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STATE OF ILLINOIS
SENATE REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE
HOUSE REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday, May 26, 2021
4:00 p.m.

State House
Springfield, Illinois
via Zoom videoconference

1 PRESENT via Zoom videoconference:

2

3 ILLINOIS SENATE REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE:

- 4 SENATOR OMAR AQUINO, Chair
- 5 SENATOR ELGIE SIMS, JR., Vice Chair
- 6 SENATOR SCOTT BENNETT, Member
- 7 SENATOR CRISTINA CASTRO, Member
- 8 SENATOR BILL CUNNINGHAM, Member
- 9 SENATOR MATTIE HUNTER, Member
- 10 SENATOR LAURA MURPHY, Member
- 11 SENATOR JASON PLUMMER, Member

12 ILLINOIS HOUSE REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE:

- 13 REPRESENTATIVE LISA HERNANDEZ, Chair
- 14 REPRESENTATIVE TIM BUTLER, Spokesperson
- 15 REPRESENTATIVE CURTIS TARVER
- 16 REPRESENTATIVE AVERY BOURNE
- 17 REPRESENTATIVE KELLY BURKE
- 18 REPRESENTATIVE JEHAN GORDON-BOOTH
- 19 REPRESENTATIVE JAY HOFFMAN
- 20 REPRESENTATIVE THERESA MAH
- 21 REPRESENTATIVE RYAN SPAIN
- 22 REPRESENTATIVE TOM DEMMER

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1 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: This meeting of the
2 Senate Redistricting Committee is called to
3 order. The clerk, please take the roll.
4 THE CLERK: Senator Plummer.
5 SENATOR PLUMMER: Here.
6 THE CLERK: Senator McConchie.
7 SENATOR MCCONCHIE: Here.
8 THE CLERK: Senator McClure.
9 SENATOR MCCLURE: Present.
10 THE CLERK: Spokesperson Barickman. Senator
11 Murphy.
12 SENATOR MURPHY: Here.
13 THE CLERK: Senator Jones.
14 SENATOR JONES: Senator Jones is here.
15 THE CLERK: Senator Hunter. Senator
16 Cunningham.
17 SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Here.
18 THE CLERK: Senator Castro.
19 SENATOR CASTRO: Here.
20 THE CLERK: Senator Bennett. Senator
21 Simms. Mr. Chairman.
22 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Present. There being a
23 quorum present, the following entities are
24 seeking leave to photograph and video the

1 proceedings: Blue Room Stream. Is there leave?
2 Leave being granted, leave is granted. Senator
3 Murphy for a motion.

4 SENATOR MURPHY: Thank you,
5 Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move that this
6 hearing be transcribed by the court reporter so
7 the committee can have a full transcript of this
8 hearing.

9 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Senator Murphy moves to
10 allow a court reporter to transcribe the
11 hearing. Is there leave being granted? The
12 court reporter will be allowed to transcribe the
13 hearing.

14 I now turn to Chair Hernandez to
15 call the House Redistricting Committee to order.

16 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Chair
17 Aquino. House Redistricting Committee will come
18 to order. We will be reconvening from recess.
19 Back to you.

20 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you, Chair
21 Hernandez.

22 Today we have a number of witnesses
23 that will be providing testimony. We will be
24 going to each one and asking them to provide

1 testimony and then asking our members if they
2 have any questions after each one. We have --
3 excuse me. We have 16 folks that are on the
4 agenda, and I'm going to read out the agenda so
5 we all know what the lineup is this evening. We
6 have Rita Ali, the mayor of Peoria; Lance McGill
7 from Local 150; Arthur S. Friedson from the
8 Lakeview Jewish community; Hernando Favela,
9 self; Stacy Grundy, self; Darek Lau from the
10 Coalition for a Better Chinese American
11 Community; Celeste Flores, Mano a Mano Family
12 Resource Center; Siri Hibbler from the Illinois
13 Black Chamber of Commerce; Anthony Parrino,
14 self; Gregory Glover, self; Aviva Patt, from the
15 Decalogue Society of Lawyers; Julie Contreras,
16 United Giving Hope; Michael Buehler, McHenry
17 County Board Chairman; Shlomo Soroka, Agudath
18 Israel of Illinois; Valerie Leonard from
19 Nonprofit Utopia; and lastly Reverend Robin Hood
20 from the United Congress of Community and
21 Religious Organizations.

22 Clerk, if we can add Vice Chairman
23 Simms to the roll, please. And I believe that
24 this evening --

1 SENATOR HUNTER: I'm present, also,
2 Mr. Chairman. Please add me to the roll.

3 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Please add Senator
4 Hunter to the role.

5 REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: And Rep. Tarver,
6 please.

7 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Add Rep. Tarver to the
8 roll. Thank you all.

9 I believe that I'm going to pass it
10 back to Representative Hernandez because I
11 believe Representative Butler maybe wanted to
12 make a statement before we ask the witnesses to
13 provide testimony.

14 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Sure. Thank you,
15 Chair Aquino. Representative or Leader Butler,
16 do you have a statement you'd like to share?

17 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: I do, yes, Madam
18 Chair. You know, when I signed my name to the
19 Fair Maps Petition in 2016, these are exactly
20 the days I was thinking of. These are exactly
21 the days I was thinking of as to why almost
22 600,000 Illinoisans signed those petitions for a
23 fair mapping process.

24 What has happened in the last hour

1 and what has happened over the last couple
2 months here within the Illinois legislature has
3 a nexus. And right now that nexus is the United
4 States versus Timothy Mapes, an indictment
5 handed down to the person who helped shepherd
6 the last map through and the map before that,
7 drawn in political fashion to maximize the
8 majority's power. In 2016, Mr. Mapes spoke at a
9 forum in Chicago on redistricting, as reported
10 by the Chicago Tribune. At that forum,
11 Mr. Mapes said, quote, "Legislators like to be
12 involved in this state on how they frame their
13 districts. Whether they like all of it is
14 another thing, but they like to be involved, and
15 it's still a big part of what we do. It's still
16 a big part of what we do."

17 We have talked time and time and
18 time again over these past couple months about
19 the fact that we don't want politicians picking
20 their people, yet Mr. Mapes, who was indicted
21 today, who helped draw the last map, he just
22 admitted it just a few years ago. And it's the
23 same playbook that we are seeing being played
24 out in these hearings in this process of a,

1 quote-unquote, draft map that we have yet to see
2 the legislation for based off of data that
3 doesn't work.

4 Now let me remind you of the
5 fair mapping process which so many of us
6 supported in 2016. Mr. Mapes talked about that
7 in that same forum. He talked about the court
8 case that happened. Let me remind you of that,
9 the court case that ended up in the Illinois
10 Supreme Court with the lawyer that was opposed
11 to the fair maps was Mike Madigan's right-hand
12 lawyer. And Mr. Mapes in this forum said, "So
13 these remap initiatives have not done well as
14 far as getting through the court system, and our
15 one currently in Illinois is before the Illinois
16 Supreme Court. And I'm not a lawyer, but my
17 guess is they are going to rule pretty soon on
18 that as well." Let me remind you who wrote the
19 majority opinion in a 4-3 decision by the
20 Illinois Supreme Court, Mike Madigan and Tim
21 Mapes' hand picked Supreme Court judge, Tom
22 Kilbride. And that was one of the main reasons
23 Tom Kilbride lost last fall.

24 And what do we have here this week?

1 Yesterday we see new Supreme Court maps come
2 down so the majority can continue to have
3 rulings like they had from Judge Kilbride in
4 2016. And let me remind you, this is the nexus
5 that comes together here this week. Let me
6 remind you who the lead plaintiff was in that
7 case, who took offense to the people's map, John
8 Hooker, Com Ed lobbyist. Now what are we doing
9 this week? Talking about an energy bill at the
10 end of session, at the same time redistricting
11 is going on.

12 Ladies and gentlemen, I woke up this
13 morning. I worked out. The song that came on,
14 I kid you not, nice 1970s tune from that great
15 group, The Who, "Won't Get Fooled Again." Meet
16 the new boss, same as the old boss. Well, the
17 old boss is gone, but the new boss has the same
18 old boss's ways. And it came home to roost
19 today in the indictment of the man who used to
20 run this entire operation and whose shadow is
21 cast across these proceedings today because it's
22 the same way that the majority is doing business
23 as they have always done.

24 It's time to change. The people

1 want change. Stop having politicians pick the
2 people. Let's get to a real process. Let's get
3 transparent. Let's get the data out. Stop
4 stonewalling us and actually work
5 collaboratively so we can do something good for
6 the people of Illinois. But I highly doubt
7 that's going to happen over the next five days
8 here. Thank you, Madam Chair.

9 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Clerk, please add
10 Senator Bennett to the roll.

11 So going along, we will ask if Miss
12 Rita Ali is -- I believe I saw her on here --
13 if, Miss Ali, if you can introduce yourself for
14 the record and begin your testimony when you
15 can.

16 MAYOR ALI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My name
17 is Rita Ali. I'm the newly elected mayor of
18 Peoria. I am here to provide brief testimony
19 after reviewing the maps that propose to include
20 Bloomington-Normal to be part of the new 46th
21 state district.

22 Just want to comment about
23 Peoria and Bloomington. Actually, you know, I
24 find it important that communities with

1 similarities, similar characteristics, similar
2 demographics, similar interests and similar
3 needs are grouped together. I think that it's
4 important to attracting resources. I think it's
5 important to working together. That's what
6 Bloomington and Peoria, Bloomington-Normal and
7 Peoria, have done for many years, even though we
8 have been in separate districts.

9 Some of the commonalities of
10 Bloomington-Normal and Peoria include -- you
11 combine Bloomington and Normal together, we are
12 not far apart in terms of population size. We
13 are both urban districts for the most part. In
14 terms of demographics, we are both about the
15 same in terms of male and females, about 52
16 percent in both cities. The average median age
17 is 34 years old, similar in terms of age,
18 population and gender. We are both college
19 cities, college cities with a lot of young
20 people who have similar ideals and cultures.

21 We have a similar population in
22 terms of the older population, 60-plus
23 population, although Peoria's population is a
24 little bit older; but we were formed around the

1 same time. So there is a lot of synergy between
2 these two cities.

3 In terms of the percentage of
4 minorities, Peoria has a greater number of
5 African-American Americans and Hispanic/Latino
6 populations. Bloomington-Normal has a greater
7 Asian population.

8 The Peoria residents, I may have
9 mentioned, are a little bit older in age; but
10 there is, again, similar characteristics. There
11 is -- Bloomington actually has more married
12 people than Peoria, but they come to Peoria to
13 steal their spouses, so...

14 Again, these are two urban areas
15 that work well together. I think grouping them
16 together within one district will be good for us
17 in terms of attracting -- addressing the needs
18 and attracting resources to both areas. That's
19 the end of my testimony. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you, Mayor, for
21 your testimony here today. As a reminder, if
22 committee members can please utilize your
23 raise-your-hand function here on the Zoom so we
24 can take a look at the participants that want to

1 ask questions. I am currently looking through.
2 I do not see any hands up.

3 Madam Chair, if there is any hands
4 that you see, please, you know, let us know. If
5 not, then we can move on to the next. Go ahead.

6 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, Chair Aquino, I
7 have Leader Demmer who has a question.

8 REPRESENTATIVE DEMMER: Thank you, Madam
9 Chair. Mayor, thanks for your testimony.
10 You spoke about the broader communities of both
11 Peoria and Bloomington-Normal, but then you also
12 cited a specific district. Could you state that
13 again, which district you were referring to?

14 MAYOR ALI: I was referring to Senate
15 District, Illinois Senate District 46.

16 REPRESENTATIVE DEMMER: And Senate
17 District 46, does it include all of Peoria and
18 all of Bloomington-Normal?

19 MAYOR ALI: Well, I was pleased that
20 most of Peoria remained intact. I don't think
21 it's 100 percent of the City of Peoria.

22 REPRESENTATIVE DEMMER: And probably a
23 similar situation in Bloomington-Normal? It
24 includes part of those communities, but not all?

1 MAYOR ALI: I believe so. Someone else
2 could speak to that more specifically.

3 REPRESENTATIVE DEMMER: Do you know
4 the -- you cited some demographic information
5 for the full City of Peoria compared to perhaps
6 the full City of Bloomington or the metropolitan
7 area there. Do you have any information on the
8 demographics of Senate District 46, the
9 percentage of race or ethnicity within Senate
10 District 46?

11 MAYOR ALI: I don't have that with me.
12 I have looked at that previously, but I can't
13 actually quote those specifics.

14 REPRESENTATIVE DEMMER: What was -- were
15 the information around Senate District 46,
16 demographic information, was that provided to
17 you?

18 MAYOR ALI: No. I've done my own research,
19 so I don't have those demographics. And it's
20 been some time since I've actually looked at
21 that district in terms of the district
22 demographics.

23 REPRESENTATIVE DEMMER: I'm referring to
24 the newly proposed district, Senate 46, isn't

1 that correct, the newly proposed Senate District
2 46?

3 MAYOR ALI: Yes. Yes, okay, yes. That
4 information was sent to me by email.

5 REPRESENTATIVE DEMMER: Who sent you
6 that information by email?

7 MAYOR ALI: I'm not sure.

8 REPRESENTATIVE DEMMER: Would you be
9 willing to provide this committee with that
10 information about the information on Senate
11 District 46?

12 MAYOR ALI: I certainly will. I have no
13 objection to that.

14 REPRESENTATIVE DEMMER: Thank you. No
15 further questions.

16 MAYOR ALI: Sure.

17 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Representative
18 Butler -- Leader Butler.

19 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Thank you,
20 Leader Hernandez. And Mayor Ali,
21 congratulations on your victory, and looking
22 forward to you doing great things for the City
23 of Peoria.

24 Just to follow up on Leader Demmer's

1 comment. When you said you received information
2 about an email with that information, when did
3 you receive that email?

4 MAYOR ALI: It would have been within the
5 past week.

6 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: So you were
7 reached out to testify at these hearings, is
8 that correct?

9 MAYOR ALI: Yes.

10 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Okay. And was that
11 after, after the PDF map came out last Friday?
12 Before that? Do you know?

13 MAYOR ALI: It was after the map.

14 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Okay. Within the
15 last 24 hours? Forty-eight hours? Seventy-two
16 hours?

17 MAYOR ALI: In terms of being reached out
18 to testify?

19 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Correct, yes.

20 MAYOR ALI: Within the past four days.

21 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Okay. And did you
22 have any discussions with staff about your
23 testimony or anything?

24 MAYOR ALI: I had not, no.

1 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Okay.

2 MAYOR ALI: I wasn't given a script. I was
3 not directed to say certain things, not at all,
4 sir.

5 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Okay. Very
6 good. If you could provide with whatever was
7 sent to us, to the minority staff, we would
8 appreciate that, as well.

9 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Senator Aquino,
10 that's it.

11 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you, Madam
12 Chair. I see no further questions or people
13 with their hands up on the Zoom, so we will move
14 on. Mayor Ali, thank you again for your
15 testimony.

16 Our next witness is Lance McGill
17 from Local 150. I do want to correct the record
18 here on the agenda. I did leave out another
19 name. My apologies to Mr. C. W. Chan, who also
20 will be providing testimony today, which rounds
21 us out to about 17 community members providing
22 testimony this evening.

23 If Mr. Lance McGill can please
24 unmute himself, identify himself for the record,

1 and begin to provide your testimony. Mr. Lance
2 McGill, if you are on, you are muted. I'm
3 trying to look through the participants on here.
4 If not, we will be moving on. I don't see
5 Mr. McGill's name on here. We might have to
6 come back to him.

7 So moving on to Arthur S.
8 Friedson from the Lakeview Jewish community.
9 Mr. Friedson, if you can unmute yourself,
10 identify yourself for the record, and begin your
11 testimony. Thank you.

12 MR. ARTHUR FRIEDSON: Thank you, Senator.
13 My name is Arthur Stuart Friedson,
14 F-r-i-e-d-s-o-n, and I am the president of Anshe
15 Emmett Synagogue, one of the largest
16 conservative synagogues in America, conservative
17 in the Jewish denomination sense.

18 I'm testifying in support of the
19 currently proposed Illinois Senate District map,
20 and I will be very brief. Our synagogue is
21 located in Lakeview, which is also home to a
22 thriving orthodox synagogue and a landmark
23 reform synagogue, Temple Shalom. In addition to
24 synagogues, other important infrastructure

1 exists in the neighborhood to support the Jewish
2 community. The Bernard Zell Anshe Emmett Day
3 School and the Chicago Jewish Day School provide
4 K through 8 education. There are robust
5 preschool programs at Temple Shalom and at the
6 Florence Heller JCC and several after-school
7 religious school programs. There is a ritual
8 bath for some traditional observances. There
9 are kosher and kosher-style restaurants that
10 cater to the population. And for orthodox Jews,
11 there is an eruv, a physical installation
12 spanning the entire neighborhood that allows
13 them certain flexibility in sabbath observance
14 that is rarely available to them elsewhere.
15 Judaism has orthodox, conservative and reform
16 denominations, in addition to some other groups
17 farther to the right religiously, some that are
18 independent of any specific movement, and others
19 that are much more loosely affiliated. Now, I
20 don't know if Lutherans have a lot of dialogue
21 with Episcopalians, but I do know that
22 meaningful cooperation among the Jewish
23 denominations is actually rare. It's one of the
24 many things that make the Lakeview Jewish

1 community of Chicago the special place that it
2 is. In Lakeview the Jewish community focuses on
3 commonalities, not on differences. We interact.
4 We talk. We run educational, social and
5 religious programming together at different
6 times during the year. That's not unheard of in
7 the wider Jewish world, but it is rare. It's
8 also something that we really cherish. So to be
9 able to remain together in one Senate district
10 is extremely important to us, and we were
11 delighted to see that reflected in proposed
12 Senate district map.

