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ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

Report of proceedings had at the Redistricting
Committee for the Illinois House of Representatives held
virtually via Zoom videoconference on the 8th day of
April, A.D., 2021, commencing at the hour of 10:02 a.m.

CHAIRMAN:

CURTIS J. TARVER, II

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1 CHAIRMAN TARVER: The House committee meeting
2 may come to order.

3 My name is Curtis Tarver. I'm the state
4 representative in the 25th District. I'm a member of
5 the Redistricting Committee and will be chairing today's
6 meeting today -- today's meeting.

7 I'd like to welcome local representatives who
8 joined us today as well. I see Thaddeus Jones. I'd
9 also like to recognize -- and ensure I'll ensure them an
10 opportunity to speak as well -- Leader Bourne,
11 Spokesperson Butler, Representative Severin, and I
12 believe Representative Spain is on as well.

13 I'd like to thank everyone else who has chosen
14 to participate in today's hearing. Your insight and
15 participation are as important as ever as we begin the
16 redistricting process under unprecedented circumstances.

17 The United States and Illinois constitutions
18 require the General Assembly to redraw political
19 boundaries every 10 years to account for population
20 shifts. These hearings are a part of that process.
21 House Democrats are dedicated to transparency and public
22 participation in the redistricting process.

23 While state law requires a minimum of four
24 public hearings throughout the State, our Committee

1 intends to hold far more and present additional avenues
2 for public participation. Our goal is to hear from as
3 many people as possible and to gain as much information
4 as possible about the diverse communities of our state.
5 Our staff will be making hundreds of phone calls to
6 encourage participation in these upcoming hearings.
7 Those who wish to participate should be given the
8 opportunity. Period.

9 We're holding a series of virtual and in-person
10 hearings throughout the state. Earlier last month we
11 announced a schedule of 23 hearings before proposing a
12 redistricting plan. For comparison, in 2011 the House
13 Redistricting Committee held a total of 17 hearings.

14 While we're guided in this endeavor by the
15 United States Constitution, the federal Voting Rights
16 Act, Illinois Constitution, and the Illinois Voting
17 Rights Act, we're also interested in any relevant
18 demographic information such as social, political,
19 economic, religious, and any other characteristic that
20 are unique to your community.

21 We want to hear your specific views on any
22 social, political, economic, or religious interest
23 commonly held in the community; any specific interest
24 groups that exist; any concerns you may have about the

1 current boundaries; or in the alternative, what works
2 well about the current boundaries. In short, we want to
3 hear any testimony that you believe is relevant to
4 drawing our new political boundaries.

5 This year, for the first time, Illinois
6 residents will be able to participate in the process
7 from the comfort of their own homes, including through
8 remote participation in these hearings and by drawing
9 their own maps via a website. The Public Drawing Portal
10 is available at ILHouseDems.com/Redistricting. This
11 allows any Illinois resident to draw a district and to
12 share that map with the Committee for consideration.

13 The public may also submit written testimony or
14 any other public comment to the Committee by email at
15 Redistricting@HDS.ILGA.Gov. All written testimony,
16 public comments, and maps submitted to the Committee
17 will be made publicly available at ILGA.Gov and
18 ILHouseDems.com/Redistricting. Transcripts of today's
19 Committee hearing will also be uploaded to those sites.

20 As for today, we will begin with a short slide
21 show presentation. Following that brief presentation,
22 we have a number of witnesses who have indicated a
23 desire to testify. If you submitted written testimony,
24 we'd ask that you briefly summarize it in your oral

1 presentation, and also for each witness to please be
2 sure to state and spell your name when you are
3 presenting.

4 And I just want to acknowledge I do see that
5 Representative Burke is on as well. I might have missed
6 her earlier.

7 Now, I want to recognize our Spokesperson,
8 either Butler or Leader Bourne in case there are
9 comments from the Republican side of the aisle.

10 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Thank you, Chair Tarver.
11 I appreciate the opportunity, again, to hear from folks
12 about redistricting today in South Cook. I'm actually
13 sitting in my car in a parking lot just about in south
14 Cook County right now. I'm happy to be here.

15 I did see that our friend Representative Jones
16 is on there, and I would like to congratulate the
17 mayor-elect as well for his big win the other night. So
18 I'm happy to be here. I'm looking forward to the
19 testimony. Thank you, sir.

