



December 16, 2021

Representative Kambium Buckner
Illinois General Assembly
449 E. 35th Street
Chicago IL 60616

Dear Representative Buckner:

In June of 2021, the Illinois Supreme Court by unanimous vote, appointed Judge David L. Kelly to a judicial vacancy in the 5th Subcircuit. Judge Kelly has successfully served on the bench since being sworn in by Illinois Supreme Court Justice P. Scott Neville on July 9, 2021.

As you are aware, on December 13, 2021, the Illinois Senate and House Redistricting Committee released a Proposed Cook County Judicial Subcircuit Map. Upon review of the proposed map, if approved, Judge Kelly will effectively no longer reside in the 5th Subcircuit where he was appointed, but instead will reside in the newly drawn boundaries of the 1st Subcircuit. The adverse impact of adopting this proposed Cook County Judicial Subcircuit map approximately three weeks prior to the 2022 Democratic Primary Election Cycle are multifold, including, but not limited to:

- The proposed judicial subcircuit map would prohibit Judge Kelly from running for and being elected to the seat to which he was appointed in the 5th subcircuit; his current address is 4831 S. Champlain Avenue, Chicago, Illinois;
- Voters would likely not be allowed sufficient time to review and share meaningful input regarding the newly proposed boundaries;
- Voters would likely be confused about the boundaries of their respective judicial subcircuits and be unaware of which judicial petitions they can properly sign;
- Over the past several years Judge Kelly has worked earnestly to obtain the support of voters and elected officials in the current 5th judicial subcircuit; and
- Judge Kelly has lived, served, worked and campaigned consistently in the current 5th subcircuit, investing substantial time and resources in the current 5th judicial subcircuit.

We understand and support the importance of redistricting to promote fair and equitable representation in the judiciary throughout Cook County. However, we believe that adopting the proposed maps with limited time and opportunity for meaningful input by voters and relevant stakeholders poses risk to the established process of electing judges in Cook County.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter. If you have questions or would like to discuss this further, please contact me directly at (773) 454-2103.

Very truly yours,

Stephanie S. Kelly

Stephanie S. Kelly, Esq, Chair
Friends of David L. Kelly

cc: Illinois House Redistricting Committee and Illinois Senate Redistricting Committee