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ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

Report of proceedings had at the Redistricting
Committee for the Illinois House of Representatives held
virtually via Zoom videoconference on the 17th day of
April, A.D., 2021, commencing at the hour of 10:03 a.m.

CHAIRWOMAN:

REPRESENTATIVE LISA HERNANDEZ

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I N D E X

PAGE

PRESENTATION:

Ms. Darrin Reinhardt. 9
(Illinois House of Representatives Employee)

WITNESSES

Mr. Roger Kerley.18
(Pulaski County Democrat Chairman)

Dr. Linda Flowers. 21
(NAACP -- Carbondale Branch President)

1 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: We are live now, so the
2 House Committee on Redistricting shall come to order.

3 I'm State Representative Lisa Hernandez from the
4 24th District. I am a member of the Redistricting
5 Committee and will be chairing today's hearing.

6 I'd like to begin with welcoming some of the
7 members on the -- that are participating as well. We'd
8 start off with leader booth, J hon both. We have
9 representative Kelly, and I think that's who I have on
10 my end. Leader butler, would you like to introduce some
11 of your members who have joined us.

12 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Sure thing. Thank you,
13 Madam Chair.

14 My name is Tim Butler. I'm the state
15 representative from the 87th District. I live in
16 Springfield. I represent a district right in the middle
17 of the state.

18 Joining me today -- joining us today on the
19 Republican side are Representative Avery Bourne, who is
20 on the Redistricting Committee. We have Representative
21 David Friess with us as well, and Representative --
22 Representative and Dr. Paul Jacobs with us as well from
23 the 115th District who -- Paul, I believe you're from
24 Pomona, if I'm not mistaken.

1 REPRESENTATIVE JACOBS: That is correct, the
2 large city of Pomona.

3 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you, Leader
4 Butler.

5 So let me just start by -- starting by kind of
6 laying out what the setup is for today. I will start
7 off with a statement. I will then pass it over to
8 Leader Butler for him to say a few words, and then we
9 will start with a short video from staff on the process
10 of redistricting, and thereafter we will begin with our
11 witnesses.

12 So let me begin by thanking everyone who has
13 chosen to participate in today's hearing. Your insight
14 and participation is as important as ever as we begin
15 the redistricting process under unprecedented
16 circumstances.

17 The United States and Illinois constitution
18 require the General Assembly to redraw political
19 boundaries every 10 years to account for population
20 shifts. These hearings are a part of that process.
21 House Democrats are dedicated to transparency and public
22 participation in the redistricting process.

23 While state law requires a minimum of four
24 public hearings throughout the State, our Committee

1 intends to hold far more and present additional avenues
2 for public participation. Our goal is to hear from as
3 many people as possible and to gain as much information
4 as possible about the diverse communities of our state.

5 Our staff have been making many, many phone
6 calls to encourage participation in these upcoming
7 hearings. Those who wish to participate should be given
8 an opportunity, period. We are holding a series of
9 virtual, in-person hearings throughout the State. Early
10 last month we announced a schedule of 23 hearings before
11 proposing a redistricting plan. For comparison, in 2011
12 the House Redistricting Committee held 17 hearings in
13 total.

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

1 (Technical difficulties.)

2 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Let me go on. Or
3 alternatively, what happens well about the current
4 boundaries and suggestions for the drawing of new
5 boundaries.

6 In short, we want to hear any testimony that is
7 relevant to the drawing of our new political boundaries.
8 This year for the first time, Illinois residents will be
9 able to participate in the process from the comfort of
10 their own homes, including through remote participation
11 in these hearings and by drawing their own maps via
12 website. And they can do that through the public
13 drawing portal available at
14 ILHouseDems.com/Redistricting. This will allow any
15 Illinois resident to draw districts and share those maps
16 with the Committee for consideration.

17 The public may also submit written testimony or
18 other public comment to the Committee by email at
19 RedistrictingCommittee@HDS.ILGA.Gov. All written
20 testimony, public comments, and maps submitted to the
21 Committee will be made publicly available at ILGA.Gov
22 and ILHouseDems.com/Redistricting. Transcripts of the
23 Committee's hearings will also be uploaded to those
24 sites.

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

8 Okay. With that being said, Leader Butler, do
9 you have any further remarks?

10 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Yeah. Just a couple of
11 things.