20 CHAIR TARVER: Thank you. And I also see that
21 Representatives Theresa Mah and Representative Fran
22 Hurley have joined us, so welcome to them as well.

23 Now, we will go to staff for a brief
24 presentation on the redistricting process.

1 STAFF MEMBER LOWE: Good morning, everyone. My
2 name is Aaron Lowe. I'm an employee of the Illinois
3 House of Representatives.

4 I'm going to give a brief overview of the
5 state's redistricting procedure. I'll briefly discuss
6 the background of redistricting and the redistricting
7 process in Illinois. I will also go over federal and
8 state redistricting requirements and guidelines.
9 Finally, we will be looking at what preliminary data
10 reveals about population trends in the state and region.

11 And the spelling of my name is A-a-r-o-n
12 L-o-w-e.

13 What is redistricting? Redistricting is the
14 process that ensures all Illinois residents are afforded
15 equal representation in the state legislature and
16 Federal Congress as guaranteed by the United States
17 Constitution.

18 The U.S. Supreme Court held a series of rulings
19 in the 1960s that Congressional and state legislative
20 districts in each state must be of approximately equal
21 population, establishing the principle of one person,
22 one vote. As a result, states redraw their
23 Congressional and state districts every 10 years to
24 reflect changes in population.

1 The timeline for redrawing the legislative map
2 is based on the Illinois Constitution. The Constitution
3 gives the Illinois Legislature the initial
4 responsibility of passing a new legislative map. Both
5 the House and the Senate must pass a plan, which then
6 must be signed by the governor.

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

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

23 In order to understand the process of creating
24 new districts, we must look at some legal guiding

1 principles. First among these is equal population.
2 Congressional districts must be nearly equal in
3 population, while state districts must be substantially
4 equal in population.

5 Federal and state law also require that all
6 districts be contiguous, which means that all parts of
7 the district must be next to each other unless connected
8 by water. Annexations and unincorporated areas in
9 municipalities and counties sometimes mean communities
10 are discontinuous. However, Congressional and state
11 districts must be adjacent or connected at all points.

12 A more difficult requirement to define is
13 compactness. There are at least 30 different scientific
14 ways to measure how compact a district is, but no
15 statute or court precedent identifies a standard
16 criteria of compactness.

17 In theory, compactness focuses on the shape of a
18 district's boundaries, how spread out a district is from
19 a central core, or where the district's population
20 center of gravity is. In practice, compactness is
21 hindered by geography and on-the-ground realities, so
22 often the interpretation of compactness involves more
23 than a visual test.

24 Illinois is one of 14 states that nests its

1 House districts -- also called representative
2 district -- inside of one of its senates districts --
3 also called legislative districts. Map makers will look
4 where possible to follow existing political and
5 geographic boundaries in ways that maximize a
6 community's opportunity to have its interests
7 represented. As you know, however, county,
8 municipality, township, and national geographic
9 boundaries are not always compact or contiguous.

10 By studying population data and holding public
11 hearings like this to listen to the thoughts of
12 residents from across the state, lawmakers will look to
13 identify what are known as communities of interest.

14 A community of interest is a group of people
15 concentrated in a geographic area that share a social,
16 culture, ethnic, economic, religious, or other
17 characteristics and can be joined in a district to most
18 effectively to have their voices heard. The factors
19 contributing to any particular community of interest
20 vary throughout the State.

21 Federal law requires redistricting plans to
22 respect minority representation. The principles of the
23 Federal Voting Rights Act are in place to prevent the
24 reduction of opportunities for minority populations to

1 participate equally in the electoral process. However,
2 districts cannot be drawn solely on the basis of race.

3 Illinois law also protects representation of
4 racial and language minority groups. The Illinois
5 Voting Rights Act helps prevent minority fracturing or
6 dividing a concentration of minorities among two or more
7 districts by requiring mapmakers to consider creating
8 crossover districts, coalition districts, or influence
9 districts.

10 A crossover district is one in which large
11 minority groups may elect the candidate of their choice
12 with help from voters of the majority group. A
13 coalition district brings multiple racial or language
14 minority groups together to elect the candidate of their
15 choice.

16 An influence district allows a group to
17 influence an election outcome without being the majority
18 population in a district. These state law requirements
19 come into play after compliance with federal law and the
20 U.S. and state constitutional requirements on
21 redistricting. In addition, the law ensures
22 transparency and public participation by requiring
23 public hearings across the State, one of which we are
24 having here right now.

