, if I look -- if your group had
14 looked at performance of districts and how they might
15 work if there is nesting.

16 MR. TORRES: On the north side you would
17 be able to have at least one Latino Senate district
18 where the voting-age population would be greater than
19 65%. On the south side you would have two districts
20 with at least 65% threshold. The exception on the
21 south side is where the coalition district is nested.
22 You may not have 65% threshold in that particular
23 Senate district.

24 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: On the north side

1 since you only have three districts listed, since the
2 fourth companion district is not listed, do you have a
3 sense of what type of influence or crossover districts
4 you might be able to create on the north side for the
5 Latino community?

6 Since one of those directs would have to pair
7 up with something else, obviously a larger population
8 one, it might matter quite a bit what it pairs up
9 with.

10 MR. TORRES: Correct. Without further
11 information on what the adjacent districts would look
12 like, it is difficult to give an assessment on that.

13 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: I didn't know
14 whether or not you might have looked at areas that
15 might have paired up better in terms of creating
16 stronger influence district.

17 So you're saying at this point you have not?

18 MR. TORRES: Correct.

19 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: And also a
20 question, you mentioned using CVAP. I didn't catch
21 whether you had a table of numbers for your CVAP's for
22 your districts.

23 MR. TORRES: We didn't include CVAP
24 calculations within the table we provided you in the

1 summary document.

2 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Would you be
3 providing those as well extra testimony adding to
4 those?

5 MR. TORRES: We can look at that.

6 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Okay. You had
7 mentioned it in passing comments, and I didn't know if
8 it was going to be a part of the record.

9 MR. TORRES: Correct. We may include that
10 as part of the additional testimony, and if we do, we
11 will make sure that the members -- it gets passed onto
12 members of this committee.

13 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Okay. So let me
14 then turn to Ms. Sanchez. So the only thing I want to
15 make sure I'm clear on, the district that your group
16 would support would be the same as what was submitted
17 for the Latino Policy?

18 MS. SANCHEZ: Correct.

19 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: More of Franklin
20 Park, Melrose Park?

21 MS. SANCHEZ: Correct. We have reviewed
22 the map and working that area, we're fully supporting.

23 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Okay. Just
24 wanted to make sure we have -- we have had other

1 examples put forward by groups. So your group would
2 be supporting what was put forward by the Latino
3 Policy?

4 MS. SANCHEZ: Right, and the organization
5 services that area all the way to Melrose Park to
6 Franklin Park. We are, we are very familiar with the
7 area. So, again, yes, we reviewed the proposed map
8 and fully support the boundaries.

9 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Okay. Thank you
10 very much. No further questions.

11 MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Representative Rose?

12 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: Thank you. Whose
13 document is this, Latino Policy Forum?

14 MR. TORRES: That's mine, sir.

15 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: Yours. Okay. A
16 question for you because I'm looking at it. The maps
17 that you drew up here are Senate directs; is that
18 correct?

19 MR. TORRES: Sorry. Say that again.

20 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: Are they Senate
21 districts or House districts?

22 MR. TORRES: They are House districts.

23 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: They are? Because
24 there are a number of incumbent senators' names that

1 are pinpointed on here.

2 MR. TORRES: Correct. That information
3 was laid out within that particular document that --

4 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: But these are House
5 districts?

6 MR. TORRES: Correct.

7 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: Then there is a
8 number of red stars with numbers next to them. What
9 is the red star? I couldn't figure out the --

10 MR. TORRES: Red stars corresponding
11 numbers refer to incumbent legislators.

12 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: For incumbent
13 legislators?

14 MR. TORRES: Correct.

15 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: Then you had
16 mentioned in your testimony -- and I am glad to hear
17 you say you wanted to see the maps before the House
18 and Senate would vote on it. How much time in your
19 estimation would you need?

20 I think the colleague to your right suggested
21 two weeks minimum. What would you say would be needed
22 in your, in your estimation to have time to analyze
23 and study the maps?

24 MR. TORRES: We agree with that

1 assessment. A two-week period would be essential to
2 internalize that information, putting out a
3 recommendation.

4 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: Two weeks?

5 MR. TORRES: Correct.

6 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: To the lady on your
7 left, Ms. Sanchez -- sorry -- what timeline would you
8 think you would need to have to study the maps before
9 they were voted on?

10 MS. SANCHEZ: Same thing.

11 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: Thank you.

12 MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Further questions?

13 Next panel, Ami Gandhi, Sung Yeon Choi-Morrow
14 and Rabya Khan. All three represent Asian American
15 Institute Group. Again, keep remarks under three
16 minutes, and if each of you would come and spell your
17 name for the court reporter.

18 MS. GANDHI: Hello. My name is Ami
19 Gandhi, spelled A-M-I, last name spelled G-A-N-D-H-I.
20 I'm the Legal Director of Asian American Institute.
21 Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. We urge
22 the Illinois General Assembly to meet and fully
23 consider the input of Asian Americans not only at this
24 point in the redistricting process but also after

1 draft maps are released.

2 AAI is a pan-Asian, non-profit, non-partisan
3 organization located in Chicago whose mission is to
4 empower and advocate for Asian Americans. We
5 testified on April 21st about why redistricting
6 matters in our community, the legal protections of our
7 communities' voting rights and the need for
8 transparency in the process and our commitment to
9 working with other minority groups.

10 And I refer you to that written testimony
11 that's already on the record, but we traveled to
12 Springfield today to show you maps.

13 You are all, by now, familiar with the
14 fragmentation of the greater Chinatown area in
15 Chicago, a cohesive community that shares many social
16 concerns and whose residents have common ground in
17 terms of history, ethnicity, language and social
18 concerns but has experienced egregious fragmentation.

19 We are also here, though, to bring your
20 attention to three other Asian American neighborhoods
21 in the Chicago area that have also faced unfair
22 fragmentation. The maps that are attached to the
23 written testimony submitted today show the boundaries
24 of these three community clusters which we call the

1 North Chicago Cluster, the Skokie Area Cluster and the
2 Des Plaines Area Cluster. We believe that each should
3 be kept intact and not fragmented during
4 redistricting.

5 As you can see on the attached maps, not only
6 is there a high concentration of Asian Americans in
7 the area that's shown by the yellow and brown shading,
8 but there is also a plethora of institutions that are
9 vital to our community members including non-profit
10 organizations, social service providers, religious
11 institutions, schools, ethnic media, retail and
12 commercial outlets.