12 First of all, thank you all for being on this
13 Saturday morning. I see we have a handful of witnesses
14 today. I'm looking forward to hearing from them. This
15 is such a -- such a great part of the state. I'm sorry
16 that I got my EIU banner behind here. I should have
17 maybe switched it out to a Carbondale banner, but I am a
18 proud EIU grad.

19 This is such a great area of the state.
20 Carbondale, Murphysboro, Marion, all of these -- down to
21 Cairo. The whole southern part of the state is such a
22 great area of the state. I'm so happy to be on here and
23 looking forward to the testimony.

24 I will say, Madam Chair, one of the things that

1 came up last night -- I know Leader Hoffman addressed it
2 -- but we got an additional email with concerns about
3 someone who tried to use the mapping software on your
4 website and made some -- had some specific concerns
5 about some of the precinct and block level data,
6 problems with that.

7 So I guess -- and Leader Hoffman said last night
8 that your staff was looking into this to make sure it
9 worked, but I -- we've asked this question before, but
10 just wondering either number 1 if we could have a
11 tutorial in one of these hearings about the mapping
12 process on the ILHouseDems website and also what data is
13 being -- what data is being made available to the public
14 to use for these maps.

15 So I know we've asked that before. I don't
16 think we've gotten an answer on that yet. So just to
17 bring that up again would be great. I do see we've had
18 a couple of reps join us. Representative Severin has
19 joined us as well.

20 Anyway, just wanted to, again, make that request
21 if we could have some sort of tutorial and also find out
22 what the data that's being used is. But I'm looking
23 forward to the hearing today. Thank you.

24 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes. Thank you, Leader

1 Butler. I can tell you I still have not received any
2 word from staff. Let me look into it, and while we're
3 on the -- while we're listening to the hearing, let me
4 see if I can get any answers. Okay? So let me -- let
5 me check into that.

6 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Thank you.

7 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. So I believe there
8 was another Representative. Representative Mah, you
9 have joined us. Thank you.

10 Okay. Next we'll go to the video. I'm trying
11 to figure out who is -- anyway, take it away.

12 STAFF MEMBER REINHARDT: All right. Hi,
13 everyone. My name is Darrin Reinhardt. I'm an employee
14 of the Illinois House of Representatives, and I'm here
15 to give a brief overview of the state's redistricting
16 procedure.

17 I'll briefly discuss the background of
18 redistricting and the redistricting process in Illinois,
19 and I'll also be going over federal and state
20 redistricting requirements and guidelines. Finally
21 we'll be looking at what preliminary data reveals about
22 population trends in the state and the region.

23 Redistricting is the process that ensure all
24 Illinois residents are afforded equal representation in

1 the State Legislature and Federal Congress as guaranteed
2 by the United States constitution.

3 The U.S. Supreme Court held a series of rulings
4 in the 1960s that Congressional and state legislative
5 districts in each state must be of approximately equal
6 population, establishing the principle of one person,
7 one, one vote. As a result, states redraw the
8 Congressional and state districts every 10 years to
9 reflect changes in population.

10 The timeline for the legislative map -- for
11 redrawing the legislative map are drawn on the Illinois
12 constitution. The constitution gives the Illinois
13 Legislature the initial responsibility of passing a new
14 legislative map. Both the State House and the State
15 Senate must pass a plan, which then must be signed by
16 the governor.

17 If a new map does not go into effect by the
18 constitutional deadline of June 30th, responsibility for
19 creating a new map passes from the Legislature to a
20 legislative redistricting commission. The commission
21 will consist of eight members, with two each appointed
22 by the legislative leaders and no more than four from
23 the same political party. A majority vote of five or
24 more commission members will constitute final approval

1 of a new map.

2 However, if the commission does not agree to a
3 map by September 1st, the Illinois Supreme Court will
4 submit two names, one from each party to the Illinois
5 Secretary of State who will then choose one name at
6 random to choose as the ninth member of the commission.
7 Five of the nine members of the commission must agree to
8 a plan no later than October 5th.

9 In order to understand the process of creating
10 new districts, we must look at some legal guiding
11 principles.

12 First among these is equal population.
13 Congressional districts must be nearly equal in
14 population, while state districts must be substantially
15 equal population.

16 Federal and state law also require that all
17 districts be contiguous, which means that all parts of a
18 district must be next to each other unless connected by
19 water. Annexations and unincorporated areas and
20 municipalities and counties sometimes mean that
21 communities are discontinuous. However, Congressional
22 and state districts must be adjacent or connected at all
23 points.