1 At the end of the presentation, I'll display an
2 email address on the screen -- which Representative
3 Tarver already provided -- where you can submit your
4 ideas. The Committee is also accepting written
5 testimony today.

6 Now that we've covered the redistricting
7 process, let's discuss what data shows about Illinois
8 population. The U.S. Census Bureau has delayed the
9 release of much of the decennial census data by more
10 than six months until this fall.

11 However, the Census Bureau's annual population
12 estimates show some trends that can help inform the work
13 ahead. The Cenusus Bureaus's 2019 population estimate
14 shows an overall decline in state population over the
15 past decade. There are, however, areas that project to
16 have population gains.

17 Communities with the largest population by
18 percentage increase since 2010 are Kendall County,
19 Monroe County, Champaign County, and Kane County.

20 Demographically speaking, the state's white
21 population is projected projected to decline, while
22 African-American population statewide will likely see a
23 smaller overall decline. The Hispanic and Asian
24 population across Illinois is projected to see growth.

1 Locally, Cook County is projected to see a
2 modest decrease in population. The County's white and
3 African-American population stand to decline, while
4 Asian and Hispanic populations will likely increase.

5 Thank you all so much for your attention and for
6 coming out today to share your thoughts. As the chair
7 mentioned, you'll be able to find testimony from this
8 and other hearings on ILGA.Gov and on
9 ILHouseDems.com/Redistricting. The redistricting
10 website offers additional ways to engage in the process,
11 including our public drawing portal, where you can draw
12 and submit your own district maps.

13 You can send further written testimony and any
14 suggestions to the Committee at any time by e-mailing
15 RedistrictingCommittee@HDS.ILGA.Gov.

16 Back over to you, Chair.

17 CHAIR TARVER: Thanks a lot, Aaron. We
18 appreciate it.

19 We'll go right into our first panel, which are
20 mayor and village presidents. The first person I have
21 up is Eli Geiss, Village of Symerton, I believe, it is.

22 Eli, if you're there, please feel free to
23 announce yourself. Be sure to state and spell your name
24 for the record, and you can proceed with your testimony.

1 MR. GEISS: Can you hear me?

2 CHAIR TARVER: We can hear you just fine. Thank
3 you, sir.

4 MR. GEISS: Okay. Hello, my name is Eli Geiss,
5 E-l-i, last name is G-e-i-s-s. I'm the village
6 president of the Village of Symerton.

7 We are in Illinois State House District 80. Our
8 state House representative is Anthony DeLuca. I would
9 like the Village to stay in this district. Anthony has
10 done so much for the village. He has secured funding
11 and has kept in contact with me over the pandemic to
12 make sure if we ever needed anything. He always stays
13 in touch and is a great representative. Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN TARVER: Okay. Thank you very much,
15 Eli. We certainly appreciate that. If you don't mind,
16 we ask you just to stick around for a few minutes in
17 case there are any questions for you or your panel.
18 Okay?

19 MR. GEISS: Sure.

20 CHAIRMAN TARVER: Thank you.

21 I want to acknowledge I do see that
22 Representative Davis has joined us as well, so thank
23 you, Representative.

24 The next person that I have up to testify is

1 Mike Einhorn from the Village of Crete.

2 Mike, if you're there, please just state your
3 name and spell it for the record and then proceed with
4 your testimony.

5 MR. EINHORN: I am here. My first name is Mike,
6 M-i-k-e, Einhorn, E-i-n-h-o-r-n. I'm the village
7 president from the Village of Crete, Illinois.

8 I'll try to be as brief as possible. I did
9 speak on behalf of my municipality 10 years ago when we
10 did this, and, quite frankly, I was very disappointed in
11 the outcome. It didn't appear as though the committee
12 at that time really paid any attention to the testimony
13 that was received then, so that's the reason I'm here
14 today.

15 I agree with some of the things that were
16 originally stated by the gentleman just two times
17 preceding here. I personally believe that we need to be
18 concentric; we need to be compact; and we also need to
19 be common sense oriented when we decide to do what we're
20 going to do here.

21 If you look at what happened the last 10 years
22 -- or 10 years ago, you'll find out that the districts
23 back then turned out to be like lollipops on sticks. Us
24 on the south edge -- southeast edge of this particular

1 area were on the end of the stick, and then the larger
2 populations were up in the Chicagoland area. So that
3 doesn't make a lot of sense to me, and it seemed like it
4 certainly violated the three types of criteria we were
5 supposed to be using at that time.