13 I thank all the elected
14 officials who are on the line for taking your
15 time today. Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you so much
17 Mr. Friedson. We are going to see if there is
18 any members that have any questions at the
19 moment. I'm looking through here on the
20 participant list. I do not see any senators
21 that are asking to ask any questions, so I will
22 pass it on to our Chair Hernandez in the House
23 to see if there is anyone there that would like
24 to ask any questions.

1 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: I have no questions
2 from House members. I do have a question from
3 Senator Plummer.

4 SENATOR PLUMMER: Yes. This is not a
5 question for the witness. I appreciate his
6 testimony. It's actually a question for Chair
7 Hernandez. I noticed at the beginning of this
8 hearing that there was a reference to the court
9 reporter. We have become accustomed to court
10 reporters taking the testimony in the various
11 hearings and subcommittee hearings. I was
12 curious why there is a court reporter today and
13 there was not a court reporter yesterday.

14 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: So, Senator, my
15 understanding is that the hearing was recorded,
16 and it will be transcribed.

17 SENATOR PLUMMER: By a certified court
18 reporter?

19 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes. Yes.

20 SENATOR PLUMMER: Okay. Thank you,
21 Madam Chair.

22 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Senator Aquino,
23 that's it on my end.

24 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Excellent. No further

1 questions. Mr. Friedson, again, we appreciate
2 your testimony here this evening.

3 We will be moving on to our next
4 witness, Mr. Hernando Favela, who if you are on,
5 sir, if you could please make sure to unmute
6 yourself and introduce yourself for the record
7 and begin providing your testimony. I'm looking
8 through the list here though; however, I don't
9 believe I see Mr. Favela on at this moment.

10 We will be moving on. If
11 Mr. Favela or Mr. McGill come on later on, we
12 will try to get to their testimony then.

13 Moving on to Miss Stacy Grundy.
14 If I do see Miss Grundy on here. Miss Grundy,
15 if you can, please introduce yourself for the
16 record and begin your testimony. Thank you.

17 DR. STACY GRUNDY: Good afternoon. My name
18 is Dr. Stacy Grundy, and I am a resident and
19 business owner in the 48th District. So I am
20 testifying, giving testimony today in support of
21 utilizing American Community Survey data to
22 remap our legislative districts. During this
23 redistricting process, we need to be mindful and
24 select the most accessible and appropriate data.

1 Data should account for the most accurate
2 population size while also not disenfranchising
3 communities of color which can result in a
4 cloaking of those community present needs and a
5 reduction of resources.

6 As a public health practitioner and
7 researcher, I use the American Community Survey
8 data in my everyday work, like many of you.
9 Whether it's utilizing kids count data to
10 understand Illinois state-level child health
11 trends that are necessary to create solutions
12 that improve the lives of Illinois children, the
13 American Community Survey data is also used in
14 the USDA reports to understand the causes of
15 opioid misuse in Illinois. The ACS data is used
16 by researchers and public officials to measure
17 economic, education, housing and employment
18 trends of communities and within populations.

19 The ACS data is a continuous survey
20 that is conducted by the US Census Bureau
21 monthly, the same agency that conducts the
22 census. The ACS data goes into more detail than
23 a traditional census; so in addition to asking
24 basic questions, such as age, sex, housing,

1 race, it also asks questions around employment,
2 poverty and education. Because the American
3 Community Survey is conducted monthly instead of
4 once every ten years, it shows the many changes
5 that a community may go through.

6 As a black woman who was born
7 and raised in rural southern Illinois, I know
8 firsthand what it feels like for your
9 community's voice to not be heard in the
10 legislative proces. I'm still very connected to
11 my home community, while also being an active
12 community member in the 48th District. With my
13 professional and life experiences, I'm committed
14 to ensuring that myself and others who are often
15 overlooked are represented in this process.

16 The redistricting process clearly
17 provides guidance that if US Census data is not
18 available, then American Community Survey data
19 can be used to draw the congressional lines.
20 And as a researcher that regularly uses the ACS
21 data, it is a more than adequate data set that
22 can be used for the redistricting process. As
23 stated before, the ACS data is actually a more
24 robust data set than the traditional census

1 data.

2 We need to rely on the science and
3 data analysis and interpretation during this
4 process, as opposed to pulling names and
5 deciding congressional lines from a replica of
6 Lincoln's stovepipe hat, as done in the year
7 2000. We as a state deserve better than that.
8 Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you, Dr. Stacy
10 Grundy. I appreciate your testimony. We will
11 -- I will look through the participants here
12 virtually and see if there are any hands up. I
13 do not see any. I will pass on to Chair
14 Hernandez to see if there is any questions on
15 that end.

16 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Chair
17 Aquino. Yes, I do have Senator Plummer with a
18 question.

19 SENATOR PLUMMER: Yes. Thank you, Madam
20 Chair. Doctor, thank you. Thank you for
21 appearing here today. And I may have missed it
22 during your introduction, and if I did, I
23 apologize. But what is your profession again?

24 DR. GRUNDY: I'm a public health

1 professional and researcher.

2 SENATOR PLUMMER: Okay. Great. Great. You
3 mentioned the importance of using the science of
4 the data and your comfort level with the ACS
5 data. I think we all would like to get
6 comfortable with the data being used to draw
7 these maps. So you seemed extraordinarily
8 familiar with ACS data and the process that was
9 used for the redistricting here. So do you know
10 precisely what type of ACS data was used to draw
11 the map that we all have seen now?

12 DR. GRUNDY: What type? I'm sure it's
13 population. Population, yeah, race, housing.

14 SENATOR PLUMMER: Well, so, I mean there is
15 various types of ACS data.

16 DR. GRUNDY: Yes, there are.

17 SENATOR PLUMMER: And I don't mean, you
18 know, profession or demographics, or whatever.
19 I mean different types in terms of the ACS data
20 is a snapshot in time, right?

21 DR. GRUNDY: Actually, sorry. Can I
22 correct you? The census data is more of a
23 snapshot because it's every ten years. So with
24 American Community Survey data, it's conducted

1 monthly, so it shows those actual changes in
2 that community. And I'll give you an example,
3 so with the opioid epidemic in the community.
4 So that is how in USDA reports it shows the
5 structural determinants that lead to opioid
6 misuse, right? So when you think about rural
7 communities, you think about unemployment; you
8 think about youth out-migration.

9 So as you said, there are many
10 variables that are in that data. And so as far
11 as the specific ones that they use to use that,
12 I'm not -- I don't know for sure. But as far as
13 the entire data set, I am very comfortable with
14 using that, using the science to create the
15 maps.

16 SENATOR PLUMMER: So according to our
17 understanding, ACS data touches about one in
18 every 35 households every five years. Does that
19 sound about accurate to you?

20 DR. GRUNDY: Yes. So it's with statistics,
21 right? So just even with the census, right, you
22 don't survey everyone. So like with any survey,
23 right, you have a sample population. And then
24 that is weighted, and you have different tests

1 that you conduct; and then you generalize that
2 to the general population. Because if you look
3 at census data, you do not have a 100 percent
4 response rate, right? So there are
5 biostatisticians to conduct different tests to
6 generalize that to the general population.

7 SENATOR PLUMMER: And I appreciate that. I
8 don't believe that that is fully accurate.

9 DR. GRUNDY: It is.

10 SENATOR PLUMMER: So actually, with
11 census data, they do reach out to every
12 household. They reach out to every household.

13 DR. GRUNDY: But everyone doesn't respond
14 because that survey is not compulsory.

15 SENATOR PLUMMER: If you can let me
16 finish my comments, I'd appreciate it. So they
17 do reach out to every household. They reach out
18 to every household many times. The State of
19 Illinois actually had, I believe, the best
20 response rate of any of the largest populated
21 states in the country in the most recent census.
22 In fact, we spent tens of millions of dollars of
23 taxpayer money to ensure that the census data
24 was as good as possible. And I believe we

1 basically had record turnout. So we have the
2 most complete set of census data. We have the
3 best census data we've ever had.

4 And going back to the ACS data, so
5 there is, like, one-year ACS data, and that
6 could be 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019. There is an
7 average of multiple years of ACS data. There is
8 enhanced ACS data where they use additional data
9 sets.

10 So I understand from your testimony
11 that you are extremely comfortable with the data
12 used for these maps. What I'm looking for is
13 can you tell the committee, because we are
14 curious about this, because we don't know, is
15 this ACS data from a particular year, is this
16 five-year average ACS data, or is it ACS data
17 that's been enhanced with data from other
18 sources?

19 DR. GRUNDY: It doesn't really -- it
20 matters, but then it doesn't matter as much
21 because when I say that it's because depending
22 on the timeframe, there are different
23 statistical tests. There are, you know -- it's
24 weighted different ways. And so when I am --

1 say I'm writing a grant for a National Institute
2 of Health grant, right? I can use data -- maybe
3 it's like five-year estimates for ACS -- and
4 it's still accurate because of the tests and how
5 the data has been packaged.

6 And I will go back to your point
7 around census data. The census may reach out to
8 everyone, but that doesn't mean that everyone
9 responds. And so because everyone does not
10 respond, then there has to be certain tests.
11 There have to be certain statistical analysis
12 that is done so that we can generalize those
13 results to everyone. You brought up about the
14 percentages, right, statistical percentage,
15 because it's not 100 percent. So because of
16 that, biostatisticians have ways of looking at
17 that data, looking at different data sets and
18 variables, and generalizing that to the general
19 public.

20 SENATOR PLUMMER: Well, I appreciate
21 your testimony. Thank you for that. And I have
22 no doubt that the way you use ACS data in your
23 field is probably exceptionally proper. But the
24 testimony we have heard from a tremendous number

1 of witnesses and what we see happening in
2 numerous other states completely contradicts
3 much of your testimony. But I think it comes
4 down to how and when ACS data is used. And the
5 preponderance of folks who have testified and
6 what we can tell shows quite clearly that for
7 something as specific and something as important
8 as the census, we have to use the best data the
9 most accurate data available; and that just
10 clearly is the census data with our phenomenal
11 results from the most recent census. But thank
12 you for your testimony.

13 DR. GRUNDY: And I also have a point.
14 So the census, before 2000, it actually included
15 two questionnaires. One was the short form
16 questionnaire that we know is the basic census,
17 and the second one's a long form, which is
18 American Community Survey data. So after 2000,
19 they started utilizing that ACS data during in
20 between the years of the census data so that we
21 can see what those changes were because if
22 you're just doing the census every ten years,
23 it's only giving you a snapshot. It's only
24 telling you, okay, every ten years, versus the

1 American Community Survey data telling you what
2 is happening in between those ten years. Thank
3 you.

4 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Chairman Aquino,
5 that's all I have on my end. I'm sorry.
6 Representative Spain.

7 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Thank you, Madam
8 Chairwoman. Miss Grundy, thank you for your
9 testimony. It sounds like you are very familiar
10 with the use of the American Community Survey.

11 Did you have a position of testimony
12 in 2011 in support of using the ACS? You
13 mentioned the evolution of the ACS coming from
14 changes, the next evolution of the long form to
15 the census. Were you an advocate for use of ACS
16 in 2011 for redrawing legislative maps?

17 DR. GRUNDY: I actually was in grad
18 school in Texas. I was at University of Texas
19 getting my masters of public health.

20 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: So no.

21 DR. GRUNDY: No.

22 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: You mentioned
23 that the redistricting process instructs that if
24 a census is not available that ACS data should

1 be used.

2 DR. GRUNDY: I said that it can be used.

3 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Can be used.

4 DR. GRUNDY: Yes.

5 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Where did you
6 get that information?

7 DR. GRUNDY: Where did I get that
8 information? It's public knowledge. Public
9 records.

10 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: And what is the
11 public record?

12 DR. GRUNDY: What do you mean, what is the
13 public record?

14 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Where are the
15 instructions on how to proceed if the census is
16 not available to use ACS as a substitute?

17 DR. GRUNDY: It's a website. It's
18 called All About Redistricting. And so I did
19 research on actually a part of -- so in my
20 sorority, I'm a part of our connections
21 committee, so we go over these things. We know
22 what's happening in our community. I'm a very
23 avid community member, and so I like to be the
24 person that advocates for people who do not know

1 that they can advocate for themselves.

2 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: I look forward to
3 reviewing the All About Redistricting website.

4 DR. GRUNDY: Was I incorrect?

5 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: I don't know.
6 I'm paying close attention to our discussion
7 here, so I will pull it up later.

8 I do have the US Census Bureau's
9 website up, though, where they say the ACS is
10 not an appropriate substitute for the census; in
11 fact, that the ACS should not be used as the
12 tool for redistricting, that American Community
13 Survey data are designed to show the
14 characteristics of the nation's population and
15 should not be used as actual population counts
16 or housing totals for the nation, for states, or
17 for counties. So I have reviewed the US Census
18 Bureau's website very thoroughly, and I will
19 look forward to reviewing your sorority website,
20 as well.

21 DR. GRUNDY: Well, what it does say is
22 counts. So we are also getting counts. And so
23 because there is no census data, we still have
24 an idea of who lives in these communities, what

1 is going on in those communities. And then
2 also, according to All About Redistricting, that
3 you can, once -- you can pass the maps, and then
4 you all as the General Assembly can litigate and
5 make changes based on the census data. And so
6 why it is appropriate to use American Community
7 Survey data because you actually have an idea of
8 who lives in those communities, and so there you
9 can draw the maps.

10 And what we do not want to
11 happen is a repeat of year 2000, when the lines
12 were based off picking them out of a hat. And I
13 think that is just a disservice to all of the
14 State of Illinois is that we are not conscious,
15 like you said, of the characteristics of those
16 community. Who lives in those communities,
17 right? That name in that hat affects everyone,
18 and it affects our resources in our community.
19 And being a black woman and from a rural
20 community, I know firsthand what it's like to
21 feel like your community is not being heard.

22 And so whatever is the most
23 accessible data that is the most appropriate
24 data, we should use that, versus picking a name

1 out of a hat.

2 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Well, thank you,
3 Miss Grundy. I absolutely agree that picking a
4 name out of a hat is an inappropriate strategy.

5 DR. GRUNDY: Exactly.

6 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: And leaving our
7 government to a coin flip or a ceremonial hat
8 draw in this case is wildly inappropriate.
9 You mentioned that when we receive the census,
10 that adjustments should be made.

11 DR. GRUNDY: Yes.

12 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: How should that
13 work? How should we navigate forward for when
14 in a sense, we have a placeholder set of data
15 here, and then we are waiting on the census?
16 What recommendations do you have for that?

17 DR. GRUNDY: I think you should follow the
18 rules that are laid out for you. And so as an
19 Illinois resident, I'm giving my opinion that I
20 think that we should use the data that is most
21 accessible right now, right? No one's saying
22 the census data is not correct. I'm not saying
23 that. But I'm just saying that this is data
24 that is conducted by the US Census Bureau,

1 right? So if we can use it, because as a
2 legislator they will give you data -- that's
3 kids count data -- they give you data that is
4 USDA reports on Illinois, and you create policy
5 and legislation based on that data. So if it's
6 good enough for you to create the policies --
7 and I don't know if you are in the House or the
8 Senate, but, you know, whatever department
9 you're in, if it's good enough for you to do
10 that, then I think it's good enough for us to
11 map out our legislative districts.

12 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: I'm a member of the
13 House, and I am familiar with receiving data
14 that we use to inform decisions on legislation.
15 That is exactly the way it should work, and I
16 appreciate your testimony to that effect.
17 Unfortunately, that's the one thing that's not
18 happening here and something of monumental
19 importance to the people of Illinois that has
20 ten-year ramifications. You are exactly
21 correct. We should have access to data to
22 inform the decisions and the crafting of
23 legislation that emanates from our two chambers.
24 We do not have data in this case, and it's a

1 great shame and a great disgrace to the State of
2 Illinois that we find ourselves in this
3 situation.

4 I have a question for the chair,
5 either chair, I suppose. But the testimony from
6 Miss Grundy suggests --

7 DR. GRUNDY: Dr. Grundy.

8 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Dr. Grundy, I
9 apologize.

10 DR. GRUNDY: Thank you.

11 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: -- from
12 Dr. Grundy suggests that we should revisit the
13 legislative maps after the census data is
14 received in the middle of August. Madam Chair,
15 do I have your commitment that we will revisit
16 these maps after the census is received in
17 August?