24 A more difficult requirement to define is

1 compactness. There are at least 30 different scientific
2 ways to measure how compact a district is, but no
3 statute or court precedent identifies standard criteria
4 of compactness.

5 In theory, compactness focuses on the shape of a
6 district's boundaries, how spread out a district is from
7 a central core, or where the district's population
8 center of gravity is. In practice, compactness is
9 hindered by geography and on-the-ground realities, so
10 often interpretation of compactness involves more than a
11 visual test.

12 Illinois is one of 14 states that nests its
13 house districts -- also called representative districts
14 -- inside one of its senate districts -- also called
15 legislative districts.

16 Mapmakers also look where possible to follow
17 existing political and geographical boundaries in ways
18 that maximize community's opportunity to have its
19 interests represented. As you know, however, county,
20 municipality, township, and natural geographic
21 boundaries are not always compact or contiguous.

22 By setting population data and holding public
23 hearings like this to listen to the thoughts of
24 residents across the State, law makers look to identify

1 what are known as communities of interest.

2 A community of interest is a group of people
3 concentrated in a geographic area who are socially,
4 culturally, ethnically, economically, religiously or
5 otherwise alike can be joined in a district to most
6 effectively have their voices heard. The factors
7 contributing to any particular community of interest
8 will vary throughout the State.

9 Federal law requires redistricting plans to
10 respect minority representation. The principles of the
11 Federal Voting Rights Act are in place to prevent the
12 reduction of opportunities for minority population to
13 participate equally in the electoral process. However,
14 districts cannot be drawn solely on the basis of race.

15 Illinois law also protects representation of
16 racial and language minority groups. The Illinois
17 Voting Rights Act helps prevent minority fracturing or
18 dividing a minority of concentration of minorities among
19 two or more districts by requiring mapmakers to consider
20 creating crossover districts, coalition districts, or
21 influence districts.

22 A crossover district is one in which a large
23 minority group may elect the candidate of its choice
24 with the help of voters from the majority group.

1 A coalition group brings multiple racial or
2 language minority groups together to elect a candidate
3 of their choice.

4 An influence district allows a group to
5 influence the election outcome without being the
6 majority population in a district. These state law
7 requirements come into play only after compliance with
8 federal law and U.S. and state constitutional
9 requirements on redistricting.

10 In addition, the law ensures transparency and
11 public participation by public hearings across the
12 state, one of which we're having right now. At the end
13 of the presentation, we will display an email address on
14 the screen Chair Hernandez already provided, where you
15 can submit your ideas. The Committee will also be
16 accepting written testimony today.

17 Now that we've covered the redistricting
18 process, let us discuss what the data shows about
19 Illinois population. The U.S. Census Bureau has delayed
20 the release of much of the decennial census data by more
21 than six months until this fall. However, the U.S.
22 Census Bureau's Annual Population Estimate shows some
23 trends that can help inform the work ahead.

24 The census 2019 population estimate shows an

1 overall decline in state population over the past
2 decade. There are, however, areas that project to have
3 population gains. Communities with the largest
4 population by percentage increase since 2010 are
5 Kendall, Monroe, Champaign, and Kane Counties.

6 Demographically speaking, the State's white
7 population is projected to decline, while
8 African-American population statewide is likely to see a
9 smaller overall decline. The Hispanic and Asian
10 population across Illinois are projected to see growth.

11 Locally, Jackson County, Franklin County,
12 Randolph County, Union County, and Perry County stand to
13 lose population. Williamson County population stands to
14 increase, while Monroe County population is projected to
15 have significantly grown over the past decade.

16 Thank you so much for your attention and for
17 coming out to share you thoughts today. As the chair
18 mentioned, you'll be able to find testimony from this
19 and other hearings on ILGA.Gov and on
20 ILHouseDems.com/Redistricting.

21 The redistricting website offers additional ways
22 to engage with the process, including our public drawing
23 portal where you can draw and submit your own district
24 maps. You can send further written testimony and

1 suggestions to the Committee at any time by e-mailing
2 RedistrictingCommittee@HDS.ILGA.gov. Thank you.

3 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Darrin, for
4 the presentation.

5 Okay. Leader Butler, next, I just want you to
6 know our witnesses that are testifying, we have two
7 panels. The first panel has two individuals, and then
8 the second panel has four. Do you want to hold off on
9 questions until the end, or do you want after each
10 panel?

11 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Let's do it after each,
12 that way the first panel doesn't have to stick around if
13 they don't want to.

