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JOINT COMMITTEE REDISTRICTING HEARING

May 25, 2021

TRANSCRIPTION OF RECORDED AUDIO PROCEEDINGS

received on May 28, 2021.

Due to the quality of the recorded media, portions were unable to be transcribed. The transcript may also include misinterpreted words. The transcriber was not present at the time of the recording; therefore, this transcript should not be considered verbatim.

AUDIO RECORDING WAS TRANSCRIBED BY:  
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AUDIO TRANSCRIPTION OF RECORDING

1 (Beginning of audio recording of Joint  
2 Committee Redistricting Hearing, 5-25-21.)  
3 THE CLERK: Bourne.  
4 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: Here.  
5 THE CLERK: Burke.  
6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We need to connect  
7 so I can tell you all the shit, but it's --  
8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Is it good shit or  
9 bad shit?  
10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's life shit.  
11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Just shit.  
12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Life shit. Oh.  
13 THE CLERK: Burke.  
14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: This is  
15 interrupting (inaudible).  
16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I know, we need a  
17 name.  
18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We need a name.  
19 We need a name.  
20 REPRESENTATIVE JEHAN: Rep --  
21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's fine.  
22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Representative --  
23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's not true.  
24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Representative  
25 Gordon Jehan (sic).

AUDIO TRANSCRIPTION OF RECORDING

1                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Representative --  
2                   Can we -- can we try this again? Clerk,  
3 please call the roll on the house end.  
4                   THE CLERK: (Inaudible.)  
5                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, please start  
6 over.  
7                   THE CLERK: Hernandez.  
8                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Here.  
9                   THE CLERK: Tarver.  
10                  REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: Here.  
11                  THE CLERK: Butler.  
12                  REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: That was a great  
13 way to start. Butler is here.  
14                  THE CLERK: Bourne.  
15                  REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: Here.  
16                  THE CLERK: Burke.  
17                  REPRESENTATIVE BURKE: Here.  
18                  THE CLERK: Gordon-Booth.  
19                  REPRESENTATIVE GORDON-BOOTH: Here.  
20                  THE CLERK: Hoffman.  
21                  REPRESENTATIVE HOFFMAN: Here, here,  
22 here, here.  
23                  THE CLERK: Mah.  
24                  REPRESENTATIVE MAH: Here.  
25                  THE CLERK: Severin.

AUDIO TRANSCRIPTION OF RECORDING

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You're here, say  
2 "yes," Dave.

3 SEVERIN: Yes, I'm here.

4 THE CLERK: Spain.

5 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Spain is here.

6 THE CLERK: Okay.

7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. We had ten  
8 present, we have a quorum.

9 Before I proceed, I'd like to start with  
10 a short statement, but I will turn it over to the  
11 senate.

12 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you, Madam Chair.  
13 The Senate Redistricting Committee will come to order.

14 Will the clerk please take roll?

15 THE CLERK: Senator Plummer.

16 SENATOR PLUMMER: Here.

17 THE CLERK: Senator McConchie.

18 SENATOR MCCONCHIE: Here.

19 THE CLERK: Senator McClure.

20 SENATOR MCCLURE: Here.

21 THE CLERK: Senator Barickman.

22 SENATOR BARICKMAN: Here.

23 THE CLERK: Senator Murphy.

24 SENATOR MURPHY: Here, here.

25 THE CLERK: Senator Jones. Senator

AUDIO TRANSCRIPTION OF RECORDING

1 Hunter.

2 SENATOR HUNTER: Here.

3 THE CLERK: Senator Cunningham.

4 SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Here.

5 THE CLERK: Senator Castro.

6 SENATOR CASTRO: Here.

7 THE CLERK: Senator Bennett.

8 SENATOR BENNETT: Here.

9 THE CLERK: Senator Sims.

10 SENATOR SIMS: Here.

11 THE CLERK: Chairman Aquino.

12 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Present.

13 There being a quorum established, Bostrom

14 seeks leave to videotape, seeing no objection, leave is

15 granted.