6 What I would like to see is I would like to see
7 our towns being represented by one person instead of
8 multiple people. I would like for that -- hence the
9 compact issue. And the reason I say that is because
10 when -- the circumstances we're in, more compact areas
11 north to us have complete different demographics than we
12 do have out here.

13 It's just -- when you think about how you -- a
14 state legislator will -- they'll pay attention to the
15 areas of greater population and less to the ones who
16 don't have the population because that's where the votes
17 are generated. I understand that, but that can all be
18 avoided by following those three things, concentric,
19 compact, and common sense.

20 So I guess that's the extent of what I would
21 hope we would do. I don't think it's a good idea to be
22 splitting communities independent of multiple districts
23 because then it just becomes a mess. When somebody on
24 one side of the street has one state red and somebody on

1 the other side has another state rep, I just think
2 that's bad for the whole area. So those are my -- those
3 are my comments.

4 CHAIRMAN TARVER: Okay. Thank you very much,
5 Mike. I certainly appreciate your participation. And if
6 you could stick around for a few minutes in case they
7 have questions, we'd appreciate that as well.

8 The last person I have to round out this panel
9 is Vernard Alsberry who is with the Village of Abelcet.

10 Vernard, I see you there. If you'll just,
11 again, state your name and spell it for the record and
12 proceed with your testimony. We appreciate it.

13 MR. ALSBERRY: Thank you. Vernard Alsberry,
14 V-e-r-n-a-r-d, Alsberry, A-l-s-b-e-r-r-y, and Jr.,
15 because there is another Vernard Alsberry running around
16 that belongs to me. So I want to make sure that it's I
17 that you guys recognize.

18 First, I want to say thank you for actually
19 having this conversation with us here in the southland
20 region. It's great to be invited here.

21 I do agree with Mayor Einhorn on the difficulty
22 we have when you have multiple state reps representing
23 different areas. We are already spliced up here in the
24 Village of Abelcet in multiple townships. We have Bloom

1 -- not Bloom, but we have Rich, Thornton, and then we
2 have Bremen, which makes it difficult already.

3 My main concern at this time is when I look at
4 the redistricting to ensure that we keep some type of
5 common sense effort, as Mike said, to continue what we
6 have. Right now we have the 38th District as
7 represented by us with a majority of Bremen, and then we
8 have the 19th Senate District, which is really diverse.
9 Both districts are very diverse, which help assist us in
10 actually dealing with issues here in the southland
11 region.

12 The diversity that we have here is not seen
13 anywhere else in the State. You can come to these
14 districts and you see multicultural events going on. We
15 see -- you can walk into any restaurant in this area and
16 it's very diverse. I think we're one of the few areas
17 in the state of Illinois that shows a diversity that you
18 would like to have when you redistrict.

19 So I think when they carved out the 38th
20 District they did a very good job in doing that because
21 it did not only provide some diversity, but it also
22 provided more minority representation in the House
23 itself.

24 My concern is that the Senate District continues

1 to be in this region because the diversity it shows in
2 the Senate district between Tinley and Hazelcrest and
3 Markham and other communities represents what you're
4 trying to do when you redistrict. Changing that would
5 really -- I don't even see how you can really change
6 that -- change these districts because it was done so
7 well.

8 The population has increased in the southland.
9 It's not that we have people decreasing out here. It
10 has increased solely that we have -- when we
11 redistricted last time, we're moving more and more
12 Chicago districts all the way out here to the suburbs,
13 which is a very different -- even governmental wise,
14 when you look at the southland and you look at Chicago
15 and how you balance those two.

16 So my testimony today is that we continue to
17 work with -- continue to keep the diversity here in the
18 southland region. The representation that we have here
19 is really solid. The decrease that you talk about in
20 white population, black population has not happened in
21 southland. People are moving to the southland.

22 So my testimony is that I hope when we look at
23 these maps that the reality represents the diversity
24 we're trying to accomplish. And that's my -- my

1 statements for today. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN TARVER: Okay. Thank you very much.

3 I see Leader Bourne is already on it. I was
4 going to see if anybody has any questions, and she's T'd
5 up and ready.

6 So, Leader Bourne, please proceed.

7 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: Thank you so much.

