

Good Afternoon President Harmon, Speaker Welch, Representative Hernandez, Senator Aquino, Eileen, Gio, Mark, and Redistricting Committee.

This is a crucial moment for Illinois.

Illinois has the largest per capita population of American Muslims, the largest population of Palestinian Americans, the largest population of Polish Americans, and some of the largest populations of Latino, African American, Jewish, South Asian, Asian, and many other communities. We must have equitable representation, resources, and support for all our critical communities.

Muslims, like Jews and Christians, are a cultural group as well as a faith-based community. Illinois Muslims have many racial, class, faith and other identities. And yet, unlike almost any other population, they have ZERO REPRESENTATION. This is UNACCEPTABLE for a community that employs hundreds of thousands of jobs, pays millions of dollars in taxes, and serves at all levels in corporations, nonprofits, healthcare, education, and every sector.

The IL Muslim Civic Coalition team and partners provided testimony at 23 Redistricting Hearings across 10 counties. We need you to see us, hear us, and advocate for us. And we are here to support and provide data as you create the maps.

The maps attached are BOTH Communities of Interest and DISTRICT MAPS for the Illinois Muslim communities across the state.

1. We urge you to keep the attached communities of Interest together. The maps of each county/region are attached.

2. We urge you to adopt the UNITY MAP created through UCCRO. The Coalition worked with UCCRO, AAAJ/PAVE, Latino Policy Forum, and other partners to develop a UNITY MAP which was submitted last week through UCCRO. The Illinois submission portal is not working, and we submitted maps through email.

It is time for Illinois to be a state for all Illinoisans. And we believe your leadership must help us get there. Thank you.

Dr. Dilara Sayeed
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on behalf of the IL Muslim Civic Coalition partners and allies

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