18 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: We will review the
19 data, Representative.

20 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Thank you.

21 DR. GRUNDY: Thank you.

22 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Representative
23 Butler. Leader Butler. Okay. Leader Avery
24 Bourne.

1 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: Avery is fine.
2 Thank you, Dr. Grundy. So you can see me. I
3 just had a quick question on who you are
4 testifying on behalf of, self, or do you have an
5 organization that you are representing?

6 DR. GRUNDY: Myself.

7 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: Okay. Perfect.
8 I just note that because yesterday, I stood in a
9 press conference and invited the governor, his
10 administration, to join us and give us some
11 feedback, and I saw you were appointed to a
12 board by the governor. I just wanted to clarify
13 that this was not his administration's
14 testimony.

15 DR. GRUNDY: No. My professional
16 accomplishments are separate from my being here
17 today.

18 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: I appreciate
19 that. So I'm looking at the All About
20 Redistricting, not a website I had visited
21 before; and I think it's run by a Dr. Justin
22 Levitt. Does that seem right?

23 DR. GRUNDY: Sure.

24 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: And I also have a

1 quote from him saying that the ACS has a lot
2 lower stakes than the decennial census, which he
3 said is the first responsibility of the
4 Constitution -- the Constitution gives the
5 federal government. And if there is a low
6 response rate on the ACS, there are ways for
7 officials to correct their data; but the
8 Constitution mandates that the federal
9 government count all people when he is talking
10 about the census.

11 DR. GRUNDY: Yes, that's true.

12 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: So I haven't
13 reviewed the whole website, but just by looking
14 at this, it seems to me that he's saying that
15 the census would be the better data,
16 potentially, or the less manipulated data. So I
17 just wanted to get your input on that.

18 DR. GRUNDY: No, not necessarily less
19 manipulated. So with the American Community
20 Survey data, because it is conducted so often,
21 right, so it's easy for people to see what
22 errors, or by statisticians, what errors, you
23 know, so they can see, okay, we are not getting
24 enough of these people, so we can move over

1 here. So it's not necessarily manipulation, but
2 it's survey, you know, conducting a survey.

3 So same thing with the census,
4 right? You see that, okay, we are not getting
5 enough population in this neighborhood, so we
6 need to send out -- that's why you have programs
7 where you hire community workers to go into
8 those communities, to make sure that you are
9 getting the appropriate counts for the people in
10 that community. So it's not really
11 manipulation. It's just we see where the data's
12 coming from. We are missing data from this
13 population, so maybe we need to put money or we
14 need to put programming in this community, like
15 you have the census workers who go around,
16 right? Usually they are hired within the
17 community, and they go in and they make sure
18 they are knocking on doors. So it's just
19 checking to see where you're getting your data,
20 who is missing from the pod.

21 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: I appreciate
22 that. I'm reading his quotes. And, I mean,
23 even he attests to the fact that the ACS does
24 not reproduce reliable citizenship estimates in

1 tiny towns and municipalities. So I think that
2 goes to the core of some of our concerns with
3 using this data. I don't disagree with you that
4 the ACS is a very valuable tool for reasons that
5 you have explained, reasons that you use
6 professionally. And obviously, there is a
7 reason that they do that.

8 I think our concern is that we
9 do want a snapshot to redistrict every ten
10 years. That actually is the purpose that we are
11 doing this, and that's the reason we do it every
12 ten years and we don't dynamically change it as
13 we get this dynamic information dynamically over
14 ten years.

15 I appreciate you being here and
16 testifying, but I think that our concerns with
17 the ACS --

18 DR. GRUNDY: No. I think you misquoted me
19 though. You misquoted me. I did not say I got
20 my knowledge of ACS from that website.
21 I go there to learn about redistricting. And so
22 I am a -- you know, public health is my --
23 that's my life. That's my career. And so I use
24 these data sets all the time. And so I know if

1 we can trust them in creating our programming,
2 and it is the census. It's the census, but it
3 actually has more questions than the actual
4 census. And so there are some differences, but
5 they are very slight differences.

6 And so when you look -- and that's
7 why it's actually good that we are looking at
8 this because you can see what are the issues in
9 those communities and how do we need to solve
10 them.

11 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: I appreciate
12 that. I just wasn't able to find the part about
13 the ACS data that you said you found on the
14 website.

15 DR. GRUNDY: No, that wasn't on there.
16 I never said I looked at the ACS on that
17 website. I learned about the rules for
18 redistricting on that website. I utilize the
19 census -- I utilize -- the US Census Bureau is
20 bookmarked on my browser. I go to that website
21 all the time.

22 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: Oh, no. But I just
23 meant to the point that you said it was allowed,
24 or you stated on that website that ACS data

1 would be allowed in the absence of the census
2 data.

3 DR. GRUNDY: I mentioned other advocacy
4 groups, and so I've talked to political science
5 experts. And so learning about this process,
6 and so as I'm learning about this process, being
7 engaged in this political process in my district
8 in the state that I love, that I am engaged and
9 I am giving my opinion on the matter.

10 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: Are any of those
11 experts involved in the House or Senate
12 redistricting process currently?

13 DR. GRUNDY: I have absolutely no idea.

14 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: Okay. Thank you so
15 much. That concludes my questioning.

16 DR. GRUNDY: Thank you.

17 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Representative --
18 Leader Butler.

19 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Thank you,
20 Madam Chair. Dr. Grundy, just real quick.
21 You work for SIU Medicine, is that correct?

22 DR. GRUNDY: I'm here representing
23 myself. I'm not -- yeah, I'm not.

24 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: So SIU Medicine

1 covers a 66-county area of downstate Illinois, a
2 largely rural area. And you seem to be
3 proficient in ACS data. I'm looking at the
4 census.gov website right now, and it's talking
5 about the one-year estimates for ACS data.
6 Specifically, that's data for areas of
7 populations of 65,000-plus. So one of the
8 things that's been discussed multiple times in
9 these hearings and then testified for is that
10 ACS data does not accurately reflect communities
11 under 65,000. That's a large swath of SIU
12 Medicine's service area. So are you familiar
13 with that, the fact that ACS data does not
14 accurately reflect areas of -- communities of
15 understand 65,000.

16 DR. GRUNDY: Yes. So I know that it
17 doesn't -- so it doesn't accurately. And so
18 when you have that situation, then there are
19 certain weights; there are certain statistical
20 tests that they will use to generalize for those
21 areas. And so they have been, especially with
22 the census, they have been doing this for almost
23 231 years collecting this data, estimating,
24 generalizing based off smaller populations and

1 generalizing that data to represent the entire
2 population.

3 And so when I say that I feel
4 comfortable, I really do feel comfortable, and
5 not as an SIU employee but as an Illinois
6 resident who is representing herself and as
7 someone who lives in a -- I'm from a town of 50.
8 And so if I am -- and so we don't even have a
9 Post Office. And so if I am comfortable with it
10 and I trust the science and the data, then, you
11 know, I feel like, you know, it's a good thing.

12 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: But you said yes
13 when you said it does not accurately reflect
14 communities under 65,000.

15 DR. GRUNDY: When I say accurately,
16 insofar as collecting that data. It is
17 weighted.

18 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Let me just get to
19 the point here. The reason for the decennial
20 census is an accurate count of enumeration of
21 the people in this country, and that is the data
22 that we have used to draw these maps. You may
23 not be concerned about accurately reflecting
24 communities under 65,000.

1 DR. GRUNDY: No. I am.

2 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: I am tremendously
3 concerned because two of the four counties I
4 currently represent, Menard and Logan, are well
5 under that \$65,000 -- excuse me -- 65,000
6 population threshold. Both of those counties
7 under the draft map that has been rolled out by
8 the Democrats split those two rural counties
9 based off of data that you testified to that is,
10 obviously, not reflective properly of those
11 small communities.

12 DR. GRUNDY: No, I didn't say that. I said
13 that it is -- when you have smaller population
14 samples, right, there are different tests that
15 you can use to generalize those statistics of
16 that population, and so that's why I said I
17 trust the science.

18 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: So it's a formula
19 guess for ACS. It's actual enumeration of being
20 knocked on doors in those counties.

21 DR. GRUNDY: Well, the thing is, even with
22 the census data, you do not get
23 100 percent of the population. And so any --

24 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: It's a lot more

1 than ACS data though, correct?

2 DR. GRUNDY: But I'm just saying, you
3 do not get those. You may get 40, 50 percent in
4 some communities. So it's the same kind of
5 test. So you have to generalize for the entire
6 population of the United States. It's the same
7 science. It's just a different survey.

8 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Okay. Thank
9 you, Madam Chair.

10 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. I
11 think that's it on questions on my end.
12 Chair Aquino, back to you.

13 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you, Madam
14 Chair. Dr. Grundy, again, thank you for your
15 testimony this evening and in the past. We will
16 be moving on. We will be -- I believe Dr. Jose
17 Lopez from the Puerto Rican Cultural Center is
18 on. If Mr. Lopez -- Dr. Lopez, excuse me -- can
19 unmute himself, introduce himself for the record
20 and if he is testifying on behalf of any
21 organization, and so please begin your
22 testimony.

23 DR. JOSE LOPEZ: Thank you, Senator, and I
24 am happy to be here. I am Jose Lopez. I'm the

1 executive director of the Puerto Rican Cultural
2 Center founded -- I was one of the founders. In
3 a year we will celebrate our 50th anniversary
4 serving a community that has historically been
5 encased within the 4th Legislative District, and
6 obviously as well as in your 2nd Senatorial
7 District. I am also an adjunct professor at the
8 University of Illinois in Chicago and at
9 Columbia College.

10 My testimony is that I believe the
11 map that right now you are considering does
12 justice to maintaining the cultural integrity of
13 our community. Puerto Ricans are the second
14 largest Latino group in Chicago, in the State of
15 Illinois; and we are definitely a group that has
16 been actively for many years in advocating for
17 our, not only our rights as citizens but our
18 rights as within the context of cultural
19 citizenship.

20 I believe that the move sort of
21 westward follows a pattern in terms of our
22 community's movement. We have suffered
23 tremendous consequences over the years as a
24 result of gentrification, and we have moved

1 across those two districts. And I believe that
2 if we don't follow the pattern at least to
3 ensure the cultural integrity of our community,
4 we will lose our voice in both houses. We
5 believe that our voice, like the voice of all
6 communities in Illinois, are important to ensure
7 the diversity and the richness of the city and
8 the state.

9 So I hope that, obviously, as
10 you are considering this remapping, that you
11 make sure that both the 4th District,
12 Legislative District in the House and the 2nd
13 Senatorial District in the Senate keep and
14 maintain that cultural integrity. I have lived
15 in, more or less, in those two districts since
16 1959, when my family moved to Chicago, even
17 though, obviously, there were changes in these
18 two districts after the constitutional
19 convention in the State of Illinois in the early
20 seventies. The fact is that since then, these
21 two districts have maintained -- have had the
22 largest Puerto Rican presence of any legislative
23 districts in the State of Illinois, and as well
24 as the Senatorial district.

1 Thank you very much. And hopefully
2 you will, obviously, keep this testimony in mind
3 as you are considering this redistricting, and
4 particularly as you consider the incredible
5 diversity and richness of maintaining diversity
6 in this city and in the State of Illinois.

7 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Jose, thank you so
8 much. I do not see any hands up on the virtual
9 link here. I will pass it over to Chair
10 Hernandez for any questions there.

11 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Chair
12 Aquino. It looks like no questions.

13 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Jose, thank you again for
14 your testimony this evening.

15 Moving on, we will go to C. W. Chan.
16 I believe -- I think I saw him on here.
17 Mr. Chan, if you could unmute yourself, I think
18 I just saw you on the screen there. So just a
19 reminder, if you can unmute yourself, introduce
20 yourself, and just let us know if you are
21 testifying this evening on behalf of an
22 organization or yourself. And please begin your
23 testimony.

24 MR. C. W. CHAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 My name is C. W. Chan, and I'm testifying on
2 behalf of myself. I'm a retired social worker,
3 a retired entrepreneur, a lifelong community
4 activist who has been advocating for a fairer
5 remap for Chicago's Chinatown neighborhood since
6 1991.

7 Asian American is one of the fastest
8 growing ethnic groups in the U.S., as well as in
9 Illinois. The growth of Chicago's Chinatown
10 neighborhood have been much more impressive.
11 The 2000 and 2010 census recorded a more than 40
12 percent increase in the Chinese American
13 population in the greater Chinatown area for
14 each of the two decades. Unfortunately, 20
15 years ago, instead of corresponding increase in
16 our political power and influence with the
17 expansion of the Chinatown community, we found
18 ourselves, our neighborhood, actually split into
19 four city wards, three state Senate districts,
20 four state representative districts, two county
21 board districts, and three congressional
22 districts after the 2001 redistricting process
23 with some Chinese population still left outside
24 in the refill areas.

1 Chinatown was widely known then as
2 the poster child and the textbook case
3 illustrating the inequity of the redistricting
4 process and its negative impact on ethnic
5 minority communities. But the Chinatown
6 community never gave up. Ten years ago, our
7 fully-engaged community, encouraged by more than
8 300 percent increase in registered voters within
9 the decade, worked closely with our legislative
10 leaders to get a passage of the Illinois Voting
11 Rights Act 2011, which included specific
12 protections of language minority without a
13 voting age majority in the redistricting
14 process.

15 Following the passage of the
16 Illinois Voting Rights Act of 2011, also
17 nicknamed the Chinatown bill, over 90 percent of
18 Chinese Americans in the greater Chinatown area
19 were joined into one single state legislative
20 district. And despite only a 24 percent
21 population of a district, the first ever Asian
22 American state legislator in Illinois was
23 elected in 2016. It was such an encouragement
24 to other Asian influence districts that only

1 four years later, five proud Asian American
2 legislators are now serving in the Illinois
3 General Assembly. It's a success story of the
4 Asian American community, as well as a success
5 story of the Illinois General Assembly, and
6 should be celebrated and remembered by both.

7 As you are finalizing your 2021
8 redistricting, I urge you to remember the
9 commitment to the protection of language
10 minority and other minority groups. As the
11 first draft of the state legislative districts
12 have been unveiled, there still could be
13 revisions and challenges, pending the final
14 census data. The committee will keep a close
15 eye to make sure that the Chinatown
16 neighborhood, as well as our Asian influence
17 district neighborhoods, will be kept intact in
18 the final map. And we thank all of you in
19 advance for doing the same. Thank you very
20 much.

21 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Mr. Chan, we appreciate
22 your testimony. I'm going to take a look real
23 quick if I see any of the virtual hands. I do
24 not at this time. So I'm going to pass it on to

1 our other chair, Chair Hernandez.

2 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Chair
3 Aquino. At the moment, there is no questions.
4 Thank you again, Mr. Chan.

5 We will be moving on to our next
6 witness, Maneesh Limaye, Limaye. I apologize if
7 I mispronounced your last name there. Maneesh, I
8 believe I saw you on here. If you can, just a
9 reminder, unmute yourself, introduce yourself,
10 and if you can say if your testimony is on
11 behalf of yourself or on behalf of an
12 organization. Thank you.

13 MR. MANEESH LIMAYE: So greetings, members
14 of the House and the Senate. I appreciate the
15 opportunity to testify on this topic. My name
16 is Maneesh Limaye, and I'm representing myself.
17 I'm a South Asian who was born in Illinois and
18 have lived in the State of Illinois for upwards
19 of four decades now. And I've seen the South
20 Asian population grow dramatically over that
21 time.

22 I have been following this process
23 very closely because I strongly feel the South
24 Asian community needs to have representation

1 that appropriately reflects our proportion
2 within the state. When this process was
3 conducted ten years ago, complying with the
4 Voting Rights Act was a priority. And as a
5 result of this, as has been mentioned earlier,
6 we now have several members of the Illinois
7 House and Senate of South Asian and East Asian
8 decent.

9 Because of this representation, we
10 have direct policy outcomes that benefit our
11 communities. They include things like the Teach
12 Act and the Asian Family Commission. I have
13 reviewed the maps, and I do believe that they
14 will ensure that South Asian and East Asian
15 voices continue to be heard and we can continue
16 to appropriately be represented. I appreciate
17 you listening to my testimony and giving me the
18 time to testify.

19 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you, Maneesh.
20 I'm looking through here again. I do not see
21 any virtual hands, but pass it on to leader
22 Hernandez. Chair Hernandez.

23 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, Chairman
24 Aquino, we have one question. Senator Plummer.

1 SENATOR PLUMMER: Thank you, Madam
2 Chair. Thank you to the witness for appearing.
3 You just stated that you had reviewed these maps
4 and were comfortable that they represented the
5 communities of interest in a satisfactory
6 manner. What exactly did you do to review the
7 maps and come to that conclusion?

8 MR. MANEESH LIMAYE: Yeah, it was not the
9 in-depth analysis that you have heard from prior
10 people on here. I'm not an expert in this
11 field. I'm just going off of my knowledge of
12 the demographics of the districts and my
13 knowledge of the areas. So it's just a more
14 cursory and passing the proverbial smell test
15 from my perspective.