8 Thank you to our witnesses.

9 I have first a question for the chair, if you
10 don't mind. I was listening to the summary, the
11 PowerPoint we've heard in all of these committees from
12 staff, and I heard a statement that I don't know if I've
13 heard before. So I wanted to get your input on this,
14 that when we spoke about the trends in the data of
15 population growth and loss that these trends would help
16 inform our work forward.

17 Is it the intention of your caucus or this
18 Committee that we would be using the data that was cited
19 in that presentation to draw the maps?

20 CHAIRMAN TARVER: So first and foremost, I think
21 when you referred to -- well, I thought what you were
22 referring to was my statement. That's what has been
23 presented at each time. You mean the presentation by
24 staff?

1 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: Yes, sir.

2 CHAIRMAN TARVER: Sure. So far be it for me to
3 speak on behalf of staff. I'd be happy to speak with
4 the speaker's office and get an answer for you. Okay?

5 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: That would be great.
6 Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN TARVER: Sure.

8 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: I also have a question
9 for you, Mr. Einhorn. You were talking about your
10 testimony last time. I was not a part of this process a
11 decade ago, so I was wondering if you could give this
12 Committee a little bit of background on what your
13 testimony was 10 years ago and then what the outcome of
14 the map was and then how you would make it more fair.

15 So sorry. That's a three-part question, but a
16 little bit of context and then what you see that came
17 out of that map that you think could be done more fairly
18 this time.

19 MR. EINHORN: Well, a lot of this is going to be
20 conjecture on my part. But my comments back then were
21 the, you know, concentric and compact comments, but that
22 was met with a response as you -- if you look at the way
23 the map is drawn, particularly for the representative's
24 areas, everybody wanted to get their thumb -- thumbprint

1 on the airport property.

2 In order to do that, they had to make these long
3 extensions out of the city of Chicago out to the airport
4 area, and that's how it -- that's how it showed up. You
5 know, the districts have a large concentration of
6 population up close to Chicagoland and the
7 surrounding -- or the border towns, and then as you came
8 out to the south, it's a thin, narrow piece of property
9 district design and it goes out to the airport property.

10 That's exactly what we didn't want them to do,
11 and that's exactly what they did. And, you know, it
12 doesn't make a lot of sense to me. I'm not sure how
13 that helps or hurts the airport. Apparently at that
14 time people thought that that helped. Here we are 10
15 years later and apparently that didn't have any effect.

16 So that's -- I think that's pretty much the gist
17 of what happened, and I was very disappointed to see
18 they did exactly the opposite of what the people out
19 here had requested them to not do. And that's really
20 the genesis of my comments.

21 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: I appreciate that. You
22 also said you have a number of representative districts.
23 How many cover your area?

24 MR. EINHORN: Well, my primary one is the 29th,

1 and that's Representative Jones. But there's also Nick
2 Smith who is farther to the -- on the far east side,
3 just a very, very small portion. In fact, I don't even
4 think -- there is some commercial property in his
5 district, but there are in -- as far as residential
6 properties in the Village of Crete, there are none.
7 It's just kind of weird because they run right straight
8 down the state line.

9 So I had -- basically I had two there, and both
10 were under Senator Sims, you know, the overarching
11 senate district. It's -- I used to have Diluka, but his
12 district wound up meandering to the west, bypassing
13 Crete and heading all the way down to the southwest. It
14 just was drawn very, very bizarre. If you look at the
15 -- if you look at the present map, I think you will
16 easily see what I'm talking about.

17 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: I appreciate that. And
18 we've heard this in several hearings that we see
19 fracturing of communities, which, you know, it doesn't
20 do anything to -- I'm not saying anything against your
21 current representatives, but it is very difficult for
22 communities who are split up to have the same kind of
23 representation as a community that is in the same
24 district. So I appreciate your comments.

1 Mr. Chairman, I think that's --

2 MR. EINHORN: The only thing I would -- the only
3 other thing that I would say is -- and this is no
4 reflection on our state representative at all -- but
5 when you have a large concentration of population in
6 Chicago and you have this little dinky population out in
7 Crete, where are you going to spend the majority of your
8 time? I mean, that's just -- that's just common sense.

9 We don't have a huge amount of needs out here,
10 but by the same token, you know, that's just what people
11 do. They put their -- they put their efforts in areas
12 where it will actually do them the greatest amount of
13 good, and I understand that.