13 The demographics of these clusters appear in a
14 chart attached to the written testimony, and this
15 provides a striking illustration of the concentration
16 of Asian American communities and the corresponding
17 fragmentation that they face. The clusters contain
18 between 24 and 31% Asian Americans, and they are
19 currently each splintered into three to five Illinois
20 House districts. Please note that these cluster areas
21 are not district line proposals. As you will see on
22 the demographic page, each cluster makes up less than
23 an entire district, and our proposal is they should be
24 kept intact and incorporated into a district map.

1 In order to determine these specific cluster
2 boundaries, we have spent significant time consulting
3 with community leaders and getting their input,
4 getting input from the people who live, work and serve
5 residents in those areas, and we are continuing to
6 discuss these boundaries with other minority
7 communities including Latino and African American
8 communities represented here today and in the
9 coalition work that we do in Chicago.

10 My colleague, Sung Yeon Choi-Morrow, AAI
11 Community Organizer, will talk further about the
12 clusters that are stark not just in terms of racial
13 composition but also the other socioeconomic concerns
14 of the residents in those areas.

15 MS. CHOI-MORROW: Good afternoon. My name
16 is Sung Yeon Choi-Morrow, spelled S-U-N-G Y-E-O-N
17 C-H-O-I hyphen M-O-R-R-O-W. I am the community
18 organizer at the Asian American Institute, and thank
19 you for this opportunity to speak to you. And some of
20 you guys I saw in Chicago, so thank you twice.

21 I just wanted to build on what we were talking
22 about in Chicago in terms of our community that is to
23 stay together. If you look at, if you look at the
24 first map after the -- after the all area map, it's a

1 map of the Chicago, north Chicago area. We had
2 several members of our community testify before you in
3 Chicago about the connection between the West Ridge
4 community as well as the Albany Park community.

5 As you can see on the map, there is a
6 substantial number of institutions that are within the
7 red lines in our map as well as a substantial number
8 of dark brown blocks which indicate that there are a
9 high concentration of Asian Americans living there.
10 Asian Americans that live in that area are composed of
11 Filipino, Koreans, Cambodian, Vietnamese, Chinese,
12 Pakistani American, Indian American as well as other
13 Middle Eastern Americans who sometimes self-identify
14 as being Asian American. And we had Ms. Lee from the
15 community organizations there testifying about how
16 they serve the communities of both West Ridge and
17 Albany Park.

18 Today I am here to further iterate that, that
19 the community there is cohesive because they both --
20 they go between the two neighborhoods, which Chicago
21 has their separate neighborhoods. So as you can see
22 on this map, are pretty contiguous and, you know, we
23 access businesses and associations along, you know,
24 various points on the map.

1 If you look at the other areas as well, we do
2 have a substantial number of institutions that are
3 collected within our boundaries that cross over into
4 various state House districts currently, and as Ami
5 mentioned, we have collected this information. We
6 have sat our community members down in a room for, you
7 know, two and a half hours at a time where we are
8 literally going, you know, is it this block or that
9 block, drawing these lines. So we have had tremendous
10 input from our community members who both live in the
11 area as well as work and serve the community there.

12 MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much.
13 Questions for this panel?

14 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: We have got one
15 more.

16 MADAM CHAIRPERSON: I'm sorry.

17 MS. KHAN: That's okay. Mine is really
18 quick.

19 Good afternoon, Madam Chair, members of the
20 committee. My name is Rabya Khan, R-A-B-Y-A, last
21 name Khan, K-H-A-N. I am a community activist. I am
22 here today on behalf of the Asian American Institute
23 and Council of the Islamic Organizations of Greater
24 Chicago.

1 There is a growing Muslim and Asian population
2 in Illinois. The Muslim American community contains
3 significant percentages of minorities from the Arab
4 American, African American, Latino American and Asian
5 American population.

6 There is cohesiveness within the Asian
7 American community at large. We come from different
8 countries and religious backgrounds, but we share many
9 cultural and social similarities. The Asian American
10 Institute, as you already heard, testified today about
11 the growing population of Asians in the greater West
12 Ridge or Devon community of Chicago as well as the
13 growing Asian population in nearby suburbs such as
14 Skokie, Niles and Morton Grove. It is important and
15 imperative that our voice and vote not be diluted.

16 Division of our community through
17 redistricting will erase our voices and make it even
18 more challenging to organize and unite on common
19 issues. This will, in turn, affect our ability to
20 conduct voter registration campaigns, mobilize
21 registered voters and educate our community members
22 about the electoral process. Our social and religious
23 institutions such a mosques, temples and churches are
24 built within already established communities and serve

1 to help disseminate critical information relating to
2 social services like English and citizenship classes,
3 job training programs, social events, political events
4 and youth events. Our communities face a host of
5 common issues such as the need for culturally and
6 linguistically appropriate social services, especially
7 for people with limited English proficiency and people
8 who are new or recent immigrants to this country.

9 One area with such concern is the portion of
10 Skokie that was already outlined today by the Asian
11 American Institute. This area of Skokie on the north
12 side of Skokie has long been and continues to be a
13 home for Asians and other minorities, particularly
14 people of Indian, Pakistani, Chinese, Filipino and
15 Korean descent. The residents of this area share many
16 similar religious, cultural, social, political and
17 economic concerns including immigration, the need for
18 culturally sensitive social services, ESL classes,
19 citizenship classes, voter registration workshops and
20 healthcare reform. This area must remain united
21 during the 2011 redistricting process, not only
22 because of the high concentration of Asian Americans
23 in this area but also because of the common social and
24 economic concerns that I already outlined.

1 In the Greater West Ridge area on the north
2 side of Chicago and nearby suburbs there is a high
3 concentration of Asian Americans. If the district
4 lines divide these integral community institutions, it
5 will be an additional challenge for the community to
6 overcome.

7 District lines will have a direct effect on
8 how responsive elected officials will be to our needs.
9 For example, we have already have established
10 relationships with state senators and representatives
11 near the Devon and West Ridge community in Chicago.
12 They understand our needs for protecting undocumented
13 students, language access to social services,
14 citizenship classes and English classes.

15 I just want to conclude by saying that we
16 appreciate this opportunity to talk with you here
17 today, and we would hope to see some draft maps to
18 provide you guys with input. So thank you.

19 MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much.
20 Representative Fortner?

21 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Thank you, Madam
22 Chair.

