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BEFORE THE  
ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE  
WEST COOK

Hearing held, pursuant to notice, on the 2nd  
day of April, 2021, between the hours of 2:00 p.m.  
and 3:15 p.m. via Zoom teleconference.

1 A P P E A R A N C E S

2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

3 Representative Curtis J. Tarver, II, Vice-Chairperson  
4 Representative Elizabeth Hernandez, Chairperson  
5 Representative Tim Butler, Republican Spokesperson  
6 Representative Avery Bourne, Member  
7 Representative Kelly Burke, Member  
8 Representative Jehan Gordon-Booth, Member  
9 Representative Theresa Mah, Member  
10 Representative Ryan Spain, Member

11 Representative Lakesia Collins  
12 Representative Delia Ramirez  
13 Representative Kathleen Willis  
14 Representative Michael Zalewski

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21 Court Reporter  
22 Lydia Pinkawa, CSR  
23 Illinois CSR #084-002342  
24 Alaris Litigation Services  
711 North Eleventh Street  
St. Louis, Missouri 63101

1 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: It being 2:06 p.m. on  
2 Friday, April 2, 2021, the House committee on  
3 redistricting shall come to order. My name is Curtis  
4 Tarver. I'm the state representative of the 25th  
5 district in Chicago. I'm a member of the  
6 redistricting committee and I will be chairing  
7 today's meeting. Hearing, excuse me. I'd like to  
8 welcome all local representatives who joined us  
9 today. I know Chairman Hernandez is on, Leader  
10 Burke, Chairman Zalewski, Leader Ramirez, Hernandez,  
11 Representative Mah and Representative Willis as well.  
12 If I missed anybody, I do apologize.

13 I'd like to thank everyone who's chosen to  
14 participate in today's hearing. Your insight and  
15 participation is as important as ever as we begin the  
16 redistricting process under unprecedented  
17 circumstances. The United States and Illinois  
18 constitutions require that the general assembly  
19 redraw political boundaries every ten years to  
20 account for population shifts. These hearings are  
21 part of that process. House Democrats are dedicated  
22 to transparency and public participation in the  
23 redistricting process. While state law requires a  
24 minimum of four public hearings throughout the state,

1 our committee intends to hold far more and present  
2 additional avenues for public participation.

3 Our goal is to hear from as many people as  
4 possible and to gain as much information as possible  
5 about the diverse communities of our state, as staff  
6 have been making hundreds of phone calls to encourage  
7 participation in these upcoming hearings. Those who  
8 wish to participate should be given an opportunity,  
9 period. We're holding a series of virtual and in  
10 person hearings throughout the state. Early last  
11 month, we announced a schedule of 23 hearings before  
12 proposing a redistricting plan. For comparison, in  
13 2011 the House redistricting committee hosted 17  
14 hearings total.

15 While we are guided in this endeavor by the  
16 United States constitution, the Federal Voting Rights  
17 Act, the Illinois constitution and the Illinois  
18 Voting Rights Act, we are also interested in any  
19 relevant demographic information such as social,  
20 political, economic, religious or any other  
21 characteristics that are unique to your communities.  
22 We want to hear your specific views on any social,  
23 political, economic or religious interests commonly  
24 held in your community, any specific interest groups

1 that exist, any concerns you have regarding the  
2 current boundaries or, alternatively, what works well  
3 about the current boundaries and suggestions for  
4 drawing the new boundaries. In short, we want to  
5 hear any testimony that is relevant for the drawing  
6 of our new political boundaries.

7 This year, for the first time, Illinois  
8 residents will be able to participate in the process  
9 from the comfort of their own homes, including  
10 through remote participation in these hearings and  
11 by drawing their own maps via a web site. The  
12 public drawing portal is available on the  
13 IllinoisHouseDems.com, slash, redistricting web site,  
14 allows any Illinois resident to draw districts and  
15 share those maps with the committee for  
16 consideration. The public also may submit written  
17 testimony or any other public comment to the  
18 committee by e-mail at Redistricting Committee at  
19 HDS.ILGA.gov.

20 All written testimony, public comments and  
21 maps submitted to the committee will be made publicly  
22 available at ILGA.gov, at IllinoisDems.com, slash,  
23 redistricting. Transcripts of the committee's  
24 hearings will also be uploaded to those sites. As

1 for today, we will begin with a short slide show  
2 presentation. Following that brief presentation,  
3 we have a number of witnesses who have indicated a  
4 desire to testimony. If you have written testimony  
5 prepared, we'd ask that you submit that testimony  
6 to us and briefly summarize it in your oral  
7 presentation.

8 I'd like to take a moment to recognize the  
9 Republicans' minority spokesperson and other  
10 Republicans who are on the call as well. So I know  
11 we have Representative Butler, Representative Bourn.  
12 I believe Representative Spain is on as well. So if  
13 any of you would like to provide some public comment,  
14 please feel free to go ahead.

15 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Thank you, Chairman  
16 Tarver. I'm glad you could join us. This is the  
17 fourth redistricting committee hearing we've had in  
18 the last 24 hours or so. So glad to be here to hear  
19 more testimony today.

20 I just have a suggestion maybe for the Chair  
21 or maybe for Chairwoman Hernandez. I don't see her  
22 name if she's on here. But it would be nice, now  
23 that this online, I guess, map drawing tool is  
24 available, maybe at one of these hearings we could

1 have a walk through from the staff on how that web  
2 site actually works. Maybe citizens can have a  
3 better understanding of how that would work. So I  
4 just would like to make that request. Maybe at one  
5 of these hearings that we have scheduled, it might be  
6 a good thing for the citizens to see how that portal  
7 works. But happy to be on here. I look forward to  
8 hearing from the folks who are on here today. Thank  
9 you.

10 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Thank you. I know that  
11 staff is on the hearing as well. Thank you.  
12 Representative Spain, Representative Bourne, if you  
13 have any comment, I want to provide you the  
14 opportunity. Okay, thank you. And now we're going  
15 to have a brief presentation from a staff member, a  
16 slide show presentation.

17 MS. McNAMARA: That would be me.

18 REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: Thanks, Allie.

19 MS. McNAMARA: Good afternoon, everybody. My  
20 name is Allie McNamara. That's A-l-l-i-e,  
21 M-c-N-a-m-a-r-a. I'm an employee with the Illinois  
22 House of Representatives and I'm here to give a brief  
23 overview of the state's redistricting procedure.  
24 I'll briefly discuss the background of redistricting

1 and the redistricting process in Illinois. I will  
2 also be going over federal and state redistricting  
3 requirements and guidelines. Finally, we will be  
4 looking at what preliminary data reveals about  
5 population trends in the state and in the region.

6 Redistricting is the process that ensures all  
7 Illinois residents are afforded equal representation  
8 in the state legislature and federal Congress as  
9 guaranteed by the U.S. constitution. The U.S.  
10 Supreme Court held a series of rulings in the 1960's  
11 that congressional and state legislative districts in  
12 each state must be of approximately equal population,  
13 establishing the principle of one person, one vote.  
14 As a result, states redraw their congressional and  
15 state district every ten years to reflect changes in  
16 population.