14 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Got it. Okay. Sure.

15 Okay. So as I mentioned, we have two panels,
16 and there is written testimony that was filed by
17 Mr. Ryan Tolley from the CHANGE Illinois Action Fund,
18 just so that's in the record.

19 Okay. So let's begin. Dr. Linda Flowers -- and
20 before you start, I just want to remain -- remind the
21 witnesses that we need for you to spell out your name
22 for the purposes of record. I know your names might be
23 up on the screen, but sometimes we can't see the whole
24 spelling of it. So I appreciate that. Thank you.

1 So, Ms. Linda Flowers, can you begin -- Dr.
2 Linda Flowers? Can't hear you. Could you turn -- can
3 you turn your mic on? We can't hear you.

4 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: I don't see that there's
5 any witnesses.

6 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: There is. Linda Flowers
7 is on.

8 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: But I don't see them in
9 the -- on the list of participants.

10 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Oh, she's on my list.

11 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: I don't know if they're
12 in the waiting room or what's -- oh, there we go.

13 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Dr. Flowers, you need to
14 put your mic on. We can't hear you. Can you turn it
15 on? Dr. Flowers, can you hear me? All right. We --
16 can you put -- you just need to turn on your mic. It
17 should be on the lower part of the screen. You might
18 have a slash over the mic. Just --

19 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: It looks like she's
20 unmuted, so I don't know if it's an issue with her
21 computer or what.

22 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. It's not showing
23 up on my screen. Okay. All right. Dr. Flowers, would
24 you mind if we -- let's move on, and let's see if we can

1 try to figure out what the issue is there. We'll come
2 back to you though. Okay? All right. Thank you. I'm
3 told that you may just need to change your audio
4 settings.

5 But in the meantime while you're working that,
6 we're going to move on to -- let me see. Who do I have
7 here? One second. I have Vivian Robinson, Democrat
8 Committeeperson. Is Vivian on? I don't see Vivian.
9 Nope. Okay.

10 Well, that took care of the first panel, Leader
11 Butler, so we're going to move to the second panel. And
12 it starts off with Lynn Chambers from Pulaski County.
13 Is Lynn on? Lynn Chambers? Okay.

14 Well, let's move on to -- I have Roger Kerley,
15 Pulaski County as well. I see a Roger. Mr. Kerley, can
16 you unmute? There we go.

17 MR. KERLEY: Hello, this is Roger Kerley.

18 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes. We can't see you,
19 but we can hear you. We can hear you; we just can't see
20 you.

21 MR. KERLEY: Okay. Can you see me now?

22 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Good morning to you all.

23 This is the first time I've been in one of these
24 meetings -- Zoom meetings like this. Anyway, I was --

1 I'm the Pulaski County Democrat chairman, and I wanted
2 to relate a little bit that we're concerned down here.

3 We are a small county, like a lot of other small
4 counties around this area in Southern Illinois, but what
5 interested -- had me interested in this was we need a
6 way that this -- that this redistricting is done in a
7 way to represent the small population of our county.
8 I'm afraid that we'll be lost if the redistrict is not
9 done in a fair way to keep our thoughts and ways in
10 effect.

11 And I know that probably -- I haven't checked
12 the figures on the census and everything -- but I'm sure
13 we're down on numbers here, and that also concerns me.
14 But I do know that our county had a lot of people
15 working, trying to get people to do the census reports
16 and stuff, but they -- people were scared away from it
17 for different -- for odd reasons.

18 Some of them in ways that thought they would be
19 afraid it would cause them harm or trouble in other
20 ways, such as some of them, you know, thought it was a
21 way to get them on past tax or child support. I mean,
22 the lists go on and on.

23 But what they didn't realize -- and we tried to
24 bring that across -- that each one -- each one that

1 registered brought money from the federal government for
2 schools, roads, and all type of infrastructure for our
3 district. That's the reason I'm involved in this this
4 morning, and I just want to thank you for hearing my
5 thoughts and stuff. I wanted to see how the procedure
6 was headed and how it would work.

7 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Kerley. I
8 know, of course, it's really important to hear -- for
9 you to give us your input.

10 I'm going to go to the next witness, and it's
11 Mr. Bill Kilquist. No Kilquist? Former Jackson County
12 Sheriff. Okay.

13 We'll move to the next person, Max Russell from
14 Russell Electric. Max Russel? Okay.

15 All right. Well, that really concludes the list
16 I have, but I do see --

17 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Do you want to see if
18 Ms. Flowers has got her audio working there?