23 So Ms. Gandhi, on the maps that the Asian
24 American Institute presented, as you pointed out the

1 clusters themselves are smaller than the size of one
2 district. I would note that the north Chicago is only
3 a little bit smaller than a House district, but the Des
4 Plains, Skokie area ones are both smaller, even half
5 of a House district in terms of size.

6 Is the position of the Asian American
7 Institute that as long as they are kept together, they
8 could be in different districts?

9 Is there a preference, if possible, to put
10 them together in the same House or same Senate
11 district if the population would warrant it or, as I
12 say, or is it just a point to keep them each separate
13 and could be in three different House, three different
14 Senate districts?

15 MS. GANDHI: At this point in time we
16 don't have a position on how the clusters should be
17 grouped together or kept separate, and community
18 members and organizations may have different opinions
19 about that aspect of it. We also are mindful, will
20 continue to remain mindful of the high Latino
21 population in that part of Chicago and Cook County, so
22 -- which is one of the reasons that clusters were
23 drawn in the way that they were in areas that are
24 smaller than entire districts.

1 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Right. That's
2 what I was also asking, particularly about the two
3 that were each smaller than half of a House district,
4 the Des Plaines area one and Skokie area one.

5 So there is no position as to whether or not
6 those should be grouped together. Is there a
7 preference if they could be or, again, just really
8 something that the Asian American Institute has not
9 taken into consideration at this time?

10 MS. GANDHI: We have taken it into
11 consideration. We don't have a firm position on it at
12 this time. If we were to see, it would depend how the
13 exact grouping was done and what the district line
14 proposals looked like.

15 So if, for instance, we had a draft map, draft
16 district lines to look at for analyzing and provide
17 commentary on how it meets the needs of the community
18 or doesn't.

19 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Thank you.

20 MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Representative Rose?

21 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: How much time would
22 you need to analyze and comment?

23 MS. GANDHI: We would echo the comments of
24 our colleagues from the Latino community. To get

1 that, we would need at least two weeks.

2 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: Does that go for the
3 other two panels?

4 Let the record reflect they are nodding their
5 heads yes, please.

6 MS. CHOI-MORROW: Yes.

7 MS. KHAN: Yes.

8 MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much.

9 Next panel, Ahlam Jbara from The Council of
10 Islamic Organizations, Nareman Taha who represents the
11 Arab American Family Service Organization and Reema
12 Ahmad from Project Mobilize.

13 If you would come forward. Remember the three
14 minute time. We do have a timer in front. Again, be
15 sure to spell your name for the court reporter.

16 Again, if you have written testimony, please
17 turn it in, and summarize what your written testimony
18 has to say. I don't know what order you want, so it
19 is your call.

20 MS. JBARA: Good afternoon. Good
21 afternoon, Madam Chair.

22 MADAM CHAIRPERSON: There is a little
23 button in the very front.

24 MS. JBARA: Good afternoon, Madam

1 Chairwoman, Representatives. Thank you very much for
2 holding this hearing today. My name is Ahlam Jbara.
3 First name is A-H-L-A-M. Last name is Jbara,
4 J-B-A-R-A. I am the Interim Executive Director of the
5 Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago,
6 CIOGC for short. I am here today to define on behalf
7 of the Arab and Muslim communities the south side of
8 Chicago and southern suburbs.

9 I'm very deeply involved in organizing,
10 providing services at the local level for communities
11 across the state. I'm on the board of Project
12 Mobilize who you will hear from in a little while, a
13 C4 organization. I'm also on the Board of the Arab
14 American Action Network, a social service organization
15 on the south side of Chicago and have done a lot of
16 organizing around voter registration, Get Out the Vote
17 campaigns in the area Muslim community.

18 I'm here today on behalf of the ethnic
19 diversity within the Muslim community, including the
20 Arab community. CIOGC is a membership organization of
21 over 53 mosques, social service organizations,
22 full-time accredited Islamic schools, civil rights
23 organizations, social service organizations.

24 I was here last -- a few weeks ago and just

1 testified in front of the Senate committee in regards
2 to the north side and northern suburbs of Chicago with
3 our partners at the Asian American Institute, and they
4 testified they were showing you maps. We are in
5 agreement with those maps and support those maps.

6 Today I'm here testifying specifically
7 regarding the south side of Chicago, southern suburbs.
8 In the southwest suburbs, we are estimated at about
9 over 40,000 Arabs. Unfortunately we don't have census
10 numbers to report like other minority communities.
11 Arabs are not counted on the census, so we are lumped
12 with either whites and some of our community members
13 do check off Asian once in awhile.

14 So in terms of stats, we can't really give you
15 census stats, but you will hear from the Arab American
16 Family Services and Project Mobilize in terms of
17 social service numbers and in terms of voter
18 registration, Get Out the Vote campaigns that we have
19 done that we have collected on our own throughout our
20 work at the grass roots level.

21 On the southwest suburbs in Bridgeview, Oak
22 Lawn, Hickory Hills, Justice, Burbank and other
23 neighboring suburbs, we have worked diligently to try
24 and collect data. We have done voter registration,

1 census outreach. We have done everything that we can
2 to ensure that our community is civically engaged.

3 What you will hear now from Arab American
4 Family Services, Project Mobilize is more detailed
5 information about borders that we are proposing.
6 Thank you very much.

7 MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Ms. Jbara.

8 MS. TAHA: Good afternoon. My name is
9 Nareman Taha, N-A-R-E-M-A-N, last name T-A-H-A.

10 Honorable Chair, members, my name is Nareman
11 Taha. I am the co-founder and Director of Development
12 along with my business partner, Itedal Shalabi from
13 Arab American Family Services.

14 AAFS is a non-profit social service agency
15 founded in 2001, providing -- provides caring,
16 compassionate assistance to south suburban Chicagoland
17 residents. AAFS supports -- provides support in the
18 area of public benefits, immigration, domestic
19 violence, mental health and elderly services and
20 sponsors outreach programs to build healthier families
21 and communities.

22 By helping local neighbors overcome personal
23 crises, strengthen their families and live healthier,
24 more successful lives, Arab American Family Services

1 is making a profound and positive impact in our
2 community.

3 I am a resident of the City of Palos Park
4 located in the southwest suburbs of Cook County. I
5 have been living in the southwest suburbs for over 15
6 years, and I have served the Arab American Community
7 within the southwest suburbs for over 11 years.
8 Through my work and day-to-day operations, I have seen
9 communities significantly grow in population as well
10 as respective institutions.