14 But, again, I -- I'm not -- this is no
15 reflection on Representative Jones at all because he and
16 I are working together on some pretty exciting stuff
17 right now, and I enjoy working with him. But it's
18 just -- if you could just take -- go to 50,000 feet and
19 look down and you see this big blob of population up
20 north and you see this little blob of population down
21 south, you can't help but, you know, think about it in
22 those terms.

23 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: That's very helpful. I
24 appreciate your testimony.

1 CHAIRMAN TARVER: Thank you. As a matter of
2 housekeeping, I want to acknowledge that Leader
3 Gordon-Booth is on.

4 And then just so that we have a clear record, I
5 want to be sure -- I appreciate Leader Bourne's
6 comments. I want to make sure that we understand that
7 fracturing is a legal term. And so while we may have
8 heard testimony about what individuals believe to
9 represent fracturing, I want it very, very clear that
10 that is a legal term that is yet to be determined if
11 these maps have been actually fractured in any capacity.
12 So just so that we have a clean record, I wanted to put
13 that out there.

14 We can proceed to the next panel -- well, let me
15 say this: The next panel, I apologize, is actually just
16 written testimony, so let me read this for the record.

17 We have written testimony from Frank Fleischer
18 with the Village of Mokena. I have notes that we
19 potentially will have written testimony from Richard
20 Hofeld of the Village of Homewood, but tonight that has
21 not been received.

22 So we'll proceed to the next panel of our school
23 administrators. I have Dr. Kimako -- I apologize if I'm
24 butchering this. Dr. Patterson, let me say that -- from

1 the South Cook Division ILASA.

2 Dr. Patterson, first of all, I apologize for
3 butchering your name.

4 DR. PATTERSON: You didn't.

5 CHAIRMAN TARVER: Second of all, if you can just
6 state and spell your name for the record, and you can
7 jump right into your testimony. Thank you.

8 DR. PATTERSON: Sure. My name is Dr. Kimako,
9 K-i-m-a-k-o, Patterson, P-a-t-t-e-r-s-o-n.

10 I just wanted to thank you for the opportunity.
11 I wanted to absolutely thank Representative Will Davis
12 for the opportunity to just speak in front of the
13 Committee.

14 I just wanted to make sure as an educator in
15 South Cook that we are looking at diversity when we are
16 talking about the redistricting process, that we're
17 looking at diversity as well as quality and equity. I
18 don't know that we always look through the lens of
19 equity. I realize that it's just a word that a lot of
20 people are using.

21 But I've been in education in South Cook for the
22 past 25 years, and as the president of IASA South Cook,
23 I represent all 66 districts in South Cook. So I can
24 speak to the need to ensure that we continue with the

1 diversity that exists and making sure that a process is
2 equitable for all of the students. Over 25,000
3 educators in the area and over 200,000 students are
4 serviced in south cook. So thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN TARVER: Thank you. And normally this
6 is where I would say I hope you can stay on for a few
7 minutes in case there are questions for the panel. You
8 are the panel, so I certainly hope you can stay on for a
9 couple of minutes just in case there are questions.

10 Does anyone have questions for the witness, Dr.
11 Patterson? Going once, going twice. Okay.

12 Well, thank you very much for your
13 participation. We appreciate your testimony, Dr.
14 Patterson. Have a good rest of your day.

15 DR. PATTERSON: Thank you. Take care.

16 CHAIRMAN TARVER: You're welcome. Thank you.

17 And then I have a note. I do see a witness,
18 Deena. I apologize. I don't see your last name, but I
19 do remember -- there you are. Habbal, Deena Habbal from
20 the Illinois Muslim Civic Action Coalition; is that
21 right?

22 MS. HABBAL: Coalition, yeah.

23 CHAIRMAN TARVER: Awesome. Coalition, excuse
24 me. So, Deena, good to see you again. I think you know

1 the drill by now. So if you will state your name for
2 the record and spell it, you can go right into your
3 presentation. Yes, you may share you screen as well.

4 MS. HABBAL: Okay. I'm going to actually keep
5 this one short and simple because I have seen many names
6 here before, and I'm sure you all are sick of me by now.

7 My name is Deena Habbal, spelled D-e-e-n-a, last
8 name H-a-b-b-a-l. I'm from the Illinois Muslim Civic
9 Coalition.

10 We are a coalition of over 150 partners and
11 allies of all races, ethnicities, class, and
12 backgrounds. Our focus is ensuring policies made for us
13 are made with us.