16 SENATOR PLUMMER: Okay. Thank you.

17 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Leader Butler.

18 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Thank you,
19 Leader. It's just an inquiry. Several of the
20 witnesses we don't seem to have on our list
21 that's been disseminated, nor do we see that
22 they have witness slips, at least on the House
23 side. So I'm wondering where these witnesses
24 are coming from, if they are putting in witness

1 slips or, you know, we ask witnesses to fill out
2 slips all the time. I'm just wondering where
3 they are coming from.

4 MR. MANEESH LIMAYE: So I did submit a
5 witness slip online that was emailed to me, so I
6 don't know if that's been updated on the system
7 or not, but I have completed that.

8 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: So you got an email
9 with a witness slip is it?

10 MR. MANEESH LIMAYE: That's right. That's
11 correct.

12 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Where did you get
13 that email from?

14 MR. MANEESH LIMAYE: Someone on the Senate
15 committee, Ms. Tendon, I believe. Is that
16 right? Yeah, that's where I think I got the
17 link from.

18 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Miss Tenman?

19 **THE WITNESS: Tendom. Tandem.**

20 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: So Madam Chair, I
21 don't know if they are all on the Senate side or
22 what, but obviously, these witness slips aren't
23 on the House side so I don't know how we rectify
24 that.

1 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Leader Butler, we
2 have it on the Senate slips over here.
3 That's the list that I am going through here. So
4 if that's not reflected on the House witness
5 slips, we do apologize. But we're looking at --
6 I'm sorry.

7 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: He's looking on the
8 Senate side and doesn't see it either.

9 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: I'm looking at a
10 computer that's put in front of me right now
11 from the ILGA website, and Mr. Maneesh is on the
12 first page, following a number of folks that
13 have already provided testimony and some others
14 that have filed a written statement here and
15 everyone else that's providing oral testimony.

16 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Very good.
17 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: No problem. Thank
19 you.

20 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Senator Plummer.

21 SENATOR PLUMMER: Thank you, Madam
22 Chair. Madam Chair, out of respect for the
23 witnesses that slipped in at least prior to the
24 committee hearing starting, could we prioritize

1 those witnesses that slipped in before the
2 committee hearing, perhaps those that aren't
3 getting emails encouraging them to slip in after
4 the hearing has started? I do see that the
5 witness that just spoke just filed online, but
6 some of the previous witnesses that have jumped
7 the line in front of the other folks have
8 slipped in still are not listed online on the
9 Senate side. So could we prioritize the folks
10 that slipped in before the committee hearing
11 started?

12 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Senator Aquino?

13 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: I'm sorry. I'm sorry.
14 Absolutely. We are trying to prioritize people
15 that we haven't heard testimony before in
16 previous hearings, but we are going through the
17 list, you know. As we are going through it, if
18 you want, I could say who the next folks are
19 going to be. As the list is in front of me
20 right now, we are going to have Darick Lau speak
21 next, Celeste Flores, Siri Hibbler, Anthony
22 Parrino, Gregory Glover, Aviva Patt, Julie
23 Contreras, Michael Buehler, Shlomo Soroka,
24 Valerie Leonard, Reverend Robin Hood, and Angelo

1 Kilo, I believe.

2 And as more folks slip in or want
3 to provide testimony, we are going to -- this is
4 the purpose of this hearing. We want to make
5 sure that people -- the public is able to
6 provide testimony so they would be put in. So
7 if there is no further questions, we can move on
8 to our next, our next witness. Excuse me.

9 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes. No further
10 questions on my end.

11 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Excellent. Maneesh,
12 thank you again for providing testimony. We are
13 going to move on.

14 As I said, the next person on
15 the list here is Darek Lau, I believe, from the
16 Coalition for a Better Chinese American
17 Community. I do see Mr. Lau there. If you
18 would make sure to unmute yourself, introduce
19 yourself for the record and if you are speaking
20 on behalf of yourself or an organization. Thank
21 you.

22 MR. DAREK LAU: Hello. I thank the members
23 of the committee for this opportunity to testify
24 before you. My name is Darek Lau. I am a staff

1 person at the Coalition for a Better Chinese
2 American Community, CBCAC, a policy and advocacy
3 organization based in Chicago's Chinatown. And
4 I am also a resident of the Chinatown community,
5 born and raised, descending from poor rural
6 farmers who immigrated here for educational and
7 career opportunities for their children. I am
8 here before you as their grandchild to advocate
9 on their behalf, as well as that of other Opos
10 and Hongos in my community to highlight their
11 voices for a map that will define their
12 electoral participation for the next ten years.

13 In Chinatown precincts, voter
14 turnout traditionally has been low, usually
15 around 20 to 30 percent, which had only its
16 highest rates between 40 to 60 percent during
17 the 2020 presidential election. While an
18 obvious barrier to voting is language, we can
19 also attribute these lost voices to more than a
20 century of electeds ignoring or missing
21 opportunities to engage with the community.

22 Additionally, as a result of
23 2011 redistricting, it was a powerful political
24 moment for a fractured Chinatown, previously

1 split into three State Senate districts and four
2 State House districts to become consolidated
3 into one district for both the Senate and the
4 House wherein 95 percent of the Asian-Americans
5 living in the greater Chinatown area were
6 included in the 2nd House District.

7 This transformative change allowed
8 the first Asian American to be elected into the
9 Illinois General Assembly. I recently had the
10 honor to attend the Redistricting 101 workshop
11 with Chinatown parent mentors who helped ensure
12 the success of students at our local elementary
13 schools. And there was one parent's remark that
14 stuck out to me. She thinks that if Chinatown
15 were to have fairer boundaries in order to elect
16 a candidate who will better address the
17 community's needs, people will vote as they'd be
18 empowered to, as they would be more empowered by
19 a realistic chance to change our community.

20 In CBCAC's efforts last year to
21 count Chinatown residents for the 2020 census,
22 we spurred the community to respond to the
23 census forms with visions that counting
24 ourselves in the census, putting ourselves on

1 the map, will urge law makers and other decision
2 makers to be more responsive to our needs, to
3 listen to us. As such, it is important that in
4 2021 redistricting, our lawmakers are
5 transparent about the proposed maps they have
6 drawn and prove to our communities that they are
7 equitably represented.

8 I previously testified at the March
9 25th Senate redistricting hearing to advocate
10 for an open process with community input, urging
11 the committee to develop a thoughtful
12 redistricting process that is open for and
13 accountable to all communities of interest.
14 Today I besiege the committee members to make
15 this map a real open process by sharing the
16 population and demographic data used to develop
17 the map and by working with communities and
18 organizations representing those communities to
19 incorporate community-driven maps in the
20 remapping process.

21 I'd also like to bring to your
22 attention that change Illinois had estimated
23 that with the proposed map drawn on the basis of
24 American Community Survey data, there is an

1 undercount of Illinoisans anywhere from about
2 42,000 to 140,000 people. To their account, ACS
3 population estimates are at best four years old,
4 with Asian-Americans and Latinx communities
5 being the fastest growing demographics in
6 Illinois, these communities, including
7 Chinatown, are drawing the short end of the
8 stick if we continue to use ACS data for
9 redistricting.

10 So I implore our lawmakers to follow
11 the lead of other states, such as California,
12 Oregon and Oklahoma, to commit to waiting until
13 the 2020 census data is released so that our
14 communities are analyzed with more accurate,
15 in-depth data at the census block level for
16 redrawing the map. Everyone needs to count. We
17 cannot leave a stone unturned when it comes to
18 how much impact our communities can have on
19 elections for the next decade in which for many,
20 their lives are at stake.

21 Alternatively, a United Congress of
22 Community and Religious Organizations, which
23 CBCAC is part of, submitted the unity map to the
24 Redistricting Committee for consideration. The

1 unity map does use ACS data but also takes into
2 account input from African American, Latinx,
3 Asian American and Muslim communities. CBCAC
4 supports the unity map for keeping our
5 communities together and representing us more
6 equitably with community voices centered in its
7 process. Coming from strong and sturdy farmers,
8 carrying their hopes and dreams for a beautiful
9 flourishing life, my wish is for the map for the
10 next decade to allow for their and their
11 decendents' voices to be heard. Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you, Darek. Looking
13 over in virtual hands that I do not see at the
14 moment, I will pass it over to Chair Hernandez.

15 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: No hands raised in
16 the house.

17 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you again for your
18 participation this evening. We will be moving
19 on to the next witness, which is Celeste Flores,
20 I believe representing Mano a Mano Family
21 Resource Center. Miss Flores, if you are on, if
22 you can please unmute yourself and introduce
23 yourself for the record. I do see her on. Miss
24 Flores, you are muted. If you can please unmute

1 yourself and begin your testimony when you can.
2 Ms. Flores, if you can unmute yourself and
3 begin. If not, we will have to come back to
4 her.

5 MS. CELESTE FLORES: Hello.

6 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: There you go. Excellent.
7 If you could introduce yourself for the record
8 and just state if your testimony is on behalf of
9 yourself or an organization, and then provide
10 your testimony. Thank you.

11 MS. CELESTE FLORES: Yes, Celeste Flores,
12 and I'm here on behalf of Mano a Mano Family
13 Resource Center. So good afternoon to both
14 chairs and both members of the committee. My
15 name is Celeste Flores, and I'm the director of
16 community building with Mano a Mano Family
17 Resource Center. Our mission is to empower
18 immigrant families to become full participants
19 in their community. Our vision is an integrated
20 community where everyone has access to
21 opportunities and pathways to success.

22 Mano a Mano has been in
23 existence for 20 years serving Lake County and
24 parts of McHenry County. Our main office is

1 located in Round Lake Park and with satellite
2 offices in North Chicago. And pre-pandemic, we
3 had community sites in Wauconda, Mundelein and
4 Highland Park.

5 As I stated earlier, our mission is
6 to empower our immigrant communities; and
7 without a doubt, the redistricting in our
8 communities will have a longstanding effect if
9 it's done in a transparent and equitable way. I
10 want to thank the body for taking the
11 recommendations from so many organizations and
12 for hosting these hearings later in the day so
13 that working class community members are also
14 able to participate in this process.

15 As an organization that is on
16 the ground and sees the everyday needs of our
17 community members, it is extremely important for
18 the Illinois legislators to properly educate the
19 community on the redistricting process. This
20 body must hold itself to true transparency.

21 Although we have appreciated to be
22 able to give feedback on the proposed maps, we
23 feel there has not been adequate time given for
24 community members to have all the information

1 they need to participate in this process. The
2 maps and the notice of public hearings were made
3 on May 21st in the evening on a Friday for
4 public meetings that would be taking place on
5 May 25th and May 26th. It's unfortunate that
6 the recommendations from so many organizations
7 that testified in April requesting a two-week
8 notice for all future public meetings was not
9 followed through by both chambers. It continues
10 to be a disappointment that this body is not
11 waiting for the data from the 2020 census to
12 draw its maps with accurate data. ACS data is
13 only a small sampling of the state. This puts
14 communities of color at great risk of having
15 been missed or excluded, and everyone should be
16 counted.

17 Oftentimes, we've seen
18 communities of color being left behind by old,
19 outdated process; and this is the perfect
20 opportunity to empower communities by having a
21 transparent, equitable redistricting process.
22 And alternatively, other states have taken
23 proactive measures to wait for the 2020 census
24 data. They have sought or been granted relief

1 from Constitutional and legislative deadlines.
2 Why are they ignoring the advice from the
3 National Conference of State Legislators?

4 Everyone in Illinois should be
5 counted. That's not acceptable or equitable. As
6 an organization whose mission is to empower
7 community members, we are voicing our concern
8 about the process that is being rushed and has
9 not taken into consideration the voices that you
10 all represent and serve your constituents.
11 Thank you for your time this evening.

12 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Celeste, thank you for
13 your testimony. Bear with me while I look
14 through the virtual hands. Seeing none, I will
15 pass it over to Chair Hernandez.

16 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: No hands up in the
17 House. Oh, wait. Senator Plummer.

18 SENATOR PLUMMER: Thank you, Madam
19 Chair. And Chairman Aquino, I apologize. I
20 know as a Senator, I keep speaking with the
21 House's time, but we are not able to raise our
22 hands on these computers here. I'm not sure
23 exactly where you are, but that's why we have to
24 keep participating on the House side. If,

1 perhaps, someone from the Senate could come over
2 to this hearing, it would be more helpful for
3 the proceedings.

4 I appreciate the witness's
5 testimony. I just want to clarify or go just a
6 little bit deeper on one thing. I sympathize
7 with your extreme frustrations with the process.
8 You mentioned that you would have liked to have
9 seen more time for public hearings, more time
10 for public review. What do you think would have
11 been a reasonable amount of time between when a
12 final map is introduced and a vote is taken on
13 the map so public and organizations such as
14 yours can have input and feel like they are
15 being fairly represented in the process?

16 MS. CELESTE FLORES: We have recommended in
17 April two weeks.

18 SENATOR PLUMMER: Well, that seems to be in
19 line with a large number of the other witnesses,
20 so appreciate that feedback.
21 Thank you.

22 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: No further questions
23 in the House.

24 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you. Thank you,

1 Celeste, for your testimony this evening.

2 And moving on to our next witness,
3 Siri Hibbler, I believe from the Illinois Black
4 Chamber of commerce. Trying to -- I don't
5 believe Siri Hibbler is on, so we will move on
6 to the next witness, and we still have a few
7 others that we have moved on from. If they ever
8 do come on to the virtual hearing, we would
9 certainly try to make sure we'd hear their
10 testimony.

11 But moving on, Anthony Parrino, who
12 I also do not see on the list here. So --

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Sorry. Did you say
14 Reema?

15 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: No, I did not.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Sorry. I apologize.

17 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: That's fine. I don't
18 believe an Anthony Parrino is on here, as well.
19 Gregory Glover. I'm being told that it does not
20 look like Gregory Glover is on. And I do believe
21 our next person, Aviva Patt, I do believe I saw
22 that name. Yes, Miss Patt, I see you there. If
23 you can make sure to unmute yourself, introduce
24 yourself for the record, your name and if you

1 are representing yourself or an organization.

2 And please begin your testimony.

3 MS. AVIVA PATT: Thank you very much. My
4 name is Aviva Miriam Patt, and I am the
5 executive director of the Decalogue Society of
6 Lawyers. The Decalogue Society of Lawyers,
7 founded in 1934, is the nation's oldest Jewish
8 bar association. Decalogue's mission includes
9 educating the public on legal and Jewish issues,
10 maintaining vigilance against discriminatory
11 public and private practices, particularly
12 anti-Semitism, and working with other ethnic
13 communities to combat hate and to promote
14 justice.

15 The Jewish community in Illinois is
16 small, very small, just over 2 percent of the
17 population. And our ethnic group isn't counted
18 in the census, which makes it challenging for
19 others to identify our communities for the
20 purposes of political apportionment. But that
21 challenge was addressed by testimony provided to
22 the Redistricting Committee in last month's
23 hearings. You heard that the greatest
24 concentration of Jewish residents in Illinois

1 exists in West Rogers Park, Peterson Park,
2 Lincolnwood and Skokie. You heard that it is in
3 the interests of our community to have a
4 district drawn to encompass those areas,
5 enabling us to influence selection of those who
6 would represent us.

7 Although the testimony referred
8 specifically to the subset of our community that
9 identifies as orthodox, many of the public
10 policy issues that were raised, specifically
11 religious accommodation and protection against
12 anti-Semitic hate crimes and violence, are
13 universal to the greater Jewish community. Yet
14 the request to create a Jewish influence
15 district in the only area in the entire state
16 where it's possible was ignored, and the heart
17 of the Illinois Jewish community was
18 eviscerated, slicing into pieces the lobbies of
19 three separate districts. We want to know why.

20 I'm not a novice at this. I've
21 worked on redistricting for 40 years. And I
22 know, as you all know, as only someone who's
23 done it can really know, how difficult it is to
24 meet all the legal requirements and competing

1 interests of communities of interest. And I
2 know that compromises need to be made, and not
3 every community's wish list can be granted. But
4 looking at your map, I can't see what that
5 competing interest was that was met by dividing
6 our community, precluding the creation of even
7 just one Jewish influenced district in Illinois.

8 As I looked at the whole map and the
9 many neighborhoods and cities and towns that are
10 fragmented to the point that their residents
11 couldn't possibly have influence in the
12 selection of a representative, I have to wonder
13 what the criteria was, what criteria was used.
14 Did anyone giving public testimony over the past
15 month ask for this map? The lack of demographic
16 detail, which other speakers have mentioned,
17 makes it impossible to assess whether the
18 representation that all of our ethnic
19 communities have asked for has been satisfied.
20 And the lack of access to whatever data the
21 Redistricting Committee used makes it impossible
22 for us to assess whether our representation
23 goals could have been better met.

24 The Decalogue Society of Lawyers

1 opposes the adoption of this map. We ask the
2 legislature to wait for the detailed census data
3 to be released, then draw a map based on that
4 data that reflects the express needs of the
5 communities and ethnic groups that have asked
6 for a fair and just map for all our communities.
7 For our own community and in solidarity with
8 other ethnic communities, we ask this: Don't
9 divide us, don't disappear us, and don't
10 disempower us. Thank you very much.