17 The timeline for redrawing the legislative  
18 map are based on the Illinois constitution. The  
19 constitution gives the Illinois legislature the  
20 initial responsibility of passing the new legislative  
21 map. Both the state house and the state senate must  
22 pass a plan which then must be signed by the  
23 governor.

24 If a new map does not go into effect by the



1 constitutional deadline of June 30th, responsibility  
2 for creating a new map passes from the legislature to  
3 a legislative redistricting commission. The  
4 commission would consist of eight members, with two  
5 each appointed by the legislative leaders and no more  
6 than four of the same political party. A majority  
7 vote of five or more commission members will  
8 constitute final approval for the new map.

9           However, if the commission does not agree to  
10 a map by September 1st, the Illinois Supreme Court  
11 will submit two names, one from each party, to the  
12 Illinois secretary of state, who will then choose one  
13 name at random to serve as the ninth member of the  
14 commission. Five of the nine members of the  
15 commission must agree to a plan no later than  
16 October 5th.

17           In order to understand the process of  
18 creating new districts, we must look at some legal  
19 guiding principles. First among these is equal  
20 population. Congressional districts must be nearly  
21 equal in population, while state districts must be  
22 substantially equal population. Federal and state  
23 law also requires that all districts be contiguous,  
24 which means that all parts of the district must be

1 next to each other unless connected by water.  
2 Annexations and unincorporated areas in  
3 municipalities and counties sometimes mean  
4 communities are discontiguous. However,  
5 congressional and state districts must be adjacent  
6 or connected at all points.

7 A more difficult requirement to define is  
8 compactness. There are at least 30 different  
9 scientific ways to measure how compact a district is,  
10 but no statute or court precedent identifies standard  
11 criteria of compactness. In theory, compactness  
12 focuses on the shape of a district's boundaries, how  
13 spread out a district is from a central core or where  
14 the district's population center of gravity is. In  
15 practice, compactness is hindered by geography and on  
16 the ground realities. So often the interpretation of  
17 compactness involves much more than a visual test.  
18 Illinois is one of 14 states that nests its House  
19 district, also called representative districts,  
20 inside of its Senate districts, also called  
21 legislative districts.

22 Map makers will also look, where possible, to  
23 follow existing political and geographical boundaries  
24 in ways that maximize a community's opportunity to

1 have its interests represented. As you know,  
2 however, county, municipality, township and natural  
3 geographic boundaries are not always compact or  
4 contiguous.

5 By studying population data and holding  
6 public hearings like this one to listen to the  
7 thoughts of residents across the state, law makers  
8 look to identify what are known as communities of  
9 interest. A community of interest is a group of  
10 people concentrated in a geographic area where  
11 socially, culturally, ethnically, economically,  
12 religiously or otherwise alike can be joined in a  
13 district to most effectively have their voices heard.  
14 The factors contributing to any particular community  
15 of interest will vary throughout the state.

16 Federal law requires redistricting plans to  
17 respect minority representation. The principles of  
18 the Voting Rights Act are in place to prevent the  
19 reduction of opportunities for minority populations  
20 to participate equally in the electoral process.  
21 However, districts cannot be drawn solely on the  
22 basis of race.

23 Illinois law also protects representation of  
24 racial and language minority groups. The Illinois

1 Voting Rights Act helps to prevent minority  
2 fracturing or dividing a concentration of minorities  
3 among two or more districts by requiring map makers  
4 to consider creating crossover districts, coalition  
5 districts or influence districts. A crossover  
6 district is one in which large minority groups may  
7 elect the candidate of its choice with help from  
8 voters of the majority group. A coalition district  
9 brings multiple racial or language minority groups  
10 together to elect a candidate of their choice. An  
11 influence district allows a group to influence an  
12 election outcome without being the majority  
13 population in a district. These state law  
14 requirements come into play only after compliance  
15 with federal law and U.S. and state constitutional  
16 requirements on redistricting.

17 In addition, the law ensures transparency and  
18 public participation by requiring public hearings  
19 across the state, one of which we're having right  
20 now. At the end of the presentation, we will display  
21 an e-mail address on the screen that Representative  
22 Tarver has already provided where you can submit your  
23 ideas. The committee is also accepting written  
24 testimony today.

1           Now that we've covered the redistricting  
2 process, let's discuss what data shows about  
3 Illinois' population. The U.S. Census Bureau has  
4 delayed the release of much of the decennial census  
5 data by more than six months until this fall.  
6 However, the U.S. Census Bureau's annual population  
7 estimate shows some trends that can help inform the  
8 work ahead.

9           The census 2019 population estimate shows an  
10 overall decline in the state population over the past  
11 decade. There are, however, areas that project to  
12 have population gains. Communities with the largest  
13 populations by percentage increase since 2010 are  
14 Kendall, Monroe, Champaign and Kane counties.  
15 Demographically speaking, the state's white  
16 population is projected to decline, while  
17 African-American population statewide will likely see  
18 a smaller overall decline. The Hispanic and Asian  
19 populations across Illinois are projected to see  
20 growth. Locally, Cook County is projected to see a  
21 modest decrease in population. The county's white  
22 and African-American population stand to see decline,  
23 while Asian and Hispanic population will likely  
24 increase.

1           Thank you very much for your attention and  
2           for coming out to share your thoughts today. As the  
3           Chair mentioned, you will be able to find testimony  
4           from this and other hearings on ILGA.gov and on  
5           ILHouseDems.com, slash, redistricting. The  
6           redistricting web site offers additional ways to  
7           engage with the process, including our public drawing  
8           portal where you can draw and submit your own  
9           district maps. And you can send further written  
10          testimony and suggestions to the committee at any  
11          time by e-mailing Redistricting Committee at  
12          HDS.ILGA.gov.

13          CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Thank you, Allie, for that.  
14          We'll go to our first panel and our first witness,  
15          who is Judith Getner, Gethner, I apologize, of the  
16          Chicago Grand Neighbors Association. Judith, are you  
17          there?

18          MS. GETHNER: I am. Thank you, Chair.

19          CHAIRPERSON TARVER: You're welcome. The floor  
20          is yours.

21          MS. GETHNER: Thank you. And thank you for this  
22          opportunity to testify. My name is Judith Gethner.  
23          I am the vice chair of CGNA, Chicago Grand Neighbors  
24          Association. I am also an elected community rep for

1 our local school council for Talcott school. Our  
2 boundaries are Grand on the south, Chicago Avenue on  
3 the north, Ashland on the east and Damen on the west.  
4 We are geographically tight, with a public school  
5 Talcott, a private school Wolcott, a nonprofit early  
6 childhood, Erie House, a public garden as well as  
7 Chicago public library within our boundaries.