19 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes.

20 DR. FLOWER: Can you hear me now?

21 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, we can.

22 DR. WILSON: Good. I've switched computers.

23 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Well, please proceed, and
24 please -- I did forget. We'll go back to Mr. Roger.

1 But please start by spelling out your name. I'd
2 appreciate it.

3 DR. FLOWERS: Yes. Linda, L-i-n-d-a, Flowers,
4 F-l-o-w-e-r-s.

5 Good morning. My name is Dr. Linda Flowers.
6 I'm the president of the Carbondale Branch NAACP. My
7 testimony is regarding the redistricting process as it
8 relates to the drawing of maps for southern Illinois.

9 I urge the legislators to ensure that any bill
10 it passes protects the voting power or historically
11 marginalized and disenfranchised citizens in southern
12 Illinois. Any map needs to account for the growth rate
13 of the BIPOC communities, specifically and Asian
14 communities.

15 The last map drawn has resulted in a safe
16 district tailored to exclusively favor candidates from
17 one political party, against state law that mandates the
18 establishment of districts that allow racial or language
19 minority communities to elect or influence the election
20 of candidates of their choice, thus putting the BIPOC
21 communities of southern Illinois in the position of
22 taxation without representation.

23 Not before -- and I've lived here almost 50
24 years in southern Illinois -- not before or since the

1 election of the late Congresswoman Wyvetter Younge in
2 1975 has this area been represented by a person of
3 color. So I could encourage the consideration of a map
4 that would provide minority communities the opportunity
5 to elect candidates or at the very least participate
6 meaningfully in the political process. Thank you.

7 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Dr. Flowers.

8 And now I'm going to go back to Mr. Kerley. Can
9 you please spell out your name for purposes of the
10 record. Thank you.

11 MR. KERLEY: Roger, R-o-g-e-r, Kerley,
12 K-e-r-l-e-y.

13 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you. Thank
14 you.

15 Okay. Next, we will go to questions from the
16 members. Representative Mah, then I have Leader Bourne
17 after Representative Mah's questions are done.

18 Representative Mah, go ahead.

19 REPRESENTATIVE MAH: Good morning. I just have
20 a really simple question for Dr. Linda Flowers. For
21 those who are not familiar with the acronym BIPOC, would
22 you please let folks know what those initials stand for.

23 DR. FLOWERS: Sure. BIPOC stands for Black
24 Indigenous People of Color.

1 REPRESENTATIVE MAH: Thank you so much. I just
2 wanted to make sure because I don't think a lot of --
3 everybody on the panel is familiar with that, and I just
4 wanted you to make it clear for everyone. Thank you so
5 much for your testimony and for being a part of this
6 hearing today.

7 DR. FLOWERS: Thank you.

8 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Leader Bourne.

9 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: Thank you so much.

10 I will start with you, Dr. Flowers. I just have
11 a couple of questions. Thank you for joining us this
12 morning. When you were talking about the district that
13 you currently reside in, you talked about it being
14 tailored for an incumbent or tailored for one political
15 party, and this is something that we have had concerns
16 about as well.

17 Is it your testimony or your belief that we
18 should not take incumbent's households into accounts
19 when we're drawing maps or should we -- I just wanted to
20 ask that question because it seems like that's where you
21 were going with your testimony.

22 DR. FLOWERS: No. I wasn't really talking in
23 terms of the incumbent's address or where they live, no.
24 But there are just several communities -- not many --

1 where people of color reside in southern Illinois, and
2 so if there could even be a map that would be inclusive
3 of those communities.

4 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: Gotcha. And that led to
5 my second question. So this is something I've asked
6 many witnesses. I'm certainly not as familiar with
7 parts of this state that aren't as close to me as
8 others. Are there specific parts of the districts
9 around you that you think are unfair? Are there, like,
10 little fingers that are drawn into different places or
11 -- just wanting to know local characteristics that you
12 think should be changed in the new map.

13 DR. FLOWERS: Well, one of the things, Jackson
14 County would be an area that would have a substantial
15 minority population. But as it relates to the state,
16 senate district of Carbondale, for instance, is split.
17 So the city of Carbondale is not all together for our
18 senate district. So that being an area where a
19 substantial number of minorities reside.

20 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: That's helpful. I
21 appreciate that testimony.