11 As the community expands and increases,
12 community organizations, businesses, schools,
13 entertainment venues also increase in order to meet
14 the needs of the community members at all levels.

15 One example: In the City of Bridgeview, a
16 population of 16,446, there exists a mosque serving
17 over 4,000 members, two Arabic schools, a food pantry
18 and, of course, AAFS.

19 In addition through the work of our social
20 service organizations, AAFS, in 2010, served 19,325
21 individuals from the following southwest suburbs of
22 Cook County: Oak Lawn, Bridgeview, Chicago Ridge,
23 Burbank, Justice, Hickory Hills, Tinley Park, Palos
24 Hills, Orland Park and Worth. This is where the

1 community is. We ask that they be intact and not be
2 fragmented.

3 In the southwest suburbs, Arab Americans make
4 up close to 150,000 Arab Americans consisting of both
5 Muslim and Christian, considering this is an
6 undercount since Arab Americans are classified as
7 white. Arab Americans originate from 22 Arab
8 countries that share many common concerns such as the
9 need for linguistically and culturally appropriate
10 social services as well as concerns about education,
11 health care, immigration, discrimination and racial
12 profiling.

13 As the community has grown, it has spread
14 across multiple elected officials which makes the work
15 for community organizations like ours very difficult.
16 The reality of multiple officials means differing
17 opinions. As a result, community issues go
18 unresolved. Overall, sporadic communities have very
19 little impact and have little power and are not able
20 to influence change. We ask that our elected
21 officials be fair in the redistricting process and
22 keep communities like ours together.

23 AAFS, Council of Islamic Organizations and
24 Project Mobilize testified today with details about

1 our rising population and the devastating harm we face
2 as a result of unfair vote -- and I know I'm pushing
3 time. We are asking that the Arab American
4 communities whose representatives have common grounds
5 in terms of history, language, social concerns should
6 be kept together in one single district during the
7 redistricting which is District 1: Bridgeview,
8 Burbank, Chicago Ridge, Oak Lawn and Justice.

9 And we are also asking in clusters, two
10 clusters that represent a significantly high
11 population of Arab Americans as well.

12 Cluster 1: Hickory Hills, Palos Hills and
13 Worth.

14 Cluster 2: Palos Park, Palos Heights, Orland
15 Park.

16 And thank you again for your time.

17 MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Thank you for yours.
18 Next, please.

19 MS. AHMAD: Hello, good afternoon, Madam
20 Chair and the Representatives present here today. My
21 name is Reema Ahmad. Reema is spelled R-E-E-M-A, last
22 name is A-H-M-A-D. Thank you for taking time to hear
23 from representatives of these communities as you
24 undergo redistricting of General Assembly districts.

1 I commend each of you for seeking to hear from
2 individuals, institutions, organizations such as
3 ourselves that have a real stake in the course of
4 these redistricting measures.

5 My name is Reema Ahmad. I'm here as Executive
6 Director of Project Mobilize. We are a non-partisan,
7 non-profit political action organization based in the
8 southwest suburbs of Chicago. I will be speaking on
9 the growing Arab, Middle Eastern, Asian electorate in
10 the southwest suburbs of Chicago.

11 Project Mobilize seeks to develop the
12 political potential in civically marginalized
13 communities. In our current political climate,
14 diverse subcommunities of the Arab, Middle Eastern and
15 Asian American populations have been the focus.
16 Within these communities are thousands of registered
17 voters and even more US citizens that have yet to
18 fully assume their civic responsibilities. These are
19 communities of health care professionals, business
20 leaders, lawyers, social service providers and more.
21 They are individuals who care about the communities in
22 which they live and raise their families and therefore
23 deserve to more fully engage the political systems
24 that govern us all.

1 The past decade has seen significant growth in
2 political participation from the Arab and Asian
3 American communities of Chicagoland. Whereas in the
4 past these communities might not fully exercised their
5 civic rights and responsibilities, the past seven
6 years have seen more concerted efforts at registering
7 voters among the Arab and Asian American communities
8 and turning them out to vote in increasing numbers.
9 These efforts have been coordinated through local
10 organizations such as the Mosque Foundation, Arab
11 American Family Services, Council of Islamic
12 Organizations of Greater Chicago, Council of American
13 Islamic Relations in Chicago, IMAN, Project Mobilize
14 and numerous others.

15 As these communities have become more and more
16 engaged in the political process, they have come to
17 represent a growing portion of the voting electorate
18 both locally and state wide. This growth comes with
19 increased responsibilities on the part of the
20 individual communities as well as legislators that
21 seek to accurately represent the concerns and needs of
22 their constituents.

23 Project Mobilize has compiled information on
24 the Arab, Middle Eastern, Asian American electorate.

1 Again, we do not have all this information from
2 census data but rather have researched voting records.

3 To that end we have stats on over 3,900 Arab
4 and Asian American voters residing in Bridgeview,
5 Burbank, Chicago Ridge and Oak Lawn communities.

6 We have significant clusters of Arab and Asian
7 American voters residing in Hickory Hills, Palos Hills
8 and Worth and a growing cluster in Palos Heights,
9 Palos Park. Orland Park now contains no less than
10 1500 registered voters from the Arab and Asian
11 American communities.

12 Again, these figures are not on census data
13 and continue to -- are increasing through project
14 Mobilize and other community organizations.

15 I want to reiterate what my colleagues here
16 from CIOGC and AAFS have said in terms of seeking to
17 have our communities consolidated into a single
18 district within one district containing the
19 Bridgeview, Burbank, Chicago Ridge, Oakland, Justice
20 communities and having two separate clusters that
21 contain Hickory Hills, Palos Hills, and Worth in
22 community one and the communities of Palos Heights,
23 Palos Park, Orland Park in another.

24 And I guess I reached my time, so I invite any

1 questions. Thank you.

2 MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much,
3 all three of you.

4 Questions for members of this panel?
5 Representative Fortner?

6 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Thank you very
7 much. Yes, a question for Ms. Taha because I have, I
8 have written testimony here, which I just want to make
9 sure I understand how to put together numbers for the
10 clusters because you have identified them by name
11 here, and I see towards the end there is some tables
12 such as families served.

13 Do you have any sense of given the number of
14 families served, how does one convert that to
15 population?

16 I understand the census doesn't ask the
17 questions, so you don't have direct numbers, but to
18 get a feel for, if it says, for instance, in Oaklawn
19 there are 3,985 families Family Services clients
20 served. How would one typically convert that to
21 estimated population?