8 We have diverse housing, we have homes,  
9 condos, rental units, with a strong process for  
10 vetting new development projects. Our public school,  
11 Talcott, has approximately 80 percent free and  
12 reduced lunch participation. With a strong  
13 relationship between the school and our community, it  
14 is important for continuity that we remain intact in  
15 our legislative districts. According to the earlier  
16 presentation we just witnessed, we believe for all of  
17 the reasons dictated that it is critical that our  
18 community stay within as you discuss redistricting.  
19 If you have any questions, I am free to answer them  
20 and am glad to submit anything that I have in writing  
21 as well, Chair.

22 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: And Judith, I apologize.  
23 Maybe it was just me. Maybe the last 30 seconds or  
24 so of your statement, at least my screen was frozen.

1 Would you mind just saying it again for the record?

2 I apologize about that.

3 MS. GETHNER: That's okay. I don't know where I  
4 cut out. According to your earlier presentation, did  
5 you hear that?

6 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: I heard that much, yes.

7 MS. GETHNER: Okay. So we believe allowing that  
8 our -- allowing our community organization and the  
9 geography to remain intact while you are doing your  
10 redistricting work is incredibly important for the  
11 continuity of our community. If you have any  
12 questions or comments or would like anything in  
13 addition, I'm glad to respond.

14 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Well, first of all, thank  
15 you for making the time today to present to us and to  
16 provide some perspective. I, individually, don't  
17 have any questions but certainly want to provide an  
18 opportunity if there are representatives who have  
19 questions for Ms. Gethner.

20 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Curtis, do we just want  
21 to go through the panels? That's how we've done it  
22 previously, ask questions at the end of panel one,  
23 then panel two, at the end of the panels. I'm fine  
24 with that.



1 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: We'll do that.

2 MS. GETHNER: Before you do that, can you just  
3 tell me how many are on the panel so I know how long  
4 you want me to stay on?

5 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: On this panel I have, it  
6 looks like three additional witnesses.

7 MS. GETHNER: Okay, not a problem. I just wanted  
8 to have an idea of was I going to be here for three  
9 hours or, you know, whatever.

10 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: No worries at all. And let  
11 me take a moment to recognize, I apologize, I see  
12 that Leader Gordon-Booth is on as well along with  
13 Chairman Ford and Representative Collins. So I'm  
14 sorry that I missed you all earlier.

15 Next we will have Justin Valas from the Asian  
16 Americans Advancing Justice. Justin, the floor is  
17 yours.

18 MR. VALAS: Thank you so much, Chairman Tarver.  
19 Good afternoon, everyone. Thank you, members of the  
20 committee, for allowing me to participate in today's  
21 hearing. My name is Justin Valas and I'm the policy  
22 director at Asian Americans Advancing Justice  
23 Chicago, legal power to reflect advocacy and  
24 organizing to achieve racial equity. We know that

1 Asian-American communities in Cook County are rapidly  
2 approaching a half million people and that the Asian  
3 American, Pacific Islander communities are the  
4 fastest growing racial demographic in the United  
5 States, which is a trend that we expect to be  
6 reflected in the 2020 census data as mentioned during  
7 the very helpful presentation before. It's important  
8 for us to note that this growth is not just reflected  
9 in traditional metropolitan neighborhoods, but also  
10 across geography in the suburbs and downstate as  
11 well.

12 At Asian Americans Advancing Justice Chicago,  
13 we believe that participation by and recognition of  
14 our communities and the redistricting process is  
15 vital to ensuring the needs of our communities and  
16 making sure that they're equitably met. To that end,  
17 we strongly believe in the need for transparent and  
18 inclusive processes that work to meet our communities  
19 where they're at. Ample notice and outreach in  
20 advance, including timing considerations, is crucial  
21 to ensuring that our communities are able to more  
22 fully participate in this process.

23 We would really benefit from additional  
24 clarity on some of how the subject matter that would

1 be up for discussion and some chance to respond to  
2 proposals and some additional things with which we  
3 could engage. Partly within that is the critical  
4 importance for Asian American communities and other  
5 communities for whom English may not be their primary  
6 language, accommodations being made for translating  
7 documents and providing interpretation for community  
8 members if we're going to be able to be full  
9 participants in the conversation. We know that our  
10 communities in western Cook County are growing and  
11 represent a really broad range of language groups.  
12 And just as the work of redistricting is absolutely  
13 important to the state's future, so, too, is ensuring  
14 that language does not preclude the participation of  
15 our community members in this process. We must make  
16 sure that we don't leave our communities behind just  
17 because of the language they're most comfortable in.

18 And we would also like to have, while we're  
19 waiting for the updated census data to be used and  
20 more accurately integrating our communities, we want  
21 to highlight and acknowledge that ACS data is really  
22 important but also does have some limitations,  
23 especially when it comes to historically undercounted  
24 communities, including our own. It's imperative that

1 we actively seek out our community voices in this  
2 process, involving them in the process to help make  
3 sure that the map of their communities accurately  
4 reflects the reality of whether or not folks were  
5 captured cleanly in the census, the last census that  
6 builds on the ACS data.

7 We think that through this deeper community  
8 involvement, our communities of interest, especially  
9 communities of color will be better able to ensure  
10 that they're preserved and reflected in the maps that  
11 will impact our communities over the coming decade.  
12 And we definitely encourage the general assembly to  
13 look at options around deadlines and the anticipation  
14 of updated census data to more accurately reflect the  
15 reality for our communities, knowing that 2020 was  
16 just such an unprecedented year and all the  
17 challenges that came along with it.

18 We apologize for not having direct lines and  
19 maps to bring to the meeting today, but we do think  
20 that there is an important space for us to continue  
21 to engage in that process to provide some of that  
22 community input, ensure some of the linguistic needs  
23 for our communities to participate and really drive  
24 on the transparency and accountability for this

1 process. We really appreciate you all and thank you  
2 for your time and attention to these important  
3 measures.

4 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Thank you very much, Justin.  
5 We appreciate that opportunity to get your  
6 perspective as well. Next we have Jose Lopez from  
7 the Puerto Rican cultural center. Jose, are you  
8 there? I see Mr. Lopez's name. Jose Lopez, are you  
9 there? We'll move on and come back to him. Next we  
10 have -- I see him in two places. Jose, you are  
11 there, okay.

12 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: I'm sorry, Chairman Tarver.

13 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: No problems.

14 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: I'm going to finally pass  
15 along Jose Lopez, who is going to speak on behalf of  
16 the Puerto Rican cultural center.

17 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Okay.

18 MR. LOPEZ: Greetings to all the members of this  
19 committee. Let me just be clear that I'm here to  
20 speak on behalf of the integrity of maintaining the  
21 sort of corridor along Division Street from Western  
22 to Kostner as part of the fourth legislative  
23 district. This is the historical, cultural, economic  
24 center of the Puerto Rican community and has been so

1 since the 1950's when thousands of Puerto Ricans  
2 began to migrate to the city and establish Division  
3 as their place.