22 I have also a few questions for you, Mr. Kerley,
23 if I might. One of your concerns was that the new map
24 would fairly represent small and rural communities. I

1 also have that concern. I represent a district of over
2 40 communities, the largest one being about 10,000, and
3 so I understand that -- understand that well.

4 Is it your -- so we've heard in other hearings
5 that the American Community Survey data may undercount
6 small populations. Is that something that you are
7 concerned about as well?

8 MR. KERLEY: Yes, it is. I think the small
9 county and small population and stuff, we worry about
10 representation and everything down here. We want --
11 that's the reason I'm on this. So it is a concern of
12 our county.

13 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: Thank you.

14 MR. KERLEY: And we also -- like, Jackson can
15 have minorities that aren't in the county, and we just
16 want it to be fair. That's really all we're -- all
17 we're looking for, you know, and being represented in a
18 fair way.

19 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: You led me to my next
20 question. You also testified that you wanted this
21 mapping process to be fair.

22 MR. KERLEY: Yes.

23 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: I just kind of wanted
24 you to tease that out a little bit further of what a

1 fair process to you looks like.

2 MR. KERLEY: Well, we just wanted to be invited
3 just because there's not as much population in the
4 county. We're like some adjoining counties, such as
5 Alexander County. We -- sometimes we feel like we're
6 forgotten down here in a lot of ways and stuff. We just
7 -- again, I don't want to just keep beating on the same
8 thing, but we just want a fair deal is what we want.

9 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: I appreciate that. Are
10 there any -- is your county split up? That's not
11 something that I looked up while you were testifying.
12 Is it complete or is it split up? I'm seeing a nod from
13 Dr. Jacobs that it is complete.

14 MR. KERLEY: No. It is a complete county. It's
15 not like Jackson.

16 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: Gotcha. I appreciate
17 that.

18 You mentioned the census, that you haven't been
19 able to see the census data to see where the population
20 in your county has gone.

21 MR. KERLEY: Yes.

22 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: Obviously we haven't
23 gotten the census data yet, but the census data is, I
24 think, see as the most reputable data and something that

1 you mentioned. Would it be your preference that we wait
2 for the census data before drawing maps instead of
3 drawing it with the ACS data?

4 MR. KERLEY: Well, I'm not really for sure on
5 that. I just know -- I just know that we had some good
6 workers down here, and I had precinct committeeman
7 working on it, you know, and trying to get people out to
8 fill the reports out and stuff. One of the ladies, Lynn
9 Chambers, that was mentioned as the witness, she worked
10 hard on it too. Other precinct committeeman, Christi
11 Davis [phonetic], she worked hard on it. There was a
12 lot of effort put out.

13 I'm not really for sure how the total will come
14 out, but I'm afraid that people were scared it was going
15 to, you know, hurt them in some way if they reported it.
16 I don't -- didn't understand that, and I tried to tell
17 people, you know, that that -- how it represents our
18 district as to how much federal money and how much we
19 get back towards infrastructure and schools and
20 everything. This is important, you know, for our
21 counties, small as it is the large counties.

22 But that's where we're at. I just -- I just
23 want to get a fair shake down. I keep beating that band
24 -- or that drum or whatever, but that's -- that's the

1 reason I'm on here this morning.

2 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: I appreciate your
3 testimony, and I appreciate you helping out getting the
4 census count. I think that is really important as
5 someone, like I said, who represents a lot of rural
6 communities. We are sometimes the most difficult to
7 count because of connectivity or it's just hard to knock
8 doors when there's a town of 100 people.

9 I understand, and I appreciate that you had even
10 partisan workers, right, getting the vote out. This
11 isn't a partisan issue to have a complete census count,
12 and I don't think it should be a partisan issue to make
13 sure that we're all fairly counted in redistricting as
14 well.

15 I think that's all of the questions I had right
16 now.

17 MR. KERLEY: Well, there was two names out there
18 that worked on the census, but there are a lot of other
19 people that did. I should have maybe brought their
20 names up, but I just know that they worked hard too. I
21 need to give everybody credit. I don't want to single
22 them out. Thank you.

23 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: Absolutely. Thanks for
24 joining us this morning.

1 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you, Leader
2 Bourne.

3 Leader Butler, you also have questions?

4 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Yes. Please, Madam
5 Chair. Thank you.

6 Mr. Kerley, just to follow up, thank you --
7 thank you for your testimony. I think it highlights --
8 just to go off of Leader Bourne -- some concerns that we
9 brought up about underrepresented communities and small
10 communities as well.