14 CHAIRMAN TARVER: It sounds like you were a
15 little frozen. I don't know if everybody else could
16 hear you. I couldn't, so I just wanted to make sure
17 there's a clear record.

18 Court Reporter, could you hear Deena?

19 THE STENOGRAPHER: Yes. I could hear her.

20 CHAIRMAN TARVER: Okay. So it was my internet.
21 I apologize. I didn't mean to interrupt you. Please go
22 ahead.

23 MS. HABBAL: No problem.

24 Our focus is ensuring policies made for us are

1 made with us, and we believe redistricting is a critical
2 piece of this.

3 This past year, my husband and I worked together
4 as community organizers with the coalition to get out to
5 vote and to get people to fill out the census. We also
6 completed the census as a family for the first time and
7 got our families to complete the census. My father
8 wouldn't complete the census, I guess, before this past
9 year because, I don't know, some conspiracy thing or
10 whatever, and he's been here since college. So that was
11 a big win.

12 I always was told that Illinois is a diverse
13 population -- has a diverse population in our country,
14 but while working in the field, I actually got to see
15 it. But I also saw some challenges faced by
16 marginalized communities who are considered white by the
17 census, such as newly arrived Syrian refugees. Some
18 challenges they face are affordable housing, language
19 access, and transportation.

20 The solutions to these problems are funded on
21 the basis of census data. This is just one example of
22 the many communities who are considered white but not
23 afforded the same perks as non-indivisible communities
24 who are also considered white. Together, my husband and

1 I are Syrian, Jordanian, white, Irish, and Cherokee, so
2 we want to see a fair representation of our communities
3 so we can have people like us in office.

4 We believe that not one data represents our
5 minority communities, and that the coalition recommends
6 that legislators make sure census data; plus community
7 organizations' input; plus other data, including ACS, is
8 used while redistricting and that the process is
9 transparent, inclusive, and clear.

10 In Illinois, we know that we have communities
11 that did not exist in 2010; we have others that were
12 never vocal about their needs; and others who have grown
13 in the past 10 years, such as Syrian refugees and many
14 others. And that's all. Thank you very much for
15 letting me share that.

16 CHAIRMAN TARVER: Thank you, Deena. And I don't
17 think anybody's tired of you. I think everyone
18 appreciates the fact that you consistently show up and
19 make your voice heard on behalf of your community.
20 That's important. I think that's what all of us want to
21 see.

22 So that being said, if there are any questions
23 for Deena, please just raise your hand and we'll
24 acknowledge you. Going once, going twice. Okay.

1 So Deena was our last witness scheduled to
2 speak. I'm going to just check my notes and make sure
3 that that's the case. Yeah. I don't see anyone else.
4 So let me just -- again, thank you.

5 (Technical difficulties.)

6 So I wanted to just thank everyone, again, for
7 their time and remind everyone -- can you hear me,
8 Isaiah?

9 THE STENOGRAPHER: Yes.

10 CHAIRMAN TARVER: I just want to make sure that
11 I, again, mention the website, which is
12 ILHouseDems.com/Redistricting and also ILGA.Gov. If
13 anyone has any public comment or written testimony to
14 provide, email address is Redistricting@HDS.ILGA.Gov.

15 Thank you, again, to everyone who joined us, and
16 especially thanks to you, Isaiah, for making sure that
17 the public has an accurate record. I don't think I've
18 acknowledged that in the past, but it's very important.
19 So thank you for helping us all out.

20 We will recess subject to the call of the chair.
21 Thank you.

22 (10:39 a.m., hearing concluded.)

23

24

1 STATE OF ILLINOIS)
 2) SS.
 3 COUNTY OF COOK)
 4

5 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

6 Isaiah Roberts, being first duly sworn, on
 7 oath says that he is a Certified Shorthand Reporter,
 8 Registered Professional Reporter doing business in the
 9 City of Chicago, County of Cook and the State of
 10 Illinois;

11 That he reported in shorthand the proceedings
 12 had at the foregoing Redistricting Committee Meeting; .

13 And that the foregoing is a true and correct
 14 transcript of his shorthand notes so taken as aforesaid
 15 and contains all the proceedings had at the said
 16 Redistricting Committee Meeting.

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Isaiah Roberts, CSR, RPR
 Illinois CSR #084-004890

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