22 MS. TAHA: A very good question. These
23 statistics you are looking at are from AAFS's internal
24 database. It is how we are capturing demographics,

1 how we are -- clients are coming to us. I would
2 definitely -- I don't have it but maybe Ahlam --

3 MS. JBARA: What we're looking at in terms
4 of the Arab community southwest suburbs is we are
5 trying to collect data from our institutions like
6 Family Services, Mosque Foundation, our two Islamic
7 schools as well as the public schools, looking at
8 Oaklawn High School, other schools in the area that
9 have populations and looking to our voter records.
10 Been doing -- actively doing voter registration, Get
11 Out the Vote campaigns since 2004.

12 So we are, we are meeting with our legislators
13 to look at those areas as well, but we are trying to
14 compile that data to say well, we have, you know,
15 minimally -- and I, again, I don't have numbers right
16 now because, again, it is, you know, we are scratching
17 together, you know, under the dirt. It is within
18 certain district and covers these certain suburbs and
19 want to be able to have this district that, you know,
20 as majority Arab population but community of interest
21 that we wish to stay within, you know, the majority
22 district of Oaklawn, Bridgeview and Justice, Burbank,
23 so forth.

24 MS. TAHA: To add to that, it would be

1 hard to transfer those numbers into the census.
2 Again, as we go back to the earlier comment, Arab
3 Americans are classified as white, so there is no way
4 that the Arab American community is able to identify
5 itself in any category. Either, again, labeled as
6 white or identify themselves as others which they
7 label, they would write down Middle Eastern.

8 But it is very hard at this moment to really
9 take those numbers and try to thread them into the
10 census data because, again, we don't have a box.

11 REPRESENTATIVE FORTNER: Thank you.

12 MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

13 Representative Rose? No? Great.

14 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: How long would you
15 all need to analyze the data?

16 MS. TAHA: As our colleagues stated
17 before, two weeks would be --

18 MS. AHMAD: At least two weeks.

19 MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much.
20 We appreciate your testimony.

21 For the record we also have with you from Arab
22 American Family Services Itedal Shalabi but who is a
23 witness for the record only.

24 The next panel will not be representing a

1 single perspective as our previous panels have. We
2 have Cheryl Jansen from Equip for Equality, Sam
3 Cahnman, an alderman from the city of Springfield and
4 Rosemary Perdew from the Village of Summum.

5 So if you would come forward, we would
6 appreciate it. Again, keep your remarks under three
7 minutes. Spell your name for the court reporter. If
8 you have testimony, please leave it with us and
9 summarize your remarks. Let's start with Cheryl
10 Jansen.

11 MS. JANSEN: Good afternoon, Madam Chair,
12 members of the committee. My name is Cheryl Jansen,
13 and I am the legislative policy manager at Equip for
14 Equality. My name is spelled C-H-E-R-Y-L and last
15 name J-A-N-S-E-N.

16 Equip for Equality is an independent,
17 not-for-profit organization that is charged with
18 implementing the federally mandated protection and
19 advocacy organizations for people with disabilities in
20 Illinois.

21 I am sure you are aware that people with
22 disabilities have traditionally been underrepresented
23 at the poles, and this is due to a variety of factors
24 including the inaccessibility of polling places,

1 discriminatory laws and practices, unfounded
2 stereotypes and a lack of understanding and knowledge
3 about the voting rights of people with disabilities.

4 I am here today really just to call to your
5 attention lack of access to certain information which
6 I -- which Equip thinks would be beneficial to this
7 committee in terms of the redistricting process. The
8 Census Bureau in its general questionnaire does not
9 currently ask any disability-related questions.
10 However, the Census Bureau does collect and analyze
11 disability-related data through various other survey
12 instruments including the American Community Survey or
13 ACS, and the Current Population Survey or CPS.

14 The problem really is that although this data
15 is gathered and is currently available, the Census
16 Bureau generally does not release data pertaining to
17 people with disabilities until the very end. It is a
18 demographic group about which data is released as a
19 last measure.

20 I am really suggesting and inviting members of
21 the committee to make a request to the Census Bureau
22 for the release of this information so that as you go
23 forward in the redistricting process, you can take a
24 look at not only the number but the distribution of

1 people with disabilities in Illinois and ensure that
2 there is a proper allocation of citizens with
3 disabilities in Illinois so that they are properly
4 represented when the lines are redrawn.

5 That will do it. Thank you.

6 MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much.
7 Mr. Cahnman?

8 MR. CAHNMAN: Good afternoon, Madam Chair,
9 members of the committee. Thank you for holding this
10 hearing today in our capital city. My name is Sam
11 Cahnman, C-A-H-N-M-A-N. I am the alderman who was
12 elected to represent this area, Ward 5, in the city of
13 Springfield in 2007, and I was re-elected April 5th.
14 The ward I represent includes the Capitol Complex
15 where we are right now, downtown Springfield and
16 surrounding neighborhoods. Before being elected
17 alderman, I represented this area on Sangamon County
18 Board.

19 This is Illinois' capital city, and at least
20 one member of the Illinois General Assembly should be
21 a resident of our state's capital city. Yet it's been
22 more than ten years since a resident of the capital
23 city has represented this area in our state
24 legislature.

1 The current map provides the city of
2 Springfield with two House districts in large parts of
3 the city of Springfield and the same district as rural
4 Menard County, Logan County and the city of Lincoln.
5 2010 census puts Springfield's population at 116,250.
6 A House district, we were told at the beginning of
7 this hearing, should be approximately 108,734.
8 Therefore, it is possible to fit almost all of the
9 city of Springfield in one House district.

10 There is a commonality and community of
11 interest by the citizens of Springfield and should be
12 kept together to the greatest extent possible.
13 Therefore, I respectfully suggest to this committee
14 that a new House district be drawn that is 100% in the
15 city of Springfield, and those parts of the city that
16 cannot fit into the district being added to
17 neighboring districts. Such a district would comply
18 with the Voting Rights Act.

19 And I, too, urge the committee to hold further
20 hearings after it reveals its proposed map. Thank
21 you.

22 MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Ms.
23 Perdew?

24 MS. PERDEW: Hi. My name is Rosemary

1 Perdew, P-E-R-D-E-W. I am a citizen. I live in
2 Summum. I have long been wishing that I could say
3 something about the shapes of the districts. The one
4 I'm in, District 94, and I think it is the most
5 irregular one. It is very, very long and zig-zags all
6 the way down the way, and I think that it is just
7 comical. The legislators have a close to impossible
8 task to drive around to meet and help constituents.