4 It's to be understood within the context of  
5 small town main streets, one of the things that has  
6 defined much of urban America has been the importance  
7 of main streets and main streets are the hub of any  
8 town. We, in our community, look at Division Street  
9 as that place. It is the place where we have created  
10 our institutions like the National Museum of Puerto  
11 Rican Arts and Culture, the only museum of arts,  
12 Puerto Rican arts and culture in the entire United  
13 States. It is the place that we helped to build and  
14 erect two amazing flags, the world's largest steel  
15 flags, memorializing the Puerto Rican migration to  
16 Chicago as Puerto Ricans came to work in the steel  
17 mills in the city as well as in the pipeline industry  
18 of the city as well as in the welding industry of the  
19 city.

20 We have created spaces like Roberto Clemente  
21 High School, honoring one of the greatest sports  
22 figures and one of the greatest humanitarians of all  
23 times. We have maintained and created a space for  
24 recreation and for social gatherings and for cultural

1 practices in the Humboldt Park park itself. We have  
2 maintained, during this COVID period, 50 businesses  
3 between the two flags on Division between California  
4 and Western. All those businesses have been  
5 maintained despite COVID. Not a single one closed  
6 down.

7 I think that this street from Western to  
8 Kostner speaks to a historical process the Puerto  
9 Ricans began to create and they named it La Division.  
10 It used to extend from where today is the Kennedy  
11 expressway all the way to Kostner. Yet through the  
12 process of gentrification and through the process of  
13 spacial de-concentration, we have been removed. It  
14 is very important that the integrity of this area in  
15 terms of having a legislator who could speak to our  
16 needs and our desires, our problems and our  
17 possibilities is maintained.

18 So for me, it is extremely important. And it  
19 is not for me, I think it's for the entire community.  
20 I speak as a member of the Puerto Rican agenda, as a  
21 member of the board of directors of the National  
22 Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture, as a member  
23 of -- as the executive director of the Puerto Rican  
24 cultural center as I urge the legislators to really

1 think about the importance of maintaining historical,  
2 cultural and economic integrities of areas of the  
3 cities and particularly for us, this area which we  
4 have baptized as Puerto Rico town. So thank you very  
5 much and I hope you take our testimony into  
6 consideration.

7 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Certainly. Thank you,  
8 Mr. Lopez, for your passion and your presentation.  
9 I hope you'll stick around, we have one more  
10 presenter on this panel, just in case there are any  
11 questions for you. I hope you can stick around for  
12 a few minutes, but thank you.

13 MR. LOPEZ: Okay, yes.

14 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Thank you, sir. Next we  
15 have Alderman Byron Lopez. Are you there, Alderman?

16 ALDERMAN LOPEZ: Yes, thank you, Chair Tarver.  
17 Thank you for this important conversation and these  
18 hearings. And I'm glad to be able to follow the  
19 remarks both from Mr. Jose Lopez from the Puerto  
20 Rican cultural center and also from the  
21 Asian-American community, Advancement of Justice.  
22 As representative of the 25th ward that encompasses  
23 communities like Pilsen, Chinatown, ABLA homes, West  
24 Loop, South Loop, UIC and Little Italy, McKinley



1 Park, particularly we are concerned on the  
2 unfortunate effects that we saw during the last  
3 census. A lot of immigrant residents who were afraid  
4 of filling the census would not open the door due to  
5 the constant harassment that we have been subject  
6 over the past years.

7 We also have seen with great concern the  
8 trends of displacement of African-American residents  
9 across the city, including in the ABLA homes  
10 community, where we continue to see the huge  
11 pressures of gentrification and corruption when it  
12 comes to development. It is because of this reason  
13 why I wanted to reach out and make sure that all  
14 together, state, city, county, all elected officials  
15 are directly in touch with our communities.

16 Today more than ever, it is important that we  
17 understand the critical role for political  
18 representation and fair representation, for self  
19 determination and advocacy in our communities. We  
20 have seen time after time the unfortunate effects  
21 of the lack of political representation in our  
22 communities. We have seen how systemic racism has  
23 become more and more prevalent across the city, state  
24 and the country.

1           This issue of remapping has important  
2 repercussions for communities like ours. We have a  
3 beautiful and thriving Chinatown community, one of  
4 the few Chinatown communities in the country who  
5 continues to grow. We also have communities like  
6 Pilsen or ABLA homes that unfortunately, due to  
7 corruption and/or location and the proximity to  
8 downtown, have been affected by development as being  
9 unbalanced and unfair without representation.

10           We urge the city, at the city level but also  
11 at the state, that we must work hand in hand with our  
12 community groups. It is critical more than ever that  
13 we work together with our community groups so that  
14 community stakeholders are at the table, residents,  
15 organizations in each community to understand the  
16 process and to be part of it. We, at the state  
17 level, can take the lead and set the tone for what  
18 can happen in the process at the city level.

19           And as Mr. Lopez has mentioned, in his  
20 community like in ours, we have important  
21 institutions and spaces that have been built over  
22 time because of the hard work and self-determination  
23 of our communities that has allowed us to build a  
24 Mexican art museum, a Chinatown museum. We also have

1    been able to make sure that we bring communities  
2    together to fight back against structural racism and  
3    injustices. We have done everything we can to make  
4    sure that we are fairly represented in our spaces,  
5    and I think this process will determine the future of  
6    our communities. I urge the state district to work  
7    hand in hand with our communities, with elected  
8    officials in collaboration and good faith, that this  
9    map hopefully doesn't serve again for personal  
10   vendettas or doesn't continue to be the process that  
11   excludes communities. This is an opportunity to  
12   bring our communities together and fight for  
13   representation.

14           I also want to thank our local  
15   representatives who are here in this call,  
16   Representative Lakesia Collins and Representative  
17   Theresa Mah for their tireless efforts so that we  
18   continue to fight for fair representation, equitable  
19   representation that goes beyond good words and press  
20   conferences but is reflected in our next maps. We  
21   hope that we can work together hand in hand, the  
22   state and city, to do justice to our communities that  
23   today, more than ever, have been affected by the  
24   pandemic and the many fiscal and health issues that

1 we see day to day. I look forward to working  
2 together to make this a reality. And thanks again  
3 for allowing us the time to testify.

4 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Certainly, you're welcome,  
5 Alderman. And if you don't mind, I'm going to go in  
6 reverse order. If you could spell your name for the  
7 court reporter. I apologize, I should have said that  
8 to the other witnesses as well.

9 ALDERMAN LOPEZ: No worries. Alderman Byron  
10 Sigcho Lopez. B-y-r-o-n, S-i-g-c-h-o, L-o-p-e-z,  
11 alderman of the 25th ward.

12 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Thank you very much.  
13 Mr. Lopez from the Puerto Rican cultural center,  
14 would you spell your name, please, for the court  
15 reporter?

16 MR. LOPEZ: J-o-s-e, L-o-p-e-z.

17 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Thank you very much.  
18 Justin, you get the same opportunity. Will you  
19 please spell your name for the court reporter?

20 MR. VALAS: Certainly. Thank you. J-u-s-t-i-n,  
21 V-a-l-a-s.

22 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Thank you. And then lastly,  
23 Judith. If you don't mind, please spell your name  
24 for the court reporter.

