

Dear Redistricting Committee,

As a resident of Melrose Park I would like to express concern in the proposed congressional map. The 4th congressional district is the only Latino-majority district in the entire midwest and it is critical that my entire community remain in the district. Beyond Latinos, thousands of immigrant, working-class, and progressive communities have thrived as a result of the historical creation of the 4th congressional district. Latinos deserve representation and while it is important to consider the growth of the Latino population, particularly in the suburbs and collar counties, Latino communities should not be pitted against one another.

Under the Voting Rights Act, the 4th congressional district and most importantly, our Latino community, has the federal right to live in an area that provides us with an opportunity to elect a candidate of our choice. Under the proposed plan, though well-intentioned, that opportunity is stifled by splitting up the Latino community and spreading the district into areas and communities we share less in common socio-politically, culturally, and economically. Doing so adversely impacts the opportunity to elect a candidate of our choice. I urge you to reconsider this proposal with the aim of ensuring the Latino community is not diluted.

Eric Gutierrez

Melrose Park