9 I would propose a rather rectangular one for
10 at least for southern Illinois. I know you have to go
11 far to find people, population but really shouldn't
12 have to have such a zig-zag thing. A grid shape,
13 rectangular-shaped district so that everyone is
14 quickly accessible whenever, whomever is elected for a
15 district to represent those who are there.

16 Regardless of political party, the shape
17 should reflect, you know, as you said, equality of
18 numbers, and -- but I did notice on your map before
19 that there seemed to be a pocket of one district
20 inside of another one, and that didn't seem to fit the
21 rules that you have.

22 And I am just glad to be able to say
23 something. Thank you.

24 MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. We

1 appreciate it.

2 Questions from members of the committee?

3 Representative Rose?

4 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: For the last lady
5 who spoke, what is your name?

6 MS. PERDEW: Rosemary Perdeu.

7 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: Thank you for coming
8 today. Given your testimony as a citizen, I assume
9 you would like to see the maps before the legislature
10 votes on them --

11 MS. PERDEW: Yes.

12 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: -- and have a chance
13 to come back here and comment on them?

14 MS. PERDEW: My chance.

15 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: Okay. So how long
16 do you think you would need as a citizen to look at
17 that to make a decision, couple days, week?

18 MS. PERDEW: Well, if I disagreed with it,
19 then it would take more than a couple days because you
20 would have to change it if you decided to take my
21 word.

22 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: I guess my point is
23 you would like us to have a hearing with maps?

24 MS. PERDEW: Yes. Yes, sir.

1 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: Come back here and
2 testify again?

3 MS. PERDEW: Yes, sir.

4 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: Thank you.
5 Equip to Equality, what was your name, ma'am?

6 MS. JANSEN: Cheryl Jansen.

7 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: Would you like to
8 see the maps as well before they are voted on?

9 MS. JANSEN: Well, it depends whether or
10 not you would get disability-related data that might
11 be reflected in those maps.

12 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: Okay. Mr. Cahnman,
13 you mentioned that you would. How much time would
14 you, the same?

15 MR. CAHNMAN: I would think it would be
16 pretty easy to tell if the entire city was in a
17 district or not, so I would -- as long as I had a day
18 or two, that would be plenty of time.

19 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: Would you say for
20 some of the more complex issues of the previous
21 speakers, it would take more than a day or two?

22 MR. CAHNMAN: I think that's true for
23 other interests, people representing other interests.
24 I think they would need more time. I think it would

1 be reasonable a week or two weeks.

2 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: Thank you.

3 MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much.

4 The Next panel we are back to unanimity of
5 perspective. All three of these represent the
6 Illinois State Republican Party; Tim Krell from the
7 Sangamon County Board, Jerry White who is a member of
8 the Sangamon County Board of Review and Brad Mills who
9 is a member of the Springfield Metropolitan Exposition
10 Auditorium Authority.

11 So if you three would come forward, please.
12 Again, keep your remarks to the three-minute limit.
13 Spell your name, and if you have written testimony,
14 please give us a summary and give us it so we can turn
15 it into the court reporter.

16 MR. WHITE: Thank you, Madam Chair. I am
17 Jerry White.

18 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: Got to turn your
19 microphone on.

20 MR. WHITE: I have -- hello. There it is.
21 Sorry. I have been a resident of Sangamon County all
22 my life and I am 73 and I have sold over \$100 million
23 worth of real estate in this county. I have been a
24 realtor emeritus for 40 years, I'm an insurance broker

1 and mortgage loan originator. I served on the
2 Sangamon County Board of Review.

3 The reason I am here today is because we have
4 two senators as it is set out now and three
5 representatives, and it is my considered opinion that
6 it should be one senator and two representatives to
7 take in all of Sangamon County.

8 According to the census numbers, which I was
9 able to get off of the Internet, there is 195,716
10 residents in Sangamon County, 117,000 in the city of
11 Springfield, leaving 78,716 in the county, and you are
12 talking about 2,000 square miles.

13 Now, as it is set up now, the 99th District
14 which Representative Poe represents is basically the
15 city of Springfield, Representative Brauer has
16 Sangamon and Menard and Senator Bomke has Sangamon,
17 Menard and Lincoln, and these all seem compatible.

18 Now, Representative Mitchell is way over in
19 Illiopolis and I think part of Riverton and some other
20 parts of the county, then he goes all of the way up to
21 Tazwell County. It seems like it is just not -- you
22 know, it doesn't give representation that the people
23 need.

24 For example, the city of Decatur is not at all

1 like Springfield. It is more blue collar workers, a
2 different kind of environment, Archer Daniels Midland.
3 The city of Jacksonville is not like Springfield, but
4 Menard is very compatible and very contiguous to where
5 we are, and basically we have the same historical
6 tourism. What I'm talking about is Lincoln's home,
7 Lincoln's tomb, New Salem. All very compatible, and I
8 think that it would just make it a lot easier if we,
9 if we took it in like that.

10 The other thing I was going to mention was
11 that keeping the community together, basically we are
12 talking about shopping districts, places to eat and
13 medical services. Springfield has turned into pretty
14 much a state capital with the medical industry has
15 really taken over as far as jobs are concerned
16 followed by county government, Horace Mann, places
17 like that.

18 So basically that is the testimony that I
19 wanted to give. Thank you.

20 MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much.

21 Next?

22 MR. KRELL: Yes. Thank you, Madam Chair.

23 My name is Tim Krell, T-I-M, K-R-E-L-L. Life-long

24 resident of Sangamon County, retired firefighter

1 Springfield, Illinois and currently serve on the
2 county board representing District 15 on the south end
3 of Springfield.

4 I want to reiterate what my friend, Mr. White
5 had to say. We are here basically with a different
6 kind of set of circumstances. Instead of wanting to
7 increase our representation, we kind of want to
8 downsize it a little bit like Mr. White said. We want
9 to -- nothing against our friend, Mr. Mitchell or
10 Mr. Brady, but we think we can best be served with two
11 representatives from the 99th and 100th District, and
12 Mr. Bomke is our senator in the 50th District.