11 I represent -- even though I live in
12 Springfield, I represent a district of four counties,
13 largely small, rural communities, under 15,000, under
14 10,000, under 5,000 people that I am number one
15 concerned that these communities get divided up; but
16 number two, that if we -- if we don't use the decennial
17 census data that you worked so hard to make sure that
18 southern Illinois is counted correctly -- if we don't
19 use that decennial census data, which isn't coming out
20 until later this year, that our small rural communities
21 -- like your county -- are not going to be accurately
22 represented in the redistricting. That's unfortunate.
23 So I appreciate your testimony today.

24 MR. KERLEY: Thank you.

1 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Dr. Flowers, I want to
2 follow-up as well because you mentioned that the maps --
3 I believe what you said was that the way the maps were
4 drawn favor one political party. Is that -- am I
5 correct in saying that's what your testimony was?

6 DR. FLOWERS: That was my testimony.

7 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Okay.

8 DR. FLOWERS: And that may just be part of the
9 majority of southern Illinois. It's hard to tell when
10 those communities that have minority populations -- when
11 you think about it, southern Illinois has a history of
12 sundown towns, and so you don't have minority
13 representation in most of the towns in southern
14 Illinois.

15 And so for those towns that there is some
16 minority representation, I know the map has to be
17 contiguous, but if there was some way the map could be
18 drawn where those communities are together.

19 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: So Jackson County has a
20 significant African-American population; correct?

21 DR. FLOWERS: Yes.

22 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Alexander County has a
23 significant African-American population, is that
24 correct, Cairo?

1 DR. FLOWERS: Yes.

2 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: And those are both
3 drawn -- at least part of Carbondale, down to Ciaro --
4 are drawn into Representative Windhorst's district;
5 correct?

6 DR. FLOWERS: Part of Carbondale. Like, I'm
7 not -- I live in Carbondale. I'm not in Representative
8 Windhorst's district. I'm in Representative Jacobs's
9 district.

10 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: I gotcha. And I guess
11 this -- this underscores my point. When I look at the
12 map of southern Illinois -- now, mind you, when you say
13 that these maps were drawn to favor one political party,
14 let's go back 10 years.

15 So let's go back 10 years. These maps that were
16 put in place were drawn by the Democrat majority and
17 signed by Governor Quinn. At that time, the senate
18 district -- one of the senate districts in southern
19 Illinois would have been represented by Senator Forby, a
20 Democrat, and so the district was drawn to favor him.

21 The 116th District would have been represented
22 by Representative Costello, a Democrat, to favor him.
23 The 117th District was represented by Representative
24 Bradley, a Democrat, drawn to favor him. And the 118

1 District was Representative Phelps, a Democrat, in a
2 district drawn to favor to him.

3 Now, those districts, the senate districts is
4 Senator Fowler. The 116th is now David Freiss. The
5 117th is Representative Severin, and the 118th is
6 Representative Winhorst.

7 So when these maps were drawn, they weren't
8 drawn to favor the Republicans who now represent. They
9 were drawn to favor the Democrats. And when I look at
10 the map -- when I look at Carbondale and Du Quoin
11 specifically -- two communities that aren't all that
12 large I mean, I think Carbondale is 25, 26,000,
13 something like that. To see communities like that
14 carved up, is not the right way to draw these maps.

15 And additionally you've got -- you drive a few
16 miles east on 13 and once you get to Crab Orchard you're
17 in Representative Severin's district. So you've got --
18 you've got Jacobs, Winhorst, Severin all within the
19 area. And those districts weren't drawn by Republicans.
20 They were drawn by Democrats to elect Democrats.

21 And, look, I'm with you. I think -- I think
22 these communities need to be represented, but what we've
23 seen here -- and this is what happens, and this is what
24 happens, I'm afraid, what is going to happen this year,

1 is that these maps are drawn for partisan reasons.

2 Unfortunately, for the majority, the politics
3 of large portions of downstate Illinois have changed
4 over the last two decades. I've worked on the
5 congressional level for 20 years in central Illinois.
6 We had a lot of communities in central Illinois that
7 were what we would call blue dog Democrats back in the
8 day -- conservative Democrats, labor Democrats, things
9 like that -- that have switched parties very honestly,
10 for a variety of reasons, not the least of which is
11 they're not happy with their government in Springfield
12 and how things happen.