1 MS. GETHNER: Sure. J-u-d-i-t-h, G-e-t-h-n-e-r.

2 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Thank you very much. So  
3 that concluded the testimony for our first panel.  
4 But if there are questions, I see Representative  
5 Butler has a question. Go right ahead, sir.

6 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,  
7 and thank you to all the witnesses for testifying.  
8 I wish all of us could be as energetic as Mr. Lopez  
9 on this Friday afternoon, so I appreciate your  
10 energy, Mr. Lopez, and your testimony. I had a few  
11 questions.

12 Ms. Gethner, when you talked about allowing  
13 the geography of your community to remain intact, can  
14 you tell me what you believe your community is when  
15 you say you would like to have your community, the  
16 geography of your community remain intact?

17 MS. GETHNER: Right. So we, ten years ago our  
18 community, before the last redistricting, was split  
19 within our geographic boundaries, again Grand to  
20 Chicago, Ashland to Damen. And we fought ten years  
21 ago through testifying and through the support to get  
22 our geographic boundaries together, to be in one  
23 district and to be represented by one alderperson as  
24 well as state rep Delia Ramirez and now Senator

1 Aquino. And so because we had fought ten years ago  
2 to make sure we were in one district, all I'm  
3 suggesting is we don't want to have it split and  
4 divided after the work we did ten years ago.

5 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Well, I can understand  
6 and appreciate that. So when you talk about your  
7 community, you're talking, I mean you were literally  
8 talking about the geography of your neighborhood, not  
9 the ethnic or racial breakdown of your neighborhood,  
10 per se, but more the geography of your neighborhood,  
11 correct?

12 MS. GETHNER: Well, no. But as I mentioned  
13 earlier, why I gave the statistics about our school  
14 and mentioned about our, the library and the  
15 community and the kind of housing development we  
16 have, which is very diverse, it's more than just a  
17 geography. It's also diverse, but yet a community  
18 that works together.

19 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: I understand. I live in  
20 Springfield. My neighborhood on the north end of  
21 Springfield is split in two legislative districts.  
22 And as I said earlier today, I'm in a town of 115,000  
23 people here in Springfield. We have three state  
24 representatives and three state senators in a

1 community like that. So I understand what you mean  
2 on wanting to keep neighborhoods together, because I  
3 think that is vitally important as well.

4 Mr. Valas, you had mentioned the ACS data is  
5 limited in counting underrepresented communities.  
6 Are you concerned -- I mean, obviously you said this,  
7 but you are concerned that if we use ACS data to draw  
8 these maps, that communities who are underrepresented  
9 in the general assembly will not be counted correctly  
10 or may be at a disadvantage when the maps are drawn?

11 MR. VALAS: Thank you for the question,  
12 Representative. I think to expand a little on what I  
13 was sharing around the data limitations, a lot of the  
14 data is iterative, building on -- ACS data building  
15 on previous census data being supplemented by current  
16 census data. And we know that a lot of communities  
17 have been undercounted. And so I think limiting  
18 ourselves only to just looking at the raw numbers  
19 without that deeper community conversation doesn't  
20 give us the full picture of our community. But it  
21 is an important and helpful tool for us to start  
22 identifying things like what are the languages in the  
23 neighborhood that we're trying to talk to that we may  
24 not have prepared for or who are the other folks who

1 should be invited to the table for this conversation.  
2 And so I think ensuring that robust community  
3 participation augments and improves on the census  
4 data numbers.

5 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Got you. And ACS data  
6 can go back, as you said, it's augmenting today's  
7 data, you know, the decennial census data hopefully  
8 augmenting the ACS data, but ACS data can go back  
9 several years. It could go back halfway through this  
10 decade or even further to use the data to draw the  
11 maps, correct? I mean, relying on ACS data that is  
12 several years old I guess could be a concern,  
13 especially when communities, many communities can be  
14 transient when moves are taking place. So I mean, do  
15 you think there are deeper concerns about using ACS  
16 than -- I mean, do you know where I'm going? Changes  
17 happen and ACS data just doesn't give the full  
18 picture, I would say.

19 MR. VALAS: So I would definitely caveat I am not  
20 a data scientist. And so again, I think I would just  
21 stress the importance of having these conversations  
22 with our communities in our neighborhoods with the  
23 folks that are living in the area is a helpful  
24 addition to whatever numbers we're looking at. I



1 know it gets complicated because of the need to use  
2 those data points, but I think the holistic approach  
3 of including the community voices helps us better  
4 understand what's really going on.

5 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Got you. Thank you. And  
6 Chairman Tarver, just one more question for Alderman  
7 Sigcho Lopez. And I hope I said that correctly.  
8 Alderman, do you believe -- I hope he's with us.

9 ALDERMAN LOPEZ: Yes.

10 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Okay. Do you believe the  
11 Latinx population is adequately represented in the  
12 general assembly today?

13 ALDERMAN LOPEZ: Well, I think that definitely  
14 there has been changes, there's change decade after  
15 decade. You know, changes will be reflected as we  
16 have more population, right? I think the Latino  
17 community has been growing rapidly. However, you  
18 know, I've also seen with great concern trends, as  
19 recent trends where we also have seen migration  
20 trends changing drastically and people even leaving  
21 the city. So I think that definitely in terms of  
22 representation, I can say that representation is  
23 something that is won in the interim elections, is  
24 won democratically, right?

1           So I think at this point, I think that  
2       there's a lot of work that we all can be doing for  
3       representation in the council and in the state which  
4       at this point I would say that, you know, the  
5       representation needs to be reflected. That's why we  
6       want to make sure that this redistricting process is  
7       important. I think that we can do a lot more for  
8       representation in our communities. I think there are  
9       still representatives -- or districts that are  
10      minority, still majority Latino or Latinx but is not  
11      reflected on the representatives. But I'm hopeful  
12      that a good process, you can help us change that.  
13      Again my question is on the process and not  
14      necessarily on specific issues. I hope that helps  
15      with the question.

16           REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: I appreciate your  
17      response. And again to all the witnesses, thank you  
18      for being here today. I really appreciate your  
19      input.

20           CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Thank you. Did anyone else  
21      have questions for anyone on the panel, first panel?

22           REPRESENTATIVE GORDON-BOOTH: Chairman Tarver,  
23      you're on mute.

24           CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Thank you. I apologize.

1 Thank you to the first panel. I certainly appreciate  
2 all of the insight and for sticking around for  
3 questions. We appreciate that. But if no one has  
4 any additional questions of the first panel, we'll  
5 move to the second panel. And the first witness on  
6 the second panel -- and each witness, please make  
7 sure you spell your name for the court reporter.

8 I have Jim Discipio, LaGrange Park board of  
9 trustees. Jim, are you there? Jim Discipio, are you  
10 there? Staff, I don't see his name on the screen  
11 with the list of witnesses. There is, next, Sandy  
12 Bakalich, LaGrange Park board of trustees. Sandy,  
13 are you there? Okay, I don't see Sandy's name on my  
14 screen, on either of these two screens, either. So  
15 we'll go to Marvin Hunter. Marvin, are you present?  
16 Okay, I don't see Marvin's name on the list of  
17 witnesses, either.

