

To the House and Senate Redistricting Committees:

In 2018 and 2020, thousands of volunteers worked in a record-breaking effort to elect Sean Casten in IL-6 and Marie Newman in IL-3. I was one of those volunteers. For the record, I also volunteered for Barack Obama in 2008 and 2012 and for Hillary Clinton in 2016, when many other Democrats were asleep at the wheel. These same volunteers drove JB Pritzker and Joe Biden to victory in Illinois.

The new proposal to place Casten and Newman in the same district, along with the DEFEATED Dan Lipinski, is absolute unacceptable and an affront to the thousands of volunteers who worked to elect Casten and Newman. WE DESERVE TWO DISTRICTS, not one. Handing a newly created district to an unknown someone who does not have the support of this volunteer base is unacceptable. The new proposal is a betrayal of the work of thousands of volunteers and an unacceptable exercise in identity politics, and we see right through it. Implementing this proposal will seriously demoralize the suburban volunteer base and jeopardize Democrats' chances to retain the House and Senate in 2022.

Ray Valek