11 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you so much. Before
12 we go into questions, I'm just going
13 to ask Vice Chairman Sims if he can be in the
14 chair for a moment. So Sims in the chair.

15 VICE CHAIRMAN SIMS: Sims in the chair.
16 Madam Chair, I don't see any questions on this
17 side. To you, Chair Hernandez.

18 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, thank you Chair
19 Simms. Yes, we do have a question from Senator
20 Plummer.

21 SENATOR PLUMMER: Thank you, Madam
22 Chair. Thank you for your testimony today to
23 the witness. You brought up an interesting
24 point highlighting that the Jewish population

1 is, I believe you said, approximately 2 percent
2 of the state. And we all know, we've heard
3 plenty of experts testify that ACS data is
4 wildly inaccurate for purposes such as this.
5 But it especially is inaccurate when it comes to
6 smaller populations, so let's say rural
7 communities, maybe certain demographics that are
8 not large in population, i.e., maybe, let's say,
9 the Jewish population.

10 So I guess my question is to either
11 Chairman Hernandez or Chairman Simms. Can you
12 tell the witness or can you tell the committee,
13 did whoever was involved in reviewing this data
14 and drawing this map, what did they do to take
15 into account these smaller populations that are
16 going to be wildly miscounted by ACS data?

17 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: I have shared
18 this before, that all I know is ACS was one of
19 the sources used and also all of the testimony
20 from our interest groups in the various
21 hearings. Obviously, the testimony that we are
22 receiving during these interests -- I'm sorry --
23 during these committees, hearing committees,
24 will be taken under consideration. I like to

1 remind everybody that this is a draft map.

2 SENATOR PLUMMER: And I appreciate that,
3 Madam Chair. Obviously, not every witness, you
4 know -- we sit in all these meetings, but not
5 every witness is a party to all of these
6 meetings. So again, I guess my question was,
7 did the mapmakers take into consideration?
8 And if so, how did they address to the benefit
9 of the communities that would be miscounted by
10 ACS data, what did they do to address that to
11 make sure that these communities were not
12 miscounted?

13 And then my follow-up question would
14 be, will you -- will the folks who designed this
15 map, will they be releasing the data and all of
16 the various inputs used to drive these maps to
17 the witnesses, to the public, so that we can
18 review it?

19 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: What I would say is
20 that that's the reason why we have these
21 hearings because this would be helpful in taking
22 a look at the map again and see where we may
23 have to revise. So this is very important.
24 These hearings have been very important, as you

1 can see. And once we take the information back,
2 we will come up -- we will come back with the
3 map; and my hope is with the information, the
4 data, and we will take it from there.

5 SENATOR PLUMMER: I don't want to speak for
6 the witness, but my understanding from this
7 witness and from what I've heard other witnesses
8 say is they would actually like to be part of
9 the process, not just told what's going to
10 happen. And in order for them to be part of the
11 process, they would need to know what data's
12 being used; and they should have that data
13 released to them.

14 So I appreciate the fact that we are
15 having these hearings. They are not very
16 productive for the witnesses when the witnesses
17 are just staring at a map my children could have
18 drawn. So my question is will you release the
19 data used to design these maps to the witnesses
20 and to the public of Illinois so that their
21 testimony in future hearings can be more
22 valuable and so they can look out for their
23 respective communities during this process?

24 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, that's the

1 intention.

2 SENATOR PLUMMER: Thank you. And final
3 question. Could you please let the witnesses
4 and us know when you intend to do that if that's
5 your intention?

6 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: As soon as we
7 can.

8 SENATOR PLUMMER: Thank you, Madam
9 Chair.

10 VICE CHAIRMAN SIMS: Madam Chair, do you
11 see any other questions?

12 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes. Representative
13 Spain, do you have a question?

14 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: I do, Madam
15 Chairwoman. Thank you for allowing me to ask
16 it.

17 I've heard you say today and
18 certainly many times yesterday that this is a
19 draft map and that the testimony now being
20 provided today and yesterday would be
21 incorporated for changes, correct?

22 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: I believe I said
23 reviewed, looked over, yes.

24 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Sure. And I'm not

1 trying to put words in your mouth to that
2 effect, but I don't understand why any witness
3 that's coming to provide testimony now should
4 feel any confidence that their testimony will be
5 considered and have an impact on what moves
6 forward with the maps. That, I believe, was the
7 intention of the nearly 40 hearings that were
8 held many weeks ago. And so if you are hearing
9 a frustration from committee members and its
10 amplified by witnesses, it is through the sense
11 that witnesses provided testimony; and certainly
12 a variety of witnesses opined strongly on the
13 importance of the Jewish community in our state
14 and their interests in having influence in terms
15 of a legislative district. And so that
16 testimony was loud and clear throughout the
17 process. And yet, it was not acknowledged or
18 incorporated, according to witnesses we have
19 heard from, in the proposed maps. And now we
20 are led to believe that this is the time where
21 testimony will matter and that it will be
22 considered and adjustments could be made or, as
23 you said, perhaps only reviewed.

24 So, Madam Chair, just in all

1 honesty, I'm having a tough time believing that
2 we truly want to incorporate testimony and
3 feedback received from witnesses. And if we
4 did, we would have provided the two weeks'
5 notice that was requested. We would have shared
6 data with our witnesses so that they can make
7 intelligent decisions and recommendations in
8 offering feedback for these maps. This seems
9 just as though we are going through the motions
10 and I hope not, once again, wasting the time of
11 dedicated community advocates throughout the
12 State of Illinois that just want a seat at the
13 table and have a fair shake at how these maps
14 are moved forward and affect the governance of
15 the State of Illinois for ten years.

16 So I hope that someone's listening,
17 whoever is drawing these maps, whoever has
18 access to the data that's being withheld from
19 the public and from this committee. We need to
20 do a much better job. Thank you.

21 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Leader Butler.

22 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Thank you,
23 Leader Hernandez. I have heard you say many
24 times that you are taking all of the witness

1 testimony and you are going to consider it as we
2 move forward. The most often repeated testimony
3 that we've heard throughout every one of these
4 hearings is to delay until we get the decennial
5 census data, which now from a court opinion in
6 Ohio we heard yesterday will be available August
7 15th, I believe.

8 So is it -- will the majority -- is
9 it under consideration for the majority to
10 listen to the most often asked portion of the
11 testimony, to delay drawing these maps until the
12 decennial census is available? Is that an
13 option that's on the table for the majority?

14 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: I believe what we
15 are trying to do is take input from the public
16 currently, to take -- to go back and take a look
17 at the draft map and perhaps review it and to
18 come back with a map that, hopefully, will be to
19 the satisfaction. And so we have to go through
20 that exercise first.

21 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: And come back when?

22 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: As soon as we
23 can.

24 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: So is waiting until

1 the decennial census data on the table for the
2 majority?

3 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: We have a deadline,
4 a Constitutional deadline; so I think that --

5 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Yes, we do.
6 Actually, the Constitutional deadline is
7 October 5th.

8 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: I'm sorry?

9 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: We do have a
10 Constitutional deadline. The last date listed
11 in the Constitution in the redistricting section
12 is October 5th.

13 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Well, I believe
14 there is a June 30th.

15 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: For the legislature
16 to act, but the Constitution has an October 5th
17 deadline in case there is other things that come
18 up; and, obviously, not having the decennial
19 census data is another thing. So is it or is it
20 not on the table to listen to the witnesses that
21 have testified the most and the loudest saying
22 to delay this until the decennial census is in?

23 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Representative, are
24 you asking to wait until we pull a name out of a

1 hat?

2 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: No. I'm asking to
3 follow the Constitution.

4 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. That's
5 what we're trying to do.

6 I think there is no further
7 questions in the House.

8 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Okay. Aquino back in the
9 chair, and I do believe we have some questions
10 from Vice Chairman Simms for questions.

11 VICE CHAIRMAN SIMMS: Thank you,
12 Mr. Chairman.

13 Miss Patt, let me make sure I
14 clarify the position that you raise. So one,
15 you were okay with the ACS data being used. And
16 you did mention that the orthodox Jewish
17 community submitted maps. So if those maps were
18 incorporated in the proposal, would you support
19 that effort? Would you support that map?

20 MS. AVIVA PATT: I did not say we are okay
21 with ACS data. And certainly, we do want the
22 data that the orthodox community submitted
23 incorporated into a district because the
24 orthodox community, although only part of our

1 Jewish community, is kind of the core part. And
2 if you include them, you will include the
3 greater community, as well.

4 We also aren't just talking
5 about ourselves. We wouldn't be satisfied with
6 a map that just incorporates what the Jewish
7 community is asking for. We would want all the
8 other ethnic communities to get what they are
9 asking for. And one of the things that I know
10 that they are asking for, especially those that
11 have seen a lot of growth in the past ten years,
12 is the actual census data, not only to reflect
13 their numbers; but I'm not a statistician so I
14 can't debate what a previous witness said about
15 how the ACS data is used, but it's not block
16 data. It's not possible to draw a map showing
17 the trend of where, even if we know the numbers
18 of how these communities have grown, to show
19 where they've grown and to draw districts that
20 will encompass that growth.

21 So in solidarity with the other
22 ethnic communities, we would ask the legislature
23 to wait for the census data.

24 VICE CHAIRMAN SIMMS: So I'm clear,

1 that even if -- so based on your testimony, even
2 if we incorporated the recommendations that you
3 made, you would not support the map, so that's
4 okay. All right. Thank you so much.

5 MS. AVIVA PATT: Thank you.

6 VICE CHAIRMAN SIMS: Thank you,
7 Mr. Chair.

8 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you. And thank
9 you, Miss Patt, for your testimony this evening.
10 We are going to be moving on, but we are
11 actually going to be moving back in the order as
12 I do see Siri Hibbler is back on the link. So
13 if you can please unmute yourself, introduce
14 yourself for the record, state your name and if
15 you are affiliated with any organization or if
16 you are just providing testimony for yourself.
17 So, Miss Hibbler, go right ahead and provide
18 your testimony.

19 MS. SIRI HIBBLER: Thank you. Thank you,
20 Mr. Chairman. Yes, I'm Siri Hibbler. I'm CEO
21 and founder of the Illinois Black Chamber of
22 Commerce and Cook County Black Chamber, as well.
23 I'm here representing also CHANGE Illinois, a
24 group that we are partnering with on this

1 initiative.

2 And on behalf of our members and our
3 residents in our communities, we are very, very
4 concerned that this situation is being rushed
5 and that our communities specifically are going
6 to be undercounted, underrepresented in this map
7 that's being put out here we consider
8 prematurely. Right now, we know for a fact that
9 there are other states that have taken proactive
10 measures to wait for the 2020 census data. They
11 have sought or been granted relief from
12 constitutional and legislative deadlines. We
13 believe the same thing can happen here in
14 Illinois if our Senate and our legislators if
15 you put forth that effort and listen to the
16 calls of the people.

17 The states are being given court
18 approved relief, like states like California and
19 Oregon. There are states that are currently out
20 here petitioning courts to wait for the census
21 data, like Michigan. So, you know, so many
22 states are looking at this because they are
23 receiving the same cries from their constituents
24 that you guys are receiving that we don't want

1 any false data coming out here and then mapping
2 this on some data that's old.

3 We need to wait for the census.
4 So I'm here on behalf again of, you know, the
5 African American community, specifically our
6 members and our partner organizations, to
7 request that you slow down and take another look
8 at this Constitution and see what else you can
9 do before you just put maps out here that we are
10 all going to be stuck with for the next ten
11 years.

12 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you
13 very much.

14 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you, Miss Hibbler.
15 And if you don't mind, if you could put your
16 hand down virtually.

17 MS. SIRI HIBBLER: Absolutely.

18 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you.

19 MS. SIRI HIBBLER: Yes, sir. Yes, sir.

20 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Just to take a look, just
21 to take a look, I do not see any hands up over
22 here, so Chair Hernandez.

23 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes. I have
24 Senator Plummer with a question.

1 SENATOR PLUMMER: Thank you, Madam
2 Chair. This witness discussed ACS concerns. The
3 previous witness did, as well. And I know a
4 reference was brought up by one of the questions
5 presented regarding census blocks. And just for
6 clarification for members of the committee and
7 for the public, does this plan draw boundaries
8 around actual census blocks? Is that what the
9 existing plan that we have all seen, is that
10 what that does?

11 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Senator Plummer, who is
12 your question directed to? I apologize.

13 SENATOR PLUMMER: You know, there is no
14 legislation and no sponsor, so we struggle to
15 know who to direct them to. I guess to you,
16 Chairman Aquino, or to Chairman Hernandez -- or
17 Chairwoman Hernandez. I'm sorry. The question
18 was brought up by one of the members of the
19 committee to the previous witness referencing
20 the block data, so I was just getting
21 clarification. If you could confirm for the
22 members of the committee that the plan that we
23 are looking at now draws boundaries around
24 census blocks, is that correct?

1 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Senator Plummer, I
2 believe so. We don't know for a fact. We are
3 going to have to get back to you on that
4 question.

5 SENATOR PLUMMER: So none of the members of
6 the committee know if the current plan draws
7 boundaries around census blocks?

8 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Senator, all I know
9 is that ACS data is the only source or one of
10 the sources, and along with the input
11 information from our community groups in the
12 previous hearings. That's all for now that I am
13 aware of.

14 SENATOR PLUMMER: So thank you for that.
15 Which community groups from previous hearings
16 did you take their input and use it in drawing
17 the existing map?

18 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: I couldn't --
19 there was a considerable amount. I wouldn't be
20 able to tell you. The list is long. We can
21 certainly compile that list and offer that to
22 you.

23 SENATOR PLUMMER: So there is a list.
24 If you could provide that to us, we would

1 appreciate that. Hopefully, you could provide
2 that to us before the next hearing.

3 Going back to the suggestion block
4 and your comments regarding ACS data, it is my
5 understanding that ACS estimates are only
6 available at the block group level. So on
7 average, there is 45 blocks inside each Illinois
8 block group. So if you only used ACS data in
9 drawing this map, Madam Chair, how did you
10 decide how many people live within each of those
11 blocks?

12 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Senator, I would
13 encourage you to look at the website. All
14 testimony is in the website from all interest
15 groups that testified, considerable information
16 there. And let me correct you that I have
17 continuously said ACS is one of the data sources
18 that I know of.

19 SENATOR PLUMMER: Okay. Well, I don't
20 believe the answer to my question is posted
21 there, but we could review it again.

22 To this witness's testimony just
23 now, she referenced states like Oregon,
24 Michigan, California, that have asked the court

1 for relief of the June 30th date. Why haven't
2 we done that?

3 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Well, I would say we
4 have a constitutional obligation.

5 SENATOR PLUMMER: Well, we do. I believe
6 it's October 5th, as was referenced earlier.
7 But other states have asked for relief from
8 respective timelines that they fall under under
9 their respective states. So they have asked for
10 relief. I believe in some instances they have
11 been granted relief.

12 So my question is, I mean, several
13 witnesses have testified that the census data's
14 coming. It's coming in August. It will be here
15 soon. It's the best data. So why haven't we
16 requested relief from this deadline?

17 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: I'm just going to
18 remind that these hearings were for the purposes
19 of offering a draft map to the public to review
20 and to receive comment. That is the purpose,
21 the goal of these hearings. And once we come
22 back with a map again, we will take it from
23 there.

24 SENATOR PLUMMER: Thank you, Madam

1 Chair. I was just trying to help get some
2 clarification for the witness who obviously was
3 paying attention to how other states were doing
4 it to make sure their maps were as accurate as
5 possible. Thank you.

6 VICE CHAIRMAN SIMS: Madam Chair, if I
7 might. We continue to have this discussion
8 about waiting for or basically ignoring our
9 Constitutional requirement. Our colleagues on
10 the other side continue to push this political
11 timeline, as opposed to adhering to what the
12 Illinois Constitution clearly delineates as our
13 timeline. They continue to push this false
14 narrative that we should wait for this political
15 decision that requires us to pull a name out of
16 a hat, this false narrative that somehow there
17 is not a Constitutional, not a legislative, not
18 an advisory opinion. There is a Constitutional
19 requirement, as prescribed and outlined in the
20 Illinois Constitution, that calls for the
21 legislature to pass a map by June 30th, not to
22 wait for a process which will go to a set of
23 political appointees who will then draw a name
24 out of a hat. That is not what I hear asked

1 for.

2 I have heard testimony today,
3 several people say that they want to make sure
4 that we have a map that reflects their
5 communities. That's what we have heard. That's
6 what this map and, Madam Chair, Madam Chair and
7 Mr. Chairman, you have both rightfully pointed
8 out that this process is to listen to the
9 individual communities of interest, to allow for
10 us to take input, to hear from them, but to make
11 sure that we adhere to our Constitutional
12 requirements. And that's what we are doing, and
13 that's what we are adhering to. And this
14 process is allowing for the voices of
15 communities members to be heard. So I thank all
16 of the witnesses for testifying. But for our
17 friends on the other side to continue to push
18 this narrative that they want to go to this
19 political process, it is a false narrative, and
20 it is not in the best interests of the people of
21 the State of Illinois. So thank you, Madam and
22 Mr. Chairman.