18 We'll go to Consuela Baggett. Consuela, are  
19 you there? I don't see your name. Consuela, are you  
20 there? Can you hear me? Consuela? Okay. Tawana  
21 Pope. Tawana, are you there? Okay, we'll go to  
22 Ashleigh Nelson.

23 MS. NELSON: Yes.

24 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Just one second, Ashleigh.

1 I'm sorry. Will you do us a favor and spell your  
2 name for the court reporter before you start to  
3 testify?

4 MS. NELSON: Sure.

5 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Thank you.

6 MS. NELSON: A-s-h-l-e-i-g-h, and Nelson,  
7 N-e-l-s-o-n. And I currently am a resident of  
8 Tri-Taylor and today I'm here to talk about the  
9 redistricting and specifically why I think my  
10 neighborhood, Tri-Taylor should remain in the ninth  
11 district.

12 So while I've lived here, I've seen the  
13 neighborhood change as new developments spring up,  
14 things like the new county hospital building opening  
15 or the old county hospital being converted to a Hyatt  
16 House. They just opened a Starbucks around the  
17 corner from me. And while I love these kind of  
18 contributions and what they add to the neighborhood,  
19 I'm also conscious of the fact that cost of living is  
20 rising, specifically around things like affordable  
21 housing.

22 So right now, for example, I'm currently  
23 looking to move into a larger apartment. And in my  
24 search, it's like okay, I have to pay basically

1 double the rent that I would have pre all these  
2 developments or move out of the neighborhood. So as  
3 we're already looking to address this issue in the  
4 community, I think part of the solution lies in  
5 keeping the ninth district where it's been for  
6 decades. Because having one representative allows  
7 the community concerns to be heard holistically.

8 And that's all I came to say. I do want to  
9 flag that I have to hop off. I'm still working. But  
10 I do appreciate your time and appreciate you guys for  
11 hearing my concerns.

12 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Thank you very much,  
13 Ashleigh. We really appreciate it.

14 MS. NELSON: Thank you.

15 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: I just received a message  
16 that witness Tawana Pope is on. Tawana, if you're  
17 there, if you could respond so that I know that  
18 you're on. We'd love to hear your testimony. I can  
19 see Tawana's screen, but there's nobody in the  
20 screen.

21 So there's also a note that Baggett is on.  
22 So Consuela, if you're on and ready to testify, will  
23 you take yourself off mute and let us know, please?

24 MR. HART: Tawana is back.

1 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Okay. Tawana, if you could  
2 just make sure -- you're on mute, just to let you  
3 know. But when you come off of mute, if you could  
4 just spell your name for the court reporter before  
5 your testimony, we'd appreciate it. And thank you.

6 MS. POPE: Good afternoon, everyone. My name is  
7 Tawana, T-a-w-a-n-a, last name is Pope, P-o-p-e.  
8 Thank you all for allowing me to speak today on  
9 behalf of the ninth district. My name is Tawana  
10 Pope. I am a long-term resident of north Lawndale.  
11 I am residing at 820 South Independence Boulevard and  
12 I work with homeless women who are currently in a  
13 shelter and place them in permanent housing. I do  
14 community advocacy in the north Lawndale area for  
15 homeless individuals that do not have food, basic  
16 hygiene products, clothing, et cetera.

17 One of the things today that I'm glad that we  
18 had the opportunity to speak our voice about is the  
19 rezoning of our community. North Lawndale, I have  
20 been over here and my son is 32 years old, so I've  
21 been in this community 32 years. And yes, a lot of  
22 changes have happened, but we still have a lot of  
23 work to be done. And I feel that rezoning our  
24 neighborhood is splitting us apart. For those who

1 already have been here working with us, advocating  
2 for us, trying to make this community a better place  
3 to live, rezoning us is splitting us up in two pieces  
4 that might not even know us, don't understand the  
5 community, don't know what goes on in the community.  
6 So I just came here in good faith to speak for those  
7 that may want to speak but didn't have the  
8 opportunity, so we can express how we feel about our  
9 community being divided, you know.

10 A lot of the issues that I know that still  
11 goes on here is crime. Crime is everywhere. But I  
12 think that our state representatives that are over  
13 here, they're doing a good job. And I just think  
14 that we should stay with what we know right now  
15 because making a change in a pandemic, making a  
16 change within those stakeholders that are coming from  
17 the outside and the inside and the people that reside  
18 here and been here long-term don't have a choice in  
19 the matter of how things are going to be done, how  
20 the changes are going to be made. I think that's not  
21 fair, to have us not be able to speak about where we  
22 live. Because at the end of the day, we live here.  
23 Others come in.

24 Our economic development, yes, a lot of

1 development has happened in north Lawndale, but  
2 there's still work to be done. We have people  
3 returning home from incarceration, we have those who  
4 are coming out of addiction, we have those who are in  
5 search of certain types of resources. So we need our  
6 state representatives here that have already been in  
7 the neighborhood, got to know us, know what our needs  
8 are. We're able to express our concerns and the  
9 things that we need and we are not just saying  
10 they're listening to us, but they're actually trying  
11 to adhere to the needs of the people.

12           And jobs are being, a lot of small  
13 communities, businesses are open. I'm a small  
14 community business that advocates in the north  
15 Lawndale. Like I said, I've been in existence for  
16 three years and I continue to try to collaborate with  
17 others so we can bring the resources that's very much  
18 needed in this neighborhood because jobs are not here  
19 any more. If we look at the history of north  
20 Lawndale, Zenith and Sears and all of those places  
21 have been moved out. So that left a lot of people  
22 where they are either homeless, 200 percent in  
23 poverty or they're just jobless at all. And they  
24 do have children. So we're raising a generation



1 that has nothing to restore and revitalize the  
2 neighborhood because everything has been moved out.

3 And yes, real estate has been an issue in the  
4 north Lawndale area. And as we know, in north  
5 Lawndale, about ten years ago was, some money was  
6 allocated for the changes that came about for those  
7 individuals. Because a large number of individuals  
8 that were long-term residents came up out of north  
9 Lawndale and was returning home with no education,  
10 no jobs, no skills, no experience, no high school  
11 diplomas. And a program was put in place called Hope  
12 and that's the restoration of the man that you  
13 restore the family. So those are some things that we  
14 just want to keep over here to keep everything for,  
15 to continue to grow. And I think that by dividing us  
16 and those who already have invested their time, their  
17 energy to try and bring back a neighborhood and  
18 restore life, I don't think that's fair to the  
19 community residents that are here.

20 So I say that the only way for this community  
21 to adequately address these issues is by keeping the  
22 district as one. We've been at home. So we're just  
23 asking that, you know, you all just keep us together.  
24 Because that's how it always has been and we think

1 that that's the best for us right now at this time.

