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Enlace Chicago is a founding member of United Congress of Community and Religious Organizations (UCCRO). UCCRO believes that ensuring voting rights and protecting communities of interest in the redistricting process are essential to a racially equitable and just map. Protecting the voting rights of Black, Latinx and Asian American communities in Illinois is our priority. We applaud the General Assembly's work to expand voting rights to include influence, coalition and crossover districts across the state.

We have seen the power of what a racially equitable and just redistricting process and map can do. In 2011, we worked with over 500 people in the map drawing process—some as young as ten years old. Their voices and perspectives were the foundation of the racially equitable map that we drew that protected Black voting rights districts despite significant population loss; increased the number of Latino districts to reflect their population growth; and for the first time, established four Asian American influence districts and kept Chinatown in a single state house district. As a result, we have seen an increase in civic engagement in communities of color and an increase in elected officials of color, including the state's first 5 Asian American General Assembly members.

Racially Equitable Redistricting matters. Representation matters.