23 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you, Vice Chairman
24 Sims. I see that Vice Chairman Tarver has his

1 hand up.

2 REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: Thank you. Can
3 you hear me?

4 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Yes, we can.

5 REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: Okay. I just
6 going to make sure, because I'm always concerned
7 about having a clear record. And just there's a
8 lot of questions pointed at the respective
9 chairs. And I just want to make sure that we
10 have a record.

11 Chair Hernandez and Chair Aquino,
12 you individually did not draw the maps that have
13 been proposed; is that correct?

14 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: That is correct.

15 REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: Okay. I just want
16 to make sure because when somebody reads this
17 later on -- I'm sorry, Madam Chair. I'm sorry
18 to cut you off. Please go ahead.

19 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: That is correct.

20 REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: I just want to
21 make sure when somebody reads these transcripts
22 later on and the questions are directed at you,
23 and you, and you, that the record is clear that
24 it's not you as an individual chair. You

1 convened the meeting to hear from the public;
2 and unfortunately, we heard more from ourselves
3 than we have the public, and that's unfortunate
4 but that's what transpired yesterday as well.

5 The other thing is I keep hearing
6 this narrative about why don't we -- why don't
7 we ask for, or why didn't you ask for relief.
8 Is it your understanding that you, Leader
9 Hernandez; or you, Leader Aquino, are the only
10 two people out of the 12.8 million people in
11 Illinois or so who could actually request
12 relief? Would it have to be the two of you? I
13 want to make sure I'm clear. Is it your
14 understanding that you have to be the two
15 individuals that request relief as it relates to
16 the maps?

17 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: My understanding is that
18 anyone can, and I would suggest that if there's
19 members on the other side that certainly want to
20 ask for that relief, then they can go right
21 ahead. But from my knowledge, no one has asked
22 for that relief.

23 REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: My humble
24 suggestion is, instead of the partisan and game

1 plan and planning and muddying up the record, if
2 our President decides we are, the same issue,
3 and they want to request relief from the federal
4 government or anyone else, then maybe they do
5 that, instead of usurping the time that
6 constituents and the residents of Illinois have
7 to allow us to hear from you then, as it
8 relates -- and my final point is, it's a little
9 disingenuous to talk about how, you know,
10 purportedly nothing has been taken into account
11 with the maps to date, and then suggest that 40
12 hearings or so were unnecessary and they were
13 not taken into account today. You can't have it
14 both ways.

15 We're here to look at others, not
16 just like pleasing the other side of the aisle,
17 and if they could maybe allow those individuals
18 to talk a little bit more, we might get
19 somewhere and be able to look at the draft maps
20 and move forward.

21 So thank you very much, Madam
22 Chair and Mr. Chair. I appreciate it.

23 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you. No further
24 questions, I don't think. And we're going to

1 move on to the next witness, which we have
2 Pastor Julie Contreras --

3 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Chair Aquino, I do
4 have a question from Representative Spain.

5 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Thank you, Madam
6 Chairwoman and Mr. Chairman on the senate side.

7 I think it's important that a
8 response be delivered to a couple of the past
9 remarks.

10 First, I want the record to be
11 clear that in no way are Republicans seeking to
12 move forward to a process that allows the fate
13 of our government to be determined by the flip
14 of a coin or the pulling of a name out of a
15 hat. And I've said that before. Maybe it has
16 not been heard. I would like to repeat it
17 again.

18 We have an opportunity to work
19 together. The people of the State of Illinois
20 have asked us to do so. So far that is not
21 happening. And I hope with all sincerity that
22 we can do so.

23 I personally introduced
24 legislation that could guide our process with

1 how we could step forward as we deal with the
2 issues of the deadlines in our state
3 constitution and the realities of the census
4 delay that we're experiencing. But make no
5 mistake, the recommendation that I have does not
6 allow for unilateral, one-party control of the
7 process. It would give some standing to the
8 friends that you have here on the other side of
9 the aisle. I don't think we should this time,
10 nor should we ever, have a name drawn out of a
11 hat that would be responsible for the
12 construction of our government for the next ten
13 years.

14 Now, to the point that was just
15 made by my friend on the other side of the aisle
16 in the House, and I'm sorry if you feel that
17 members of the committee are dominating too much
18 of the discussion, it's not my attention; but
19 what I've heard from many witnesses are specific
20 requests that I do not believe are being
21 answered or perhaps considered seriously by the
22 Democrats in charge of this process.

23 And Senator Sims, it's really
24 good to see you again. We missed seeing you in

1 the House. And I have a lot of respect for you,
2 and I mean that, that I do miss given the chance
3 to see you as often as we used to.

4 One of the things that I -- and
5 I'm not trying to put you on the spot, but I
6 think it's a fair question for witnesses to ask,
7 and certainly, members of the House and Senate
8 Redistricting Committee, to ask the question
9 what data was used in the construction of the
10 proposed maps that were unveiled on Friday? And
11 we have asked the question dozens of different
12 ways. We know that ACS is being used. We know
13 that input from community groups we're told are
14 being incorporated. But we've asked the
15 question, is there any other data that is being
16 used in addition to ACS in the construction of
17 these maps? Are you able to answer that for
18 us?

19 VICE CHAIRMAN SIMS: Was that for me?

20 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Yes.

21 VICE CHAIRMAN SIMS: Absolutely. And
22 Ryan, it's always good to see you as well. But
23 let me say this to you.

24 First, if we were to wait for the

1 census data, pursuant to our Constitution, we
2 are going to the flip of a hat. So make no
3 mistake about it, and please don't try to
4 mislead the public and suggest anything else.
5 Because that is exactly what happens. If we
6 wait for the census data, we're going to the
7 flip of a coin.

8 Now, in addition, we've heard a
9 considerable amount of dialogue from our friends
10 on the other side of the aisle, but pursuant to
11 records according to the Illinois Controller's
12 office, there's been over a half a million
13 dollars spent by our friends on the other side
14 of the aisle on redistricting purposes. Where
15 is your map? Where is your proposal? What data
16 did you use in drawing whatever proposal you
17 came up with, because you were spending money on
18 something. So what was that money spent on?

19 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Senator, are you
20 going to answer my question first?

21 VICE CHAIRMAN SIMS: When you answer mine,
22 Representative.

23 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Well, first of all,
24 I'd say that in the past going to the Commission

1 we have used the eight-member commission to come
2 up with a result before, that has happened once.

3 And then secondly, we will use
4 the U.S. census data to draw maps when the
5 census comes out in August.

6 VICE CHAIRMAN SIMS: So again, so that was
7 a "yes" that you want to go to the eight-member
8 commission that goes to the flip of a coin by
9 waiting for the census data, because -- so
10 that's a "yes" --

11 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: I heard you say --

12 VICE CHAIRMAN SIMS: No, no -- Ryan, in
13 1981, in 1991, in 2001, when it went to -- when
14 that process went that those commissions, what
15 happened? It went to the flip of a coin. You
16 are using and picking one instance 50 years ago
17 in the first instance when the Illinois
18 Constitution went into effect. I am talking
19 about more recent experiences, 1981, 1991, 2001.
20 That's what happened. Don't try to mislead the
21 public and say anything else. That's what
22 happens. We know that's what's going to happen.

23 So if -- and now you are saying
24 that so the more than almost three quarters of a

1 million dollars that our friends on the other
2 side of the aisle had spent on redistricting
3 purposes, has been -- has been used for what?

4 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Well, both caucuses
5 did not receive the same amount of resources
6 available, and I look forward to --

7 VICE CHAIRMAN SIMS: But you have seen --
8 Ryan, you have seen the results of our work --

9 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: I have not.

10 VICE CHAIRMAN SIMS: There is a map that's
11 been produced --

12 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Senator, Senator --

13 VICE CHAIRMAN SIMS: First, there's a map
14 that's been produced, that's put up on
15 ilsenateredistricting.com and
16 ilhouseredistricting.com that has -- you've seen
17 the work that has happened. So where is the
18 map -- where is the map from our Republican
19 colleagues?

20 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: I have seen a
21 picture of your work. And I'm asking you, can
22 you provide the data that was used to create
23 your maps?

24 VICE CHAIRMAN SIMS: What data did you

1 use -- what data are you using? Where is your
2 map?

3 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: We don't have a
4 map.

5 VICE CHAIRMAN SIMS: Okay. So -- but
6 almost three quarters of a million dollars that
7 Republicans have spent, there is no map? There
8 is no data? There is nothing that's been used?

9 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Can you provide
10 your data, yes or no?

11 VICE CHAIRMAN SIMS: But you have not
12 answered my question.

13 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: You have not
14 answered mine. It's just my question, Elgie.
15 It's the question of every advocacy group that
16 has come here and said, we would like to know
17 what is the data that is used to create the
18 Democratic maps? Please just show it to us. I
19 don't think that that's an unreasonable request.
20 It is not to be antagonistic. It's so that
21 groups that are here to provide testimony can
22 understand the information that is portrayed to
23 them in a picture.

24 VICE CHAIRMAN SIMS: Where is the map that

1 is the proposal coming from our friends on the
2 other side of the aisle? Where is that map?
3 And what data did you use?

4 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Senator, I don't
5 know how to say it any more clearly. We don't
6 have a map.

7 VICE CHAIRMAN SIMS: Okay. Okay. All
8 right. Well, then, you have heard from both of
9 the Chair of the Senate Redistricting Committee,
10 the Chair of the House Redistricting Committee.
11 This is a process where we are looking to listen
12 to the communities of interest. Listen to the
13 input from communities, not to hear from -- have
14 questions that have been asked and answered over
15 and over again, but to listen to the communities
16 say that this is a draft map. And as we get
17 through this process, making sure we hear from
18 communities so we move to a map that meets our
19 constitutional deadline that is fair, is
20 transparent, and it speaks to the communities of
21 interest across the State of Illinois. Thank
22 you, Mr. Chairman.

23 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: The question that
24 has been asked, Madam Chair, here in the house

1 session that has been asked and not answered
2 again and again and again, what data, other than
3 ACS, has been used in the creation of the
4 Democrats' maps? Ask and never answered. Thank
5 you.

6 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: I have question
7 from Leader Butler.

8 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Thank you, Madam
9 Chair.

10 I would like to go back to what I
11 said yesterday about the spokesmen of the
12 Illinois House Speaker's office in a radio
13 interview yesterday, not only did he impugn the
14 integrity of the institutions or the advocacy
15 groups by asking people to look at their 990s
16 and inferring that they're some sort of front
17 group.

18 The other thing that he said
19 during that public radio show that was
20 broadcast, was that all four caucuses received
21 the same amount of money that is appropriated
22 every year that's publicly available, that
23 everyone can see, and I would assume, since the
24 Democrats haven't spent as much money, but

1 they've had a lot of money going in and out that
2 look like high-priced attorneys outside the
3 secret room, then maybe you're just holding on
4 to your receipts for that to maybe put them
5 through until after redistricting is over.

6 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: I'm going to put
7 Vice Chair Tarver in the chair.

8 SENATOR PLUMMER: So I know Vice Chair
9 Tarver is not in the room. I had a question. I
10 know Chairwoman Hernandez is stepping out
11 briefly.

12 The back and forth, right there,
13 is unfortunate because there's a lot of
14 witnesses here from around the State that have a
15 lot of important testimony that we all need to
16 hear.

17 I think one thing that needs to
18 be highlighted here is the simple fact that it
19 sounds like there's some frustration with the
20 process, maybe on both sides; but last year in
21 the Illinois State Senate a super majority,
22 bipartisan super majority members of the senate,
23 including members who are sitting on the senate
24 Democrat Redistricting Committee right now

1 signed on to legislation for an independent
2 commission that would have resolved all of these
3 problems, and yet didn't pass it with a
4 bipartisan supermajority in the senate. The
5 senate republicans refiled identical legislation
6 that would have resolved all of these problems,
7 and yet we couldn't get a hearing on it, and so
8 I believe that the complaints about the process
9 and the complaints about the restraints and the
10 complaints about the false timelines that are
11 being presented to the people of Illinois, fall
12 on deaf ears when the other side of the aisle
13 had every possibility to resolve this and create
14 a fair and independent process for the people of
15 Illinois, a bipartisan supermajority signed on
16 it, they held it, the republicans re-introduced
17 identical language -- nearly identical language
18 this year, and it was completely ignored by the
19 majority party.

20 The only reason why someone would
21 or a group would ignore such thoughtful
22 bipartisan legislation was to make this a
23 difficult partisan process. So the complaints
24 fall on deaf ears. This could have been

1 resolved long ago, and we could have made sure
2 all these witnesses had an excellent opportunity
3 to participate in the process. We could have
4 put the people in charge of the map instead of
5 politicians behind closed doors.

6 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you.

7 REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: Was that a
8 question for me, Senator Plummer? You mentioned
9 Vice Chair Tarver. I'm here. Is that a
10 question for me? It sounded like a statement.

11 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: I'm happy to respond
12 either way.

13 SENATOR PLUMMER: Yeah -- no, no, not a
14 question. You just weren't in the room, so I
15 just wanted to let you know there was a question
16 or a comment as Chairman Hernandez walked out.

17 REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: Oh, no worries.
18 And let me just -- let me just quickly follow up
19 to that.

20 A lot of what you said is just
21 based on your interpretation, what's thoughtful,
22 what's honest and those types of things. The
23 reality of it is, no matter how much is
24 hijacked, the purpose of these hearings is to

1 hear from the public, primarily, not to air out
2 political gripes and things like that. And then
3 we have the continuous statements come that are
4 partisan in nature and just to fill a
5 transcript. We are losing opportunity to hear
6 from the public and hear their opinion.

7 So I appreciate -- I would be
8 happy to talk to you offline as much as you
9 want, but the scope of these actual hearings are
10 to hear, primarily, from the public and ask them
11 questions as opposed to long pontificated
12 statements from either side of the aisle.

13 SENATOR PLUMMER: I appreciate that. I
14 think the public doesn't want us to hear them.
15 I think the public wants us to listen to them.
16 There might be a hearing going on, but there's
17 clearly not a lot of listening.

18 If there was a true desire to
19 listen to the public, I would not be looking
20 around this room at a bunch of empty chairs.
21 All the members of the committee would be here
22 to engage the public in person.

23 REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: If you be
24 listening to the public, you wouldn't still be

1 on the microphone. But that's the entire point.
2 The more you continue to talk, and I continue to
3 talk, we're not hearing or listening to the
4 public. So why don't we both just be quiet and
5 go to a witness?

6 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Hernandez back in
7 the chair.

8 No further questions from the
9 house?

10 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: So I will attempt to do
11 this again, and Pastor Julie Contreras, thank
12 you for your patience and everyone else that is
13 still on, that still has to -- that still would
14 like to provide testimony. But next up is
15 Pastor Julie Contreras from United Giving Hope.

16 Pastor, if you wouldn't mind
17 introducing yourself for the record and if you
18 are providing testimony on behalf of yourself or
19 an organization. Thank you.

20 PASTOR JULIE CONTRERAS: Good evening,
21 Madam Chair, and Chair Aquino, and to all of the
22 state representatives and senate senators from
23 the State of Illinois that are participating in
24 this hearing.

1 My name is Pastora Julie
2 Contreras, and I am a resident of the
3 Illinois 30th District here in Waukegan,
4 Illinois.

5 I am the president of United
6 Giving Hope, a non-for-profit organization that
7 serves Humanity Beyond Borders.

8 I am also the pastor of our Lady
9 of Suyapa Sanctuary, a satellite of Lincoln
10 United Methodist Church. And I am here today as
11 a voice for my pueblo.

12 The Latino community is genuinely
13 concerned about this inappropriate redistricting
14 map, because this is being rushed without the
15 utilization of the U.S. census results that are
16 not in yet. And we cannot trust the numbers
17 being utilized for this redistricting, because
18 you have not shared the source of this
19 information.

20 The members of this committee
21 have a responsibility and the power to be
22 transparent about their data so we can have an
23 honest -- let me repeat that, an honest
24 conversation, and if their maps are fair. We do

1 not trust this redistricting map, because we
2 cannot see that there is -- we can see that
3 there's a political agenda, and does not include
4 the long-term interest of the Latino community
5 and other communities that you are supposed to
6 serve.

7 Politics are at its best when
8 drawing maps to save seats, punish Republicans
9 and sadly, looking at Latino districts last.
10 And this is unacceptable. You have shown the
11 public no factual data to support your map.
12 Passing this redistricting map would be a huge
13 misrepresentation of the rule of law in the
14 State of Illinois.

15 Senators and state reps, we want
16 our familias and our votos to count. We ask you
17 to say "no" to this redistricting map, and "no"
18 to politricking. Nuestro voz es nuestro voto.
19 And we expect you to do your job. Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Pastora, thank you for
21 your testimony. Looking out here on the
22 virtual. I'll now pass it over to Chair
23 Hernandez.