13 We feel like we have a lot in common with the
14 Menard County area because of what Jerry was talking
15 about, our Lincoln connection. Those folks may
16 typically use a lot of our services, our medical, our
17 shopping districts, things like that. We'd like to --
18 if you look at the 99th District, they have kind of
19 encroached in on the Riverton area. We'd like to keep
20 Sangamon County kind of intact, all together,
21 represent our own county.

22 So we are here to kind of bring that to light
23 and, again, kind of downsize our representation.

24 Thank you.

1 MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much.

2 I promise not to tell either Representative Mitchell
3 nor Senator Brady what you said.

4 MR. KRELL: No, no.

5 MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Mr. Mills?

6 MR. MILLS: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank
7 you, Madam Chair and respective committee. My name is
8 Brad Mills. I am a board member of the SMEAA Board,
9 Springfield Metropolitan --

10 MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Spell your name,
11 please.

12 MR. MILLS: Sorry. Brad Mills, B-R-A-D,
13 M-I-L-L-S. I'm a life-long resident of Springfield,
14 Illinois. On my second term as community board
15 representative to Subdistrict 5.

16 Not to be repetitive to everything that has
17 been said before the board earlier or committee
18 earlier, I have to concur with Mr. White, Mr. Krell on
19 the redistricting, keeping Menard County, Sangamon
20 County together. I do believe that it is very
21 important that transparency is used in the process so
22 that we can have an opportunity to review and make
23 comments on the map redistricting process.

24 I want to be -- once again, I would like to

1 say thank you for the board hearing us today. I don't
2 have anything else really to add to anything that's
3 been said, so I will just make it short. Thank you
4 again.

5 MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Mr. Mills.

6 Questions from members of the committee?

7 Representative Rose?

8 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: Thank you. It was
9 announced in the comments at the beginning of the
10 panel that you are representing the Illinois
11 Republican Party. I noticed you signed in as
12 Republicans. Are you representing the Illinois
13 Republican Party or just happen to be Republicans?

14 MR. WHITE: Well, we happen to be
15 Republicans, but we're really talking about our
16 community.

17 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: That was my
18 question. You are really --

19 MADAM CHAIRPERSON: But you did sign in
20 representing Illinois State Republican Party.

21 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: I think we may want
22 to correct that sign-in slip, just make sure that --
23 because you each hold board offices within your
24 communities here, you testified on your communities,

1 but I want to make that clear.

2 Okay. So on that note, I'm glad you are here.
3 Your opinion for our community here in Springfield --
4 and I assume that some of these will be almost
5 Mr. Cahnman's answer which will be pretty easy to tell
6 by looking at it, you know, on the face of the map,
7 you know, is it one, two, three, four, however many
8 House seats. You will be able to see it at first
9 blush, but, again, for the whole state of Illinois,
10 would it be your guys' opinion it is going to take a
11 couple of weeks to really delve into some of these
12 issues to make sure that -- you sat through the
13 hearing this morning, I assume -- that we can really
14 have some time to look at these other issues, make
15 sure things are done properly? Is that a fair
16 assessment?

17 MR. MILLS: Sure.

18 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: I would ask each of
19 your names on the record, if you could.

20 MR. KRELL: Yes, that's fair.

21 MR. MILLS: Yes. Once again, I think it
22 is very important to take the time, to be able to take
23 time, take a look at what is going on here, be able to
24 make some discussions, maybe some changes if

1 necessary.

2 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: Thank you. You
3 would like to see the map published before a vote? I
4 think that's probably accurate.

5 MR. KRELL: Two weeks.

6 MR. MILLS: Two weeks would be correct.

7 MR. WHITE: I'm glad you brought that up.
8 We are not representing the Illinois Republican Party
9 per se. There -- we are in the Illinois Republican
10 Party --

11 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: Sure.

12 MR. WHITE: -- as community leaders.

13 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: Correct, but you
14 gentlemen would maybe correct your official --

15 MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Well, there is no
16 correction. You are leading these witnesses. This is
17 not actually a court of law, but I'm willing to --
18 they X'd out the Illinois State Republican Party, but
19 the record will show that's how they originally signed
20 in.

21 MR. WHITE: Sure. I'm President of the
22 Sangamon County GOP Network, Mr. Krell is President of
23 the Evening Republican Club. We are active
24 Republicans. We are not running from it at all.

1 MR. KRELL: No, just trying --

2 MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Representative Poe has
3 a question.

4 REPRESENTATIVE POE: Just quickly a
5 comment, and Sam, if you want to come back up, you
6 can, but first of all, I am the 99th District he is
7 talking about, but I think Sangamon County, as we look
8 at the county, there is that 78,000 people.

9 By the way, I have had a Springfield address
10 for 55 years, so I have been in the community for a
11 long time.

12 But I think what we want to look at, we want
13 to represent the whole county. We want to make sure
14 that's where all -- everybody comes to shop,
15 Springfield, a lot of them work in Springfield, and
16 there is just all those services provided. I think we
17 are one big community here in Sangamon County, and it
18 ought to stay that way.

19 I think the city of Springfield is well
20 represented with two of us and also represents those
21 people when they come to Springfield for medical care,
22 shopping and their jobs. Thank you.

23 MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Further questions?

24 Thank you very much. I will make sure slips

1 are available back in the front desk.

2 I have one more panel signed in, and if there
3 is anybody else in the room that would like to
4 testify, feel free to do so. Just fill out a slip
5 outside.

6 These are people representing the Civil Rights
7 Agenda, Lowell Jaffe, and we earlier heard from
8 Anthony Martinez and Jacob Meister also of the Civil
9 Rights Agenda.

10 So if you would come forward. Again, if we
11 have written testimony, give a summary. Keep your
12 remarks under three minutes and be sure to spell your
13 name for the court reporter.

14 MR. JAFFE: Thank you, Madam Chair,
15 members. I'm Lowell Jaffe, L-O-W-E-L-L, J-A-F-F-E,
16 and as you mentioned, I'm here on behalf of Civil
17 Rights Agenda. I'm the political and policy director.

18 This is Civil Rights agenda's third appearance
19 for the public hearings of the House redistricting
20 committee. At the first two appearances, the Civil
21 Rights Agenda made argument that although LGBT
22 identified people number an estimated one million in
23 the state of Illinois, the US census data which you
24 have used as a basis for determining district

1 boundaries discriminates against the LGBT population
2 by not including any questions that would help
3 identify idea clear numbers and population density.
4 This leads to an enormous minority community without
5 an effective means to come before you and, for that
6 matter, come before other public bodies and make a
7 case for proper representation.