2 So thank you all for allowing me to speak.

3 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Tawana, thank you very much  
4 for being so engaged as a constituent and providing  
5 us some perspective. I do believe that Ms. Baggett  
6 is back on. Consuela, can you hear me? I can see  
7 you and you see that your hand is raised, ma'am, but  
8 can you hear me? You might be on mute. I can't hear  
9 you. Consuela, I think you're on mute.

10 MS. POPE: Tell her to push the bottom button.  
11 She doesn't really know how to work it.

12 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: I don't know what kind of  
13 phone she's using. You're actually moving around on  
14 my screen. Consuela, there should be a button that  
15 allows you to take yourself off mute. It's at the  
16 bottom left on my screen. So if you hear me, try to  
17 look at the bottom and see. I know a little earlier  
18 you were off mute. I can see you, Consuela. But if  
19 you're talking, I can't hear you, unfortunately.

20 We'll try to give her a moment to see if she  
21 can get herself off mute so we can hear her  
22 testimony.

23 Hey, Consuela, I can see you again but I  
24 still can't hear you. If you can hear me, is there

1 anyone around who might be able to help you get off  
2 mute?

3 MS. BAGGETT: Can you hear me now?

4 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Yes, we can hear you.

5 MS. BAGGETT: I'm sorry about that. How are you  
6 all doing today?

7 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: No problem. Hold on one  
8 second, Consuela. Before you start your testimony,  
9 and we look forward to hearing from you, will you do  
10 me a favor and just spell your name, your full name  
11 for the court reporter, please?

12 MS. POPE: Okay, you've got to bear with me  
13 because I'm at work, okay, and I just started my job.

14 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Okay, no problem.

15 MS. BAGGETT: It's C-o-n-s-u-e-l-a.

16 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Okay. Can you just spell  
17 your last name, please, for the court reporter?

18 MS. BAGGETT: B as in boy, A as in apple, two G's  
19 as in girl, E as in Eric and two T's as in Tom.

20 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Okay, thank you. And  
21 Consuela, feel free to go ahead with your testimony.  
22 We're all listening.

23 MS. BAGGETT: Okay. Because I'm at work, so I'll  
24 give you what I have. My name is Consuela Baggett.

1 I reside at 820 South Independence, Apartment 4G.  
2 Since I've been here at the Independence house, when  
3 I first got there in 2013, when there was new  
4 management up in there, Miss Diane and Miss Chanel,  
5 they were helping us, the women and children get on  
6 their feet with whatever type of problems or illness  
7 that we had going on with us. I know when I came up  
8 as a mother of two girls and I was pregnant with one,  
9 that I had issues of my own. I was struggling with  
10 drugs and alcohol. Then I have a child who is  
11 bipolar. Dixon has been working with me and I just  
12 think that we just need one representative to serve  
13 us in our community. Roosevelt, Independence, Polk  
14 by the expressway, Harrison, Congress, we're  
15 desperate. We have nothing for our children, nothing  
16 that they can go socialize or we don't have anything  
17 for our children to participate in. It's --

18 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Hey, Consuela, you're muted  
19 again. Can you hear me? I apologize. Had you  
20 concluded your testimony, Consuela?

21 MS. BAGGETT: I did put you on mute. I'm at work  
22 and the boss is here and I just started this job and  
23 I'm trying to keep it.

24 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: I understand. If you want

1 to kind of button it down for us and wrap it up,  
2 that's perfectly fine. We're happy to hear whatever  
3 else you have to say.

4 Okay, we'll try to circle back if Consuela  
5 gets a few moments to speak. So given there are only  
6 a couple people on the panel, we'll merge this panel  
7 with the next panel and then take questions all  
8 together. So the next witness I have is, it looks  
9 like Deena Habbal. But I don't see Deena on. I do  
10 see Dr. Dilara Sayeed with the Illinois Muslim Civic  
11 Coalition. Dr. Sayeed -- I'm sorry, Consuela, if you  
12 can mute your phone, please. Sorry about that.  
13 Dr. Sayeed, are you testifying in lieu of Deena  
14 Habbal?

15 DR. SAYEED: Yes, I am.

16 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Okay, if you could just  
17 spell your name for the court reporter and then you  
18 can dive right into your testimony.

19 DR. SAYEED: Good afternoon. I'm Dilara Sayeed.  
20 D-i-l-a-r-a, S-a-y-e-e-d. And actually, it's  
21 heartwarming to hear the testimonies. Like we're all  
22 taking time off of work so we can bring you this  
23 testimony today and all of us have to get back to the  
24 work that we're doing. And we appreciate your

1 listening to us and we hope you hear us.

2 And from the Illinois Muslim Civic Coalition,  
3 you have seen us throughout the day, many of you have  
4 seen us at multiple hearings. And it's because we  
5 want to be heard. It is a community that is often  
6 invisible but doing work, serving our neighbors and  
7 our families across the state of Illinois. And I  
8 think about today and we are in the midst of this  
9 incredible time in Illinois and in our history and in  
10 the work that we're doing. All of us, when we can,  
11 are watching the George Floyd hearing and the  
12 testimony and trying to make sense of it all.

13 Last weekend we had Passover dinner at our  
14 neighbors' homes. We had Holi, which is celebrated  
15 by the Hindu community on Monday and Tuesday. Today  
16 is Good Friday. Honestly, as a Catholic school girl  
17 for my high school years, I can recite the Our Father  
18 in English, Spanish and Latin. And I wish we weren't  
19 here doing this work on Good Friday, but we're  
20 reflecting and repenting as we are supposed to be  
21 doing and walking in the footsteps of Christ. And so  
22 these are the things that are happening.

23 And then next week we begin the month of  
24 Ramadan, where Muslims will be fasting every single

1 day for a month, again to reflect. And one of the  
2 things I reflect on is the incredible diversity of  
3 Illinois. This is all happening across Illinois.  
4 And Illinois has the largest populations of every  
5 demographic I just mentioned across the nation.

6 And I wanted to also just share some of my  
7 screen, so I have some data for you. And some of you  
8 have seen this before and others haven't. But across  
9 this nation, Illinois has the largest per capita of  
10 Muslims in any states, yes, more than Michigan, more  
11 than New York City. And these Muslims are every  
12 single race. We're in the south side of Chicago at  
13 mosques, at centers, at neighborhoods from Lawndale,  
14 Garfield Park, et cetera. We're in the northwest  
15 side of Cook County where we are south Asians and  
16 Latinos. And we are in Peoria and central Illinois.

17 And this community is large and it is  
18 completely zero represented in our state legislature.  
19 This is an injustice that redistricting can change.  
20 And this is what we're urging you to do. And we have  
21 three asks of all of the different communities that  
22 identify as Muslim. Remember, layers, right? You  
23 could be your race, you can be your ethnicity and you  
24 can be a faith. And these are the things we really

1 want you to think about as we're doing this work.