24 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: No questions from

1 the house.

2 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you, Pastora for
3 your testimony this evening. We now have
4 Michael Buehler, the McHenry County Board
5 Chairman. Mr. Buehler, I believe you saw you on
6 here. I see you there, if you can just unmute
7 yourself and begin your testimony. Thank you.

8 Mr. Buehler, it doesn't seem like
9 you're muted but you are actually muted. We
10 cannot hear you.

11 MR. MICHAEL BUEHLER: Good afternoon -- or
12 good evening, now, Chair Aquino and Hernandez.

13 Like you said, my name is Mike
14 Buehler, and I serve as County Board Chairman
15 for McHenry County, and I appreciate the
16 opportunity to, again, provide input to the
17 senate and house redistricting that will affect
18 all residents of our county.

19 I will be opposing the maps in
20 their current form. When my testimony was
21 previously provided on April 7 of this year, I
22 requested altered statutory deadlines for
23 approval of reapportionment maps to align with
24 the delivery of U.S. census data. That has not

1 occurred to date, but we still have an
2 opportunity to address another concern in my
3 earlier testimony.

4 In the McHenry County we have --
5 some of our municipalities have multiple
6 senators, representatives, and congressmen all
7 within the same municipality. I feel this
8 creates confusion on the part of the voter, and
9 does not support continuity within the
10 community.

11 Boundaries of districts should
12 have clear and transparent delineation to avoid
13 these types of situations.

14 I know that in the City of
15 Crystal Lake, a community of just over 40,000,
16 it's currently represented by three different
17 senators and three different representatives.
18 The new map should attempt to address this
19 situation. Now with the new maps, this problem
20 was not addressed. In fact, it was made worse.

21 Both communities of Crystal Lake
22 and Lake in the Hills are now a part of four
23 senate districts and four representative
24 districts. Very minor adjustments to the

1 proposed maps can alleviate this situation. And
2 I respectfully urge steps to be taken to assist
3 the residents of McHenry County.

4 And as Chairman of the sixth
5 largest county in the state of over 300,000
6 constituents, I'm very disappointed that it
7 appears that my prior testimony was not taken
8 into account when these maps were drawn. Quite
9 the opposite. So thank you for your
10 consideration.

11 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you Chairman.

12 Chairman, as I don't have any
13 questions on our side, I'll go to you.

14 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Senator Plummer.

15 SENATOR PLUMMER: Thank you, Chairman
16 Hernandez.

17 Thank you to the witness for his
18 testimony and his previous testimony.

19 For the benefit of the witness or
20 any other witnesses that might have some of the
21 same concerns, Chairman Hernandez, can you let
22 the witnesses know, let us know, let the people
23 of Illinois know what geographic boundaries were
24 used to draw these maps?

1 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: No, I don't have
2 that information.

3 SENATOR PLUMMER: Would Chairman Aquino by
4 chance be able to tell us what geographic
5 boundaries were used to draw these maps?

6 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: I don't have any more
7 information than Chair Hernandez.

8 SENATOR PLUMMER: Okay. Thank you.

9 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: There's no other
10 questions from the House.

11 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Chairman Buehler, thank
12 you so much for your testimony this evening.

13 We're going to move on to our
14 next witness, Mr. Shlomo Soroka, Agudath Israel
15 of Illinois. I don't believe I saw Mr. Soroka
16 here this evening, so we'll be moving on.

17 Valerie Leonard from Nonprofit
18 Utopia. I believe you saw you here.
19 Ms. Leonard, if you don't mind, unmuting
20 yourself, introducing and beginning your
21 testimony. Thank you.

22 MS. VALERIE LEONARD: Thank you. Thank
23 you so much for having me. Again, my name is
24 Valerie Leonard. I'm the founder of Nonprofit

1 Utopia. I am also the convenor for Illinois
2 Africans for Equitable Redistricting. And we
3 are also here in support of the UCCRO Unity Map.

4 So I just want to summarize some
5 of what happened yesterday from my perspective.
6 You opened up yesterday's hearing with an expert
7 witness. He talked for about a half hour. He
8 shared expert opinion and examples with how ACS
9 and other data have been used, and I really,
10 really do -- I support the information that he
11 shared. I believe that he is very well-versed
12 in the use of data.

13 He gave an opinion that it's okay
14 to use ACS data for redistricting. And he also
15 gave some opinion that it is very, very possible
16 for Blacks, Asians, and Latinos to win primaries
17 and actually elections in districts that are not
18 majority minority. And I was hoping that the
19 committee chairs would have walked us through
20 the district map. Yeah, I would have loved to
21 know how the proposal was developed, I would
22 have loved to have had an overview of the
23 districts, the population that support them, and
24 give us a sense for what's new, what's the same,

1 and then open up for questions. But that didn't
2 happen.

3 When we started the process, that
4 is when you release the process, release the
5 maps, I'm sorry, we were basically left on our
6 own to kind of guess what was going on and
7 really use those things like boundaries and
8 street maps and all of that stuff to guess, and
9 we really, really don't know. But from what I
10 saw and what I can infer, I really cannot
11 support this map.

12 Every time we asked questions
13 yesterday, the response was, "I don't know,"
14 "I'll get back to you," "this is only a draft,"
15 "I don't have that information," again, we don't
16 know what the data was -- and quite frankly,
17 it's disappointing to hear "I don't know" all
18 the time.

19 Nobody even took the time to read
20 the mapping proposals that were shared by the
21 community. Nobody seemed to know that the
22 mapping proposals or -- on the website; and if
23 so, it was clear from the comments that you guys
24 were making that nobody read them.

1 And I personally was very, very,
2 very disappointed that the input that I shared
3 regarding the drafting of my own district,
4 District 9, the legislative district State
5 Representative District 9, is that seemed to
6 have been ignored.

7 I recommend that you use the
8 unity map. The unity map was developed by
9 UCCRO, and UCCRO is a multi-cultural
10 organization that has coalition members from
11 various ethnic backgrounds, Latino, Black,
12 Asian, and not just one ethnic group within the
13 Asian community, and not just one ethnic group
14 within in the Latino community, but we came
15 together and we provided input, and we put some
16 of our differences aside and really, really
17 navigated what was in the best interest for each
18 group and tried to make sure that that mapping
19 proposal, indeed, reflected it.

20 And we submitted that proposal on
21 time with all hopes that you would look at it
22 and incorporate some of our suggestions, but
23 from looking at the map, it's clear that our
24 suggestions as it relates to our map was

1 incorporated.

2 We're concerned that nobody seems
3 to be an expert on these calls, to answer the
4 questions. It's clear, we're not mapping
5 experts. You guys are not mapping experts, and
6 we don't expect you to be. But I think it will
7 would be really, really, really, really helpful
8 if the people who actually drew the map, the
9 people who actually manipulated the data were on
10 these calls so we can ask questions, and you can
11 defer to their expertise. We don't have that.
12 We're left to draw our own conclusions; and if
13 you are anything like me, those conclusions are
14 not positive.

15 And I can tell you not only in my
16 opinion were the maps not drawn based on the
17 opinions of the public, the maps from what I
18 could tell dilute the Black voting power across
19 the board.

20 Our unity maps shows that you can
21 draw 19 legislative districts that are majority
22 Black, and that would all be within the scope of
23 a Voting Rights Act.

24 From what we could tell, this

1 actually -- your map actually shows 16 majority
2 Blacks, Black districts. And that's a reduction
3 from the current 18.

4 Our unity map shows that nine
5 majority Black senate districts can be drawn.
6 That's an increase of one Black in a district.
7 Your map, from what we can tell, has six
8 majority Black senate districts. And this would
9 be a reduction of two from the current eight.
10 I'm not a lawyer, but that to me doesn't sound
11 like it would pass legal muster.

12 The maps that you've drawn, they
13 seem to separate Chinatown from the current
14 elected representatives. I, again, don't think
15 that your maps can not only not withstand a
16 legal challenge, I don't think politically --
17 and when I say politically, I'm not talking
18 about Republican versus Democrat. I'm talking
19 about if you are looking at what the community
20 wants versus what you've given us, I don't think
21 it could pass muster.

22 The unity map designed by UCCRO
23 optimizes opportunities for all minority groups
24 to elect candidates of choice. It takes into

1 account feedback from leaders in the Black
2 community, Asian community, Muslim community
3 from around the state, and I did indicate that
4 before. And the maps were drawn in a manner
5 that we believe can be defensible in court in
6 the event of a suit.

7 We drew one within the parameters
8 of the Voting Rights Act of 1964, as well as the
9 Illinois Voting Rights of 2011. Indeed, this is
10 the most comprehensive redistricting proposal of
11 any group, and the data supports the boundaries,
12 and it can be easily verified, and we do have
13 experts -- I'm not one of them, but we do have
14 experts who will be able to answer any questions
15 that you have. They are not on this call
16 either, but in the event that this map is ever
17 accepted, there are people who will be at the
18 ready who can answer any questions that you
19 might have.

20 We're under severe time
21 constraints. I understand that you have until
22 June 30, and God knows I want you to make that
23 deadline. But based on what I'm hearing, it
24 doesn't seem like you are ready. And if you are

1 ready, you are not sharing with us the
2 information that gives us comfort that you can
3 make this deadline. And we think that we can
4 help you. We think you should use the unity map
5 as the basis and then go forward from there.

6 Again, if the map that you put
7 out on Friday is "the map," I definitely can't
8 support it. I will not support anything that
9 dilutes the Black vote, the Black political
10 power. And it's not because I don't trust ACS
11 data. Again, I totally believe that you should
12 use the ACS data. What I'm concerned about more
13 than the ACS data are the boundaries that dilute
14 the Black vote. Thank you very much.

15 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you, Ms. Leonard,
16 just checking here. Chair Hernandez, we have no
17 questions on this side. I'm going to pass it
18 over to you.

19 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: No questions.
20 Senator Plummer?

21 SENATOR PLUMMER: Thank you, Madam Chair.

22 Ms. Leonard, I thank you for your
23 presentation. I have been in several hearings
24 where you've had your very thorough PowerPoint

1 presentation that I think have been
2 extraordinarily informative for members of the
3 committee. So I sincerely appreciate the time
4 and effort you and whoever you are working with
5 has put into that.

6 I guess, Madam Chair, I don't
7 want to speak for the witness, of course, but
8 maybe on behalf of the witness, could someone on
9 your side educate us -- educate the witnesses,
10 educate the public, about how many majority
11 Black districts are included in the current
12 plan?

13 MS. VALERIE LEONARD: Thank you.

14 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: I don't have that
15 information.

16 SENATOR PLUMMER: What about majority
17 Latino, majority Asian, do you have information
18 on how many of these districts are included in
19 the current plan?

20 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: No, I don't,
21 Senator. I don't have that information with me.

22 SENATOR PLUMMER: Again, on behalf of the
23 witnesses that care about this, could we be
24 informed as to what metric you used to determine

1 in the map making whether a district is an
2 effective majority minority district under
3 federal Voting Rights Act?

4 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: I don't have that
5 information.

6 SENATOR PLUMMER: Okay. I appreciate that
7 Madam Chair, I guess.

8 To the witness, again,
9 Ms. Leonard, a sincere thank you. I know you
10 spent a tremendous amount of time in these
11 hearings. You put together a wonderful
12 PowerPoint.

13 And again, I think we -- I think
14 you and I spoke yesterday, actually, in the
15 hearing last night if you would be willing to
16 put your experts in touch with my office, I
17 would sincerely appreciate that. I'm happy to
18 give you a phone number they can reach out to
19 right now.

20 MS. VALERIE LEONARD: Okay.

21 SENATOR PLUMMER: That would be
22 (217) 782-5755, or they could email
23 senator@senatorjasonplummer.com, I would love to
24 talk to your experts. Thank you.

1 MS. VALERIE LEONARD: Okay. Great. Thank
2 you.

3 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: No further
4 questions in the House.

5 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you. Ms. Leonard,
6 thank you again for providing testimony this
7 evening. And we look forward to -- of course.

8 Moving next, right along, we have
9 Reverend Robin Hood from the United Congress of
10 Community and Religious Organizations. Just
11 make sure you're unmuted and begin your
12 testimony. Thank you.

13 MR. ROBIN HOOD: Okay. Thank you for
14 allowing me to get in again. And I'm curious, I
15 have a couple questions that don't have to be
16 answered right now.

17 I would like to know have the
18 Democrats or the Republicans seen the United
19 Congress Fair Map? That's a question I got for
20 both groups.

21 The second thing I would like to
22 know is, I had two conversations today, one with
23 pastors across the state, and I told them what
24 the hearing was like on yesterday. They

1 couldn't believe that I was on a hearing for
2 three and a half hours on Zoom.

3 And I also talked to a group of
4 seniors that represented 20,000 CHA residents,
5 and they were saddened for us to have no answers
6 for them. We cannot evaluate what we can't see.
7 We cannot even have an intelligent discussion
8 about how it will make the community better, how
9 your district can give more resources.

10 So it's this changing from
11 something that could be monumental for the State
12 of Illinois, a fair map to, are we going to lose
13 again. And this hearing should be -- and I
14 understand what the hearing is supposed to be
15 about. It's supposed to be about the draft map
16 and how to put it in. But it is painful to tell
17 your base and your constituent, and believe me,
18 we stretch far across the State, that you have
19 no answers, you don't know what the map mean,
20 except that it took away some of the voting
21 power in different communities.

22 I think we need to do a better
23 job at getting the information out so that we
24 can articulate it to our bases.

1 And the last thing that I want to
2 say, if we don't get this done by next week,
3 where we have a map where we could tell them and
4 articulate that they mean, people are really
5 beginning to come unrestless. I don't want to
6 go another day not having answers. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you. I appreciate
8 your testimony.

9 To answer your question about the
10 UCCRO map, it was received. It was actually on
11 the website -- our website and posted for the
12 public in terms of the map.

13 MR. ROBIN HOOD: Well, my question was,
14 did you all see it. That was my question.

15 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Yes, sir. It was seen,
16 and posted for the public to also see on the
17 website.

18 SENATOR PLUMMER: Mr. Hood, Senator
19 Plummer here, I think you asked Republicans and
20 Democrats. Speaking for the Republicans, we did
21 get a copy of your map that you submitted, but
22 we only received it after it has been submitted
23 through the Democrat's portal, and the version
24 that we received, I believe the version that's

1 posted publicly, was severely distorted through
2 that portal process. So if you have your map
3 with its shade file and all the relevant data
4 that you can send directly to us, we would like
5 to get a clear version of your map so we can
6 look at it, take it into consideration. Can I
7 give you, like I just did for Ms. Leonard, our
8 contact information so your organization can
9 send us a complete and accurate map?

10 MR. ROBIN HOOD: Actually, we're together,
11 Ms. Leonard and I, she's part of the UCCRO map,
12 so you gave it to the right person. We'll make
13 sure you get it. Thank you.

14 SENATOR PLUMMER: Thank you, Mr. Hood. We
15 look forward to reviewing your map.

16 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Madam Chair, there's no
17 other questions on our side. I don't know if
18 there's questions there?

19 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: No, there is no
20 questions.

21 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you, Mr. Hood.

22 Moving on, we have an Angelo
23 Kyle. Mr. Kyle, if you can please unmute
24 yourself, introduce yourself for the record, and

1 indicate if you are providing testimony this
2 evening on behalf of yourself or an
3 organization. Thank you.

4 MR. ANGELO KYLE: Thank you so kindly for
5 the opportunity.

6 I'm Angelo Kyle, President of the
7 Lake County Forest Preserve in Lake County,
8 Illinois. And also the senior member of the
9 Lake County Board of Commissioners -- not the
10 oldest member but the senior member as far as
11 seniority. And I'm here to discuss on the 60th
12 District in Lake County, who is represented by
13 none other than the illustrious Rita Mayfield,
14 and certainly wanted to acknowledge her.

15 I wanted to just discuss some
16 issues pertaining to the 60th District. In Lake
17 County, Illinois, we have 52 cities and over
18 800,000 residents; and if and within our county
19 we have only one minority district, one minority
20 district within a county of 800,000 people with
21 a representation of African-Americans as well as
22 Latinos.

23 So therefore, Lake County is in
24 need of more than one minority district. We

1 need more than one minority district in Lake
2 County. Therefore, the population in 2010, in
3 2010, the District 60 population, the minority
4 population, was reduced in 2010 to create a
5 so-called safer district in the 58th and the
6 59th Districts within Lake County. So there was
7 an attempt in 2010 to reduce, reduce the -- to
8 actually split the minority community up into
9 three groups, where in 2010 there was an effort
10 to change the 58th and the 59th Districts which
11 would have eliminated the City of North Chicago
12 and Park City, which are minority communities as
13 well.

14 Therefore, we would ask that
15 consideration be given for Lake County to have
16 more minority districts instead of jamming all
17 of the minorities into one district.

18 There's a heavy influx as
19 indicated in the African-American and Latino
20 community, and we have an increase in the Latino
21 population, particularly in the western part of
22 the county as well. So there is plenty of room
23 for the minority community.