13 And so I appreciate your testimony because you
14 made our point that these maps were drawn for a partisan
15 reason, and we do think that that maps should be drawn
16 in a fair manner. We've advocated for a commission.
17 We've said that the voters should choose their elected
18 officials, not the other way around. So I hope you
19 would support that.

20 Now, you are -- are you also -- are you a
21 Democrat county chairman as well?

22 DR. FLOWERS: No.

23 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Okay. All right. Maybe
24 I was mistaken then. I think this is -- this really,

1 again, this is one of, I don't know, one of 24, 25
2 hearings I've participated in, and it seems to me that
3 the witnesses time and time again come from all ends of
4 the political spectrum seem to make the point that we've
5 been taking about. We have concerns about the data; we
6 have concerns about the process; we have concerns that
7 the map won't take the interest of the people into
8 consideration when the maps are drawn.

9 I really -- I hope that when the maps are
10 drawn, which I think they're going to be drawn shortly
11 if they're not drawn already, that they -- that they are
12 not drawn for partisan advantage, and I really wish we
13 would wait to draw the maps until the real data, that
14 people like yourself, Mr. Kerley, and so many of us
15 spent a long time trying to make sure there was an
16 accurate account.

17 So thank you, Madam Chair. I really
18 appreciate the witnesses coming on this morning on a
19 Saturday morning and telling us what they think. I
20 appreciate it.

21 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Leader Butler.
22 Is there any further questions from members? Okay.
23 That really concludes our witnesses unless someone, you
24 know, jumped on -- and I'm trying to see if there's

1 anyone else who would like to testify. I see none.

2 So I'm going to ask if our local representative
3 maybe wants to make closing remarks before we close up
4 the Committee.

5 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Dr. Jacobs, you want to?

6 REPRESENTATIVE JACOBS: Which local one? I'll
7 do it.

8 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Go ahead, Paul. All
9 yours.

10 REPRESENTATIVE JACOBS: Yes. I think that what
11 Leader Butler was talking about is extremely important
12 to remember, that these were cut out 10 years ago not by
13 the Republican Party, but by the Democrat Party. Now, I
14 think that we've all realized down in the southern part
15 of the state many of the blue dogs have turned into the
16 Republican Party because the Democrat party basically,
17 as they say it, has left them.

18 So I don't think it's the Republican's fault
19 where they are now. It takes me two and a half hours
20 from Dongola to top of Mount Vernon to get -- to see
21 everybody in my district, and you can't see them all in
22 one day. It's just impossible. But I -- I'm all for
23 any kind of a fair reform on it, but I'm not sure that
24 it's smart to do it before the census comes out. That's

1 basically where I feel we need to go as Democrats and
2 Republicans. We need fair maps. And that's all I have.

3 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you,
4 Representative. I just wanted to give you the -- wanted
5 to give the courtesy.

6 I just want to remind all that -- and those who
7 are viewing this Committee -- that we have added further
8 committees to give the opportunity for public input, and
9 I think this is what makes it different than any other
10 time that we have really given the opportunity through
11 remote for the public to participate and give input
12 because it is precarious times and that piece is going
13 to be very valuable in determining in -- obviously in
14 making some decisions.

15 So I want to really thank for those who are
16 participating. We still have, I believe, a couple more,
17 a few more -- a couple of more committees coming up, so
18 there's still opportunity. So, once again, thank you
19 for taking the time and participating.

20 And with that, with no further witnesses to
21 testify, we will recess to the call of the Chair. Thank
22 you all, and have a great afternoon.

23 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Thank you all.

24 REPRESENTATIVE SEVERIN: Representative Severin

1 says thank you for participating in southern Illinois.

2 Have a great day. Be safe.

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you.

4 (10:53 a.m., hearing concluded.)

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1 STATE OF ILLINOIS)
2) SS.
3 COUNTY OF COOK)

4 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

5 Isaiah Roberts, being first duly sworn, on
6 oath says that he is a Certified Shorthand Reporter,
7 Registered Professional Reporter doing business in the
8 City of Chicago, County of Cook and the State of
9 Illinois;

10 That he reported in shorthand the proceedings
11 had at the foregoing Redistricting Committee Meeting.

12 And that the foregoing is a true and correct
13 transcript of his shorthand notes so taken as aforesaid
14 and contains all the proceedings had at the said
15 Redistricting Committee Meeting.

16
17 _____
18 Isaiah Roberts, CSR, RPR
19 Illinois CSR #084-004890
20
21
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24

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