2 I'm a former eighth grade teacher. I taught  
3 U.S. history and language arts. One of my nieces is  
4 named Zibah, which is a traditional south Asian name.  
5 And her brother is named Declan, which is a  
6 traditional Irish name, because her mother is Irish  
7 Catholic and her father is south Asian. My own  
8 grandchildren, when I have them, because my daughter  
9 just got engaged, will be Arab, south Asian and  
10 white. Like this is the diaspora of the community  
11 that we have. And all of them who identify as Muslim  
12 are not represented in our state.

13 We will try to come together to finalize our  
14 maps, which we have kind of put in draft form, and  
15 have them for you by April 30th. But our asks when  
16 you develop any of the maps is, number one, don't  
17 push our responsibility back to 2030 to ensure  
18 representation to critical communities that have zero  
19 representation right now in our state legislature.  
20 And that might be because of their race, African  
21 immigrants, Middle Easterners. It might be because  
22 of their faith, Muslim, Buddhist, Mormons. It might  
23 be because of where they live, extreme rule areas  
24 that have no representation. But in 2020, in the



1 kind of climate we have right now, building unity and  
2 ensuring representation is your job. And we want to  
3 be there to help you do it in the best way possible  
4 for all Illinoisans. So don't push it back to 2030.

5 Number two, especially with some communities  
6 that I do identify as Muslim, we have Arab  
7 communities that are Christian, Jewish and Muslim.  
8 But Arab communities in the census identify as white.  
9 Because of the last administration, we weren't able  
10 to change that and put in a category for Middle East.  
11 So Arab Americans, Arab Illinoisans, of which we have  
12 a huge number, will partly be identified as white.  
13 Now, we have tried to bring education and change that  
14 to say no, don't put in white or put in white and put  
15 in your ethnicity on the field or don't put in white,  
16 put in other and put in your ethnicity. So we're  
17 hoping some information will be accurate. But you  
18 won't get accurate information from this community  
19 and we can help you change that on the census. I  
20 mean, you won't get accurate information about this  
21 community on the census, so we can help you change  
22 that. Please use us as resources.

23 And lastly, for all the communities here, I'm  
24 so glad to see Justin here, the Latino Policy Forum,

1 Change Illinois, many of the organizations that we've  
2 all been working together, ISERV, Rainbow PUSH,  
3 Lawndale's organizations. Please ensure that the  
4 maps reflect the diversity of race, ethnicity and  
5 faith. We love these hearings. You have over two  
6 dozen hearings. We won't be at all of them, but  
7 we'll try to be at as many as possible. You have so  
8 many hearings and you're giving so many  
9 opportunities, but don't make it just about show.  
10 Please make sure that you hear us, you see us and you  
11 allow us to have representation.

12 And I have Shazia Khan with me, Dr. Shazia  
13 Khan, who's been working with COVID patients, to talk  
14 about how our communities have been impacted by this  
15 and other things. So I'll stop here and thank you,  
16 Chair Tarver, who is also a good friend and a  
17 community leader, and all of the other  
18 representatives here, Theresa Mah, who has been a  
19 mentor to us and so many others. Lisa Hernandez, a  
20 great advocate. So thank you all for being here and  
21 listening to us.

22 DR. KHAN: Thank you, everyone.

23 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Thank you. Sorry, I was  
24 going to go right to you, Dr. Shazia Khan. Before

1 you jump into your testimony, which we're eager to  
2 hear as well, will you please just spell your name  
3 for the court reporter? We appreciate that.

4 DR. KHAN: Sure. Hi, my name is Shazia Khan.  
5 S-h-a-z-i-a, K-h-a-n. I hope you can hear me. I'm  
6 in the city right now in the midst of traffic. So  
7 I thank you for taking the time to listen to my  
8 testimony. Thank you, Dilara, for that beautiful  
9 talk and everyone else for your beautiful  
10 testimonies.

11 So I live in western Cook County in the  
12 Barrington area, South Barrington. And I've been  
13 here since 2007 as a practicing physician. I have  
14 taken care of so many families who are struggling  
15 with COVID related illness, COVID related death. And  
16 one of the things I realize is across all the  
17 families that I see, and it's a wide variety from  
18 different minorities, everybody is struggling in  
19 unique ways but also similar ways. And we draw  
20 strength from each other in our different cultures.  
21 We draw strength from our similarities and how we  
22 face our challenges in a similar fashion.

23 COVID has really ravaged so many of our  
24 communities, unfortunately. And it's been so

1 beautiful to see the diversity amongst our  
2 communities reaching out to help each other. As you  
3 know, there's vaccinations being offered at the Hindu  
4 temple, the Sikh temple, the mosques, the churches.  
5 It's been so beautiful. As far as interfaith, where  
6 I live, I love the fact that my children are friends  
7 with people of various backgrounds, various faiths  
8 but also similar faiths and similar background. I  
9 never thought my son would have children in his class  
10 that have the exact same name as him. And he has an  
11 Indian name and it's so wonderful to hear him come  
12 home and say Mom, there's three other boys with the  
13 same name as me. When I grew up, that was never  
14 something that I could ever expect. So it's been a  
15 beautiful experience living in western Cook County  
16 and I really hope that our leadership can reflect our  
17 diversity and our community. Thank you so much for  
18 your time.

19 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Thank you. And we could  
20 hear you surprisingly well for being somewhere in  
21 traffic. So thank you very much. Based on my notes,  
22 that concludes that panel. And so I certainly want  
23 to open it up for questions of the witnesses if  
24 anyone has questions.

1 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Curtis, I've got just,  
2 I don't know if Ms. Pope is still on or not. I just  
3 had a question for her, but I don't know if she's  
4 gone now.

5 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: I don't see her name. I'm  
6 trying to scroll through.

7 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: I don't see her on the  
8 screen. Not a huge deal.

9 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Tawana, are you there, by  
10 chance? Well, did you have a question for anyone  
11 else and then we can circle back?

12 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: No, that was it. I'm  
13 good.

14 CHAIRPERSON TARVER: Okay. Did anyone else have  
15 any questions for Dr. Sayeed or Dr. Khan? I believe  
16 Consuela, Ms. Baggett is gone as well. Any  
17 questions? I'm seeing none. We appreciate your  
18 testimony.

19 That, from my end, concludes today's  
20 redistricting hearing. I certainly appreciate  
21 everyone. Again I just want to, one more time just  
22 in case there's any questions or in the future people  
23 want to submit any information, written testimony or  
24 otherwise, the web site is IllinoisHouseDems.com,

1 slash, Redistricting. And that's also where you can  
2 review the public drawn border maps. You can also  
3 provide written testimony or public comments to the  
4 committee by e-mail at Redistricting at HDS.ILGA.gov.  
5 Redistricting Committee at HDS.ILGA.gov. That  
6 concludes today's redistricting hearing.

7 REPRESENTATIVE GORDON-BOOTH: Thank you,  
8 Mr. Chairman.

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1 STATE OF ILLINOIS )  
 ) SS.  
2 CITY OF SPRINGFIELD )

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4 I, LYDIA B. PINKAWA, a Certified Shorthand  
5 Reporter, do hereby certify that the meeting  
6 aforementioned was held at the time previously  
7 described.

8

9 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my  
10 hand and seal.

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