24 And when we talk about

1 distinguishing and inclusiveness of the minority
2 community, we wanted to ask that within this
3 process of compliance with the African-American
4 and the Latino community, if we could create a
5 spirit of diversity and diversity areas without
6 pitting the minorities against each other, which
7 is -- which oftentimes occurs, so we would like
8 consideration from the Committee to yield to the
9 components of diversity in the 60th District of
10 Lake County, Illinois, but establishing
11 diversity and diverse communities without
12 pitting the minority communities against each
13 other.

14 So thank you so much for the
15 opportunity. And I appreciate what you are
16 doing, the work that you are doing. And thank
17 you for the opportunity to address the state
18 legislature.

19 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Kyle, I appreciate your
20 testimony this evening.

21 Just checking here, Madam Chair,
22 I'm going to send it over to you as there's no
23 questions.

24 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: I have

1 representative Spain with a question.

2 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Thank you very
3 much, Madam Chair. And Mr. Kyle, thank you so
4 much for your testimony. I know we are all
5 trying to make as best sense out of these maps
6 as we possibly can.

7 More just a very quick comment to
8 you, because I absolutely love the picture in
9 your Zoom background with President Biden. He
10 looks quite a bit younger, but you haven't aged
11 in a day, so I don't think how long ago that
12 picture was but, it just -- it strikes me -- and
13 I'm grateful for this, President Biden has
14 spoken out in opposition to partisan
15 gerrymandering. President Obama has spoken out
16 in this very building, in the State Capitol,
17 where we're standing, against partisan
18 gerrymandering. And it happens on both sides of
19 the aisle. It happens in Republican states, and
20 it's clearly happening now in this Democratic
21 state. And regardless of where it happens, it
22 is wrong. Thank you.

23 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: No further
24 questions from the House.

1 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you Mr. Kyle,
2 again, for your testimony.

3 MR. ANGELO KYLE: Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: We do have a number of
5 folks I see on the zoom here that are listed as
6 a witness; however, we do not have a witness
7 slip on file, so I would go down one by one and
8 ask if you're here for the joint hearing between
9 the Senate and House to provide testimony, there
10 is also -- just to remind you, there is a
11 hearing, once we adjourn here, with the Senate
12 Redistricting Committee. So if you are planning
13 on providing testimony there, you are more than
14 welcome to wait until we get to that point.

15 So I'm going to go down the list
16 here. Reema Kamran? Are you hear to provide
17 testimony?

18 MS. REEMA KAMRAN: I'm Reema Kamran. I am
19 here for the joint testimony on behalf of the
20 Illinois Muslim Civic Coalition.

21 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: If you don't mind, you
22 can provide testimony; but however, can you at
23 some point make sure to provide -- to fill in a
24 witness slip so we can have that officially.

1 And you can, at any point, begin your testimony.

2 Thank you.

3 MS. REEMA KAMRAN: Thank you, so much.

4 Dilara Sayeed did fill out a
5 witness slip, so I'm just going to let you know,
6 but I will fill one out for myself.

7 Thank you so much, honored
8 legislators, for inviting us to share our
9 testimony. My name is Reema Saima Kamran. And
10 I'm with the Illinois Muslim Civic Coalition.
11 We're a coalition of over 150 partners and
12 allies of all races, ethnicities, class, faith,
13 and backgrounds.

14 Our focus is ensuring policies
15 made for us are made with us. A redistricting
16 as we've seen is one critical piece of this. We
17 appreciate CHANGE Illinois, UCCRO, as well as
18 our other partners and allies for being a part
19 of this process with us. We were a part of the
20 UCCRO unity map and worked with allies and
21 partners to put together a unity map that would
22 be representative of the communities that are
23 usually unrepresented.

24 You may have seen my colleagues,

1 Deena Habbal and Dr. Dilara Sayeed, along with
2 30 leaders across ten counties at previous
3 hearings. They would have told you about the
4 diversity of our communities. In Illinois the
5 Muslim -- American Muslim community is amongst
6 the wealthiest families in the nation, and we
7 have many families that are under the poverty
8 line.

9 Our communities have been voting
10 in record numbers. We're small business owners,
11 we're entrepreneurs, we're new immigrants, and
12 we're all excited to be a part of the democratic
13 process and to be a part of our beautiful
14 country.

15 In Illinois we have communities
16 that did not exist in 2020 and others that were
17 never vocal about their needs; and still others
18 who have grown in the last ten years. Our
19 community fit into many of these criteria. We
20 have refugees, new immigrants, new voters, and
21 more. The Coalition recommends, along with our
22 partners and allies, that legislators make sure
23 that when they are considering data, they use
24 census data plus other data, as well as

1 conversations with State-based and community
2 organizations and leaders when they are engaging
3 in redistricting. And that is the purpose of
4 the unity map, of our coming together and giving
5 data that could be used towards building maps
6 that would be equitable. And we recommend that
7 the practice is transparent, inclusive, and
8 clear.

9 I would like to share a little
10 data with you. The American Muslim story is
11 diverse. Muslim communities across our nation
12 are the most diverse faith group; though, we are
13 not a religious organization, we want to
14 highlight that we are a -- we -- our community
15 is at the intersection of race, class, faith,
16 ethnicity, and these are all critical aspects of
17 a community to consider.

18 Those who identify as Muslim also
19 identify as African-American; almost 30 percent,
20 Asian, White, Arab, Latino, and African
21 immigrant. And we have been a part of this
22 community, a part of the American story for over
23 400 years, from the 1600s as a part of the
24 transatlantic slave trade.

1 In my own family we have Arab,
2 Pakistani, Indian, and Latino members. I'm an
3 immigrant to the U.S. over 20 years ago. And I
4 have been an active community member ever since.
5 I'm aware of the challenges, the fears, the
6 hopes, and the dream of the other shared
7 experiences that many of the witnesses spoke
8 about today, that many hard-to-come communities
9 have, and the efforts we continue to make to be
10 a part of the American dream that we strive for.

11 Illinois is one of the most
12 diverse states in the U.S. It ranks among the
13 25th percentile in racial diversity and the top
14 ten in religious diversity.

15 Illinois has one of the largest
16 numbers of Polish, Irish, and African-American,
17 Latino, Catholic, and Hindu residents.

18 And Illinois, just so you all
19 know, has one of the largest per capita -- per
20 capita American Muslim population. And with
21 your permission, I'm just going to share my
22 screen so that you can see what I'm referencing.

23 This was what I was talking about
24 in terms of the diversity of the Muslim

1 community. As you can see, 28 percent African
2 American, Asian, White, Arab, as well as the
3 history of the American Muslims in America from
4 the transatlantic slave trade all the way to
5 being vital members of our communities through
6 strength -- through our strength in service and
7 community.

8 And then finally, Illinois has
9 the largest American Muslim per capita
10 population in the United States. We beat out
11 New Jersey, Michigan, and Texas. So we want to
12 make sure that that is something that you all
13 know.

14 And then finally, I wanted to
15 just make sure, representation matters. Elected
16 officials should understand their constituents
17 and also look their like their constituents. We
18 are the largest per capita American Muslim
19 population, but we have zero representation in
20 Illinois.

21 We have, along with UCCRO, along
22 with CHANGE Illinois worked on providing maps of
23 diverseness in communities across the state, and
24 we wanted to make sure that those are taken into

1 consideration. We know that it's a lengthy and
2 complex process, but we hope that results from
3 this are well drawn-out and equitable districts
4 that do not marginalize any community, but
5 instead, protect the proper allocation of funds,
6 resources, and create equitable representation
7 to all Illinois residents.

8 We're working with the Latino
9 policies forum, Asian-African -- Asian
10 communities, the triple trip AJ, African
11 immigrants, South Asian, as well as many Nima
12 communities, Middle Eastern, North African
13 communities, to make sure that the unity map is
14 representative of what -- what is the real
15 makeup of Illinois.

16 And lastly, I just wanted to make
17 sure that with complete certainty, we have --
18 for example, in the southwest suburbs, we have a
19 significant Arab and Muslim population, and that
20 specific suburb has been put into four
21 districts. We submitted maps to make sure that
22 we thought of -- we made that apparent that --
23 you know, a one district would be an equitable
24 way of putting that together. We received

1 support from UCCRO, as well as the Asian and
2 Latino communities, as well as the
3 African-American Black communities.

4 So I will pause here. Thank you
5 so much for allowing us to testify. And I
6 apologize -- I'm at a wedding, so I apologize
7 for the noise in the background.

8 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Reema, thank you much.
9 And congratulations to the happy couple.

10 Madam Chair, we don't have
11 questions, I see, on the Zoom, so I would turn
12 it over to you.

13 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: No questions on my
14 end.

15 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Okay. Moving along, I'm
16 going to -- moving along, I'm going to, again,
17 just kind of go through the list here of what I
18 see are witnesses that haven't filled out a slip
19 that we see. Carla -- and I apologize if I
20 mispronounce your last name. If you wanted to
21 speak in the hearing, and this is the joint
22 hearing between the House and the Senate
23 redistricting meetings, or if you are interested
24 in participating in the Senate hearing that will

1 happen once we adjourn here.

2 So Carla, if you want to provide
3 testimony, you can unmute yourself and introduce
4 yourself for the record and just state if you're
5 here to provide testimony on your own or on
6 behalf of an organization.

7 MS. CARLA LETELLIER: Hi, I'm sorry. I am
8 the court reporter taking down the proceedings.
9 I didn't have time to put my name up and my
10 company, so my apologies.

11 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Not a problem.

12 All right. Moving on, thank you
13 for your work.

14 I see a witness here that it just
15 says Currin, C-u-r-r-i-n? Mr. Currin, if you
16 are interested in providing testimony at this
17 hearing or the next, you can begin now or let us
18 know if you are here to provide testimony this
19 evening.

20 MR. JOHN CURRIN: I'm here. Let me move.
21 Let me turn everything down.

22 Thank you and good evening,
23 everyone, members of our redistributing
24 committee, and my name is John Currin. And I

1 would like to thank you for allowing me to
2 testify before the Committee. I've lived in
3 Matteson for over 30 years. I raised my family
4 here, and I'm proud of our economic development
5 and accomplishments thus far in our town.

6 I would like to speak to the
7 proposed legislative districts and how they
8 relate to the Village of Matteson from a
9 resident's perspective.

10 Having our town represented by
11 one representative and one senator is essential
12 for the residents of Matteson to be properly
13 heard, the same as some of the earlier witnesses
14 have indicated. Luckily, we are in a situation
15 where our town and our area has been left in the
16 state of that criteria, so I'm not necessarily
17 for the map for everyone else, but for our area,
18 we did achieve what you would sense as a sense
19 of unity of the community. And it's important
20 for residents to have one focal point to voice
21 their concerns, and this map does that for us as
22 a community, not necessarily for the entire
23 Southland or the southwest or anything like
24 that. We're just speaking for our community.

1 And that's basically the gist of
2 what I have, is that the map as it is now I
3 would not like to see -- I would prefer to not
4 see a change to where it negatively impacts us.
5 So I thank you, again, for your time and I
6 wanted to ensure that our Village's voice was
7 heard.

8 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you, Mr. Currin.
9 Just to remind you, if you can please make sure
10 to fill out a witness slip on my.ilga.gov
11 website for this evening.

12 Madam Chair, we have no questions
13 on our end. I will turn it over to you.

14 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Senator Plummer?

15 SENATOR PLUMMER: Mr. Currin, thank you
16 for your testimony, and it sounds like you are
17 pleased with the results for your community of
18 Matteson in this map, and I am very happy for
19 you in that regard.

20 It sounded to me like you felt it
21 was important for a community's voice to be
22 heard effectively in the legislature. It
23 sounded like you said with one voice in the
24 House or one voice in the Senate, so while

1 you're very comfortable with Matteson, let me
2 ask you if you were, hypothetically, in Crystal
3 Lake, Illinois, that has, I believe, four state
4 senators under this map; or Lake in the Hills
5 that I believe has four state senators; or
6 Franklin County, which is a county, but I
7 believe is a county of less than 20- or 25,000
8 people, maybe smaller, I believe has quite a few
9 legislators. Based on your comments, I'm
10 assuming you would not be happy if you were in
11 one of these communities because you feel it's
12 less effective; is that correct? And I don't
13 intend to put words in your mouth. I just want
14 to make sure I understood that.

15 MR. JOHN CURRIN: Well, I can't speak to
16 their situation nor can I speak to the 10 years
17 ago, 20 years ago, 30 years ago, 40 years ago
18 situations when various groups controlled the
19 House and did maps. And during those periods
20 there were towns with split -- split, two, three
21 senate reps, so I'm just concerned -- I'm
22 concerned with mine. I see that we haven't had
23 any major change to ours, and I'm happy with
24 that.

1 But I don't have the 30-, 40-year
2 history of how the map was 10 years ago or
3 20 years ago and what -- because you got a
4 cascading, changes of dividing up communities,
5 probably through each of the past six times it's
6 been done.

7 SENATOR PLUMMER: I -- absolutely. And I
8 just appreciate you taking the time -- this has
9 been a long hearing. I appreciate you providing
10 the Committee your input. Because what I heard
11 you say was you are happy that you guys were --
12 the community of Matteson was kept together, and
13 I received a tremendous amount of feedback from
14 constituents and other people that are
15 disappointed to see their communities broken up
16 unnecessarily, and that is a concern to quite a
17 few people. So I do congratulate you and folks
18 in other communities that were kept together,
19 but a lot of folks were broken up and that is an
20 issue for some people.

21 So thank you, again, for taking
22 the time to testify and for providing the
23 Committee with your thoughts on this very
24 important matter.

1 MR. JOHN CURRIN: Okay. You're welcome.

2 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: No further
3 questions.

4 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Once again, Mr. Currin,
5 thank you again for providing testimony and for
6 your patience. And moving on to what I believe
7 is our last witness here. And again,
8 Mr. Greenfield, thank you especially for your
9 patience here this evening. We know that you
10 have a witness slip for the Senate Redistricting
11 Committee hearing which is going to adjourn
12 right after this, but if you would like speak
13 now and return once we adjourn and reconvene
14 there, feel free to introduce yourself and
15 provide testimony, if you would like; or you can
16 wait.

17 MR. RICHARD GREENFIELD: We're going to do
18 it now. Let me just turn some things down.

19 Good evening, Chair Aquino, Chairwoman
20 Hernandez. My name is Richard Greenfield. I am
21 a concerned taxpayer. I represent no one and no
22 one represents me. I live in the First
23 District -- First Legislative House District in
24 Arlington Heights. A few things about me

1 personally, I went to Illinois State University,
2 majored in political science and graduated from
3 Illinois State in 2017. Go Redbirds.

4 When I went to ISU, I was a part
5 of a student government association and a
6 secretary government relations working with our
7 legislators, and I just felt that
8 Bloomington-Normal was split into many districts
9 between Senator Barickman, former Senator Brady.
10 We had Keith Sommer, and then we had Leader Dan
11 Brady.

12 So Friday night when the maps
13 came out, I spent the weekend looking through
14 the maps, and I saw that Bloomington -- or most
15 of Bloomington-Normal and Peoria will be intact.
16 It's one district under House District 91.

17 This map is not perfect, and I
18 said that ten years ago when I offered testimony
19 on the Senate map, no map will be perfect. But
20 upon reviewing this map and looking and
21 comparing data from the 2010 map, this map in
22 support of me as African-American, it tries to
23 keep as many African-American legislators as
24 possible; considering that the African-American

1 population in this state has gone down.

2 And then when you look at other
3 states, like Michigan, where they have packed
4 Black voters and created super mass districts of
5 70, 80 percent African-American districts, where
6 it could have been more Black districts, but
7 Illinois does continue to have at least 16 Black
8 districts when I looked at the -- when I
9 personally looked at the data. And like I say,
10 I represent no one. I just looked at the data
11 all weekend long, and that would be the end of
12 my testimony.

13 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you,
14 Mr. Greenfield for your testimony.

15 Madam Chair, we have no questions
16 on our end. I'll send it to you.

17 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: No questions in the
18 House.

19 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: With that I also would
20 turn it to you adjourn the House Redistricting
21 Committee.

22 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: So the House
23 Redistricting Committee will recess to the call
24 of chair.

1 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: There being no further
2 business -- excuse me, Mr. Greenfield, thank you
3 so much for your testimony this evening. Thank
4 you for your patience.

5 There will be no further business
6 come before the Committee. This meeting of the
7 Senate Redistricting Committee stands adjourned.
8 Thank you.

9 (Whereupon, at 7:28 p.m., the
10 joint hearing between the House
11 and Senate Redistricting
12 Committee concluded.)


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I, Carla P. Letellier, CSR, RPR, a
Certified Shorthand Reporter and Registered
Professional Reporter of the State of Illinois,
CSR No. 084-003315; and Cathleen Baker, CSR,
Certified Shorthand Reporter, CSR No.
084-002130, do hereby certify that we reported
in shorthand the proceedings had in the
aforesaid matter, and that the foregoing is a
true, complete and correct transcript of the
proceedings had as appears from our stenographic
notes so taken to the best of our ability.



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