8 We start with this fact just to establish kind
9 of a vital foundation. Unlike most minorities, the
10 LGBT community must rely on our own resources. In
11 prior testimony, we share data from sources such as
12 the American Community Survey and also recent studies
13 done by the University of Illinois at Chicago.

14 Today is our final appearance. We present
15 Civil Rights Agenda's own census data.

16 Now, allow me to explain the source and the
17 purpose for compiling data. One of Civil Rights
18 Agenda's primary missions is to identify likely LGBT
19 and allied voters and to use this data to educate and
20 persuade voters on issues of import and more
21 importantly, to be a much needed voice at election
22 time.

23 As previously stated, the Civil Rights Agenda
24 has used a database to reach over 100,000 voters of

1 which we saw over 70% voter turnout in the last
2 election. We also used it to mobilize voters on
3 issues such as civil unions, Don't Ask Don't Tell and
4 the recent Senate adoption bill. No doubt you have
5 all heard from constituents that were prompted by our
6 outreach.

7 I'm the only one giving oral testimony.

8 The Civil Rights Agenda list represents
9 approximately 10% of what we anticipate to be the LGBT
10 population in Illinois. Using cutting edge
11 microtargeting and computer algorithms, the Civil
12 Rights Agenda has created a model incorporating voter
13 data, consumer data and other publicly available
14 information including self identification to collect a
15 list that, by the end of this year, will total over
16 200,000 registered voters.

17 Now, if you wouldn't mind referring to Exhibit
18 A, which I hope you all have, which is a map of the
19 state of Illinois. The Civil Rights Agenda operates
20 -- do you have a map?

21 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: No.

22 MR. JAFFE: Do you have a map?

23 REPRESENTATIVE MAUTINO: No.

24 MR. JAFFE: Well, we brought them for all

1 of the members.

2 MR. MARTINEZ: We actually brought copies
3 to distribute to prior to our testimony so you can
4 refer to them while we are discussing them but we will
5 --

6 MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Spell your name for
7 the court reporter. You are speaking after all.

8 MR. MARTINEZ: Oh, sorry. Anthony
9 Martinez, Executive Director. A-N-T-H-O-N-Y
10 M-A-R-T-I-N-E-Z.

11 MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Okay.

12 MR. JAFFE: The map which you are about to
13 receive is of the entire state of Illinois. The Civil
14 Rights Agenda operates on the premise and educates
15 both members of its own population and allies and that
16 LGBT people live in all parts of the state.

17 In fact, one of our purposes is to dispel the
18 myth that gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender people
19 are otherwise in urban pockets, particularly in north
20 Chicago.

21 What you see before you is quite the contrary.
22 Although like the state, the majority of the
23 population is in the greater Chicagoland area, there
24 is significant pockets in every part of the state.

1 Again, this map represents approximately 10%
2 of the total or 108,000 people. As we progress our
3 voice, specific action will be obvious. We know at
4 this time there is neither the data nor the political
5 will to carve LGBT centric districts throughout the
6 state. However, our political action will speak for
7 itself as we mobilize for the 2012 elections and
8 influence, for whatever the final map looks like, the
9 outcome of races throughout the state.

10 We've already begun the process of targeting
11 certain members not based on their own sexual or
12 gender identity but how they vote on issues that
13 relate to civil rights and equality. We envision a
14 state that discriminates against none and ensures
15 protection to all. We come before you today to make
16 our assistance known and our objectives clear.

17 With that said, please refer to Exhibits B and
18 C. These maps illustrate the density of the
19 population on Chicago's north and south sides.
20 As you can see, a very compelling argument could be
21 made that LGBT representative should see the current
22 number of only three openly gay and lesbian members of
23 the House. At the very least it illustrates that
24 unified, mobilized and issues driven, the will of the

1 LGBT population in these districts must be followed.
2 And I'm talking specifically about Districts 13, 14,
3 which are represented by Representatives Harris and
4 new member cast I had did I as well as District #40
5 which is represented by -- currently by Representative
6 Mell. If you refer to our last map, Exhibit D, this
7 shows these three districts in the density of the LGBT
8 population within those districts. We understand the
9 boundaries may change, but given the density of the
10 LGBT population within the north side of Chicago,
11 increasing the size of those districts will only aid
12 in increasing the influence of our community.

13 We also ask that the 12th District, which is
14 currently held by Representative Feigenholtz who is an
15 unmatched advocate and voice for LGBT issues, be
16 retained and close to its current boundaries.

17 So at this point we ask the committee to -- as
18 you draw the map that will determine our fate, that
19 you keep in mind the constitutional right of all
20 people are created equal and, in turn, that all people
21 require equal protection under the law.

22 I'm happy to take questions.

23 MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much,
24 Mr. Jaffe. I gather he took up your time as well,

1 Mr. Meister, yours too, Mr. Martinez.

2 MR. JAFFE: I apologize for that.

3 MADAM CHAIRPERSON: That is okay. I think
4 you were speaking for the group.

5 Questions from members of the committee?
6 Representative Rose?

7 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: Well, this is the
8 last panel. I have asked everyone in four hearings
9 now. How long would you need to analyze a map, and
10 would you suggest that there needs to be public
11 hearings where the map is in front of you that you can
12 look at and testify on before a vote is taken?

13 So two questions; how much time do you need to
14 analyze it and should there be more public hearings
15 with a map in front you prior to a vote?

16 MR. MARTINEZ: I will go ahead an answer
17 that question. Yes, we do believe that we should have
18 time to review. I would say about two weeks, echo
19 what others have said, but I would additionally state
20 that if, you know, those hearing times are great and
21 we love to come and present our thoughts on the new
22 maps, but if those are not taking into account and the
23 maps were not revised after those hearings, then sort
24 of seems like a, you know, not that -- anyway, it

1 seems that it wouldn't be worth our time to even
2 testify, put it that way.

3 MADAM CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much.
4 No further questions. Thank you very much, panel, for
5 your hard work and your testimony.

6 Anybody else in the room would like to come
7 forward, speak. Now is your chance. Now is your
8 opportunity. Going once, going twice. Seeing no
9 offers, the committee will stand in recess.

10 (Public Hearing concluded at 4:50 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, JENNIFER L. CROWE, a Certified Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public within and for the State of Illinois, do hereby certify that the foregoing proceeding was taken by me to the best of my ability and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this proceeding was taken, and further that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties thereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.

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The State of Illinois

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