16 I'll pass over to Chair Hernandez.

17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Chair

18 Aquino.

19 So I'd like to begin with a statement. I

20 will ask the House Minority Leader if he has one as

21 well, and then I will turn it over to the Senate if

22 they have a statement as well.

23 Good evening. And thank you to everyone

24 who has taken time to share their thoughts with us

25 today. As many of you know, the house and senate

1 redistricting committees undertook an extensive series  
2 of public hearings in April before any lines were  
3 drawn. We have held a total of 46 hearings covering  
4 every corner of Illinois. Virtual hearings offered  
5 everyone the opportunity to participate from the  
6 comfort of their own homes. For hearings that were  
7 held in person, a hybrid option was offered where  
8 available, or a subsequent virtual hearing was held to  
9 cover the same region, ensuring that during this  
10 pandemic no one had to choose between participating in  
11 the process and staying safe.

12 Our staff reached out to more than 2,000  
13 community groups, local leaders, and stakeholders in  
14 advance of these hearings. And those who attended,  
15 submitted written testimony, or used our public drawing  
16 portal, provided valuable insight. Every form of  
17 public submission was analyzed by staff. The  
18 transcripts, written testimony, and public maps  
19 submitted throughout this process are now available on  
20 [ilhousedems.com/redistricting](http://ilhousedems.com/redistricting) and on [ilga.gov](http://ilga.gov).

21 On May 21st Democrats released full maps  
22 of proposed House and Senate districts. These  
23 districts are available to be viewed in a Google map  
24 format at [ilhousedems.com/redistricting](http://ilhousedems.com/redistricting) and  
25 [ilsenateredistricting.com](http://ilsenateredistricting.com).

1                   Among the many considerations that went  
2 into shaping this proposal was the testimony heard at  
3 hearings and submitted through our website. On a  
4 number of occasions comments from the public are  
5 directly reflected in this draft, while not all  
6 requests could be accommodated, all were extremely  
7 important and helpful.

8                   Our request is being met right now. Many  
9 witnesses asked for subsequent hearings after the  
10 release of a proposed map giving the public an  
11 opportunity to comment and provide further insight. As  
12 was the case in the initial hearings, testimony  
13 collected at these hearings and through the email will  
14 be analyzed by staff and considered as the process  
15 moves forward.

16                   After these hearings are concluded and  
17 any resulting changes to the proposal are finalized, we  
18 plan to provide further information about the  
19 population, demographics, and communities that comprise  
20 the final districts in the form of a descriptive  
21 resolution, another request raised in our first round  
22 of hearings.

23                   Our goal today remains to hear from you.  
24 We want to hear your specific views on any social,  
25 political, economic, or religious interest commonly

1 held in the community, any specific interest groups  
2 that exist, any concerns you have regarding the current  
3 legislative boundaries, or proposed changes, and  
4 further suggestions for the drawing of new boundaries.  
5 We invite people to continue submitting written  
6 testimony by emailing  
7 redistrictingcommittee@hds.ilga.gov. I want to thank  
8 everyone once again for your time and for your  
9 attention to this important process and we look forward  
10 to hearing your thoughts.

11 And now I'll turn it --

12 If you don't mind, Minority Butler, I  
13 will turn it over first to the Senate and then we'll  
14 come back, okay?

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Madam Chair, real  
16 quick, could I have a housekeeping question, though, if  
17 you don't mind, before Senator Aquino starts?

18 First of all, do we have an agenda for  
19 today?

20 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: We are going to go  
21 through the witnesses that are looking to be heard.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. The other  
23 thing, obviously this hearing has gotten off to a rocky  
24 start as a hybrid, as we saw. And as you testified,  
25 the only thing we saw on the screen was Senator



1 Aquino's name, so I'm not sure what technology we need  
2 to change, but it seemed that Senator Aquino's screen  
3 was the only one that was being shared to -- not only  
4 on our screens, but to the public as well, so can we  
5 make sure that that's taken care of as we move -- so  
6 right now I'm talking --

7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, we --

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- and all we see  
9 is Senator Aquino.

10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, we noticed that  
11 and we have contacted IT.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So can we get that  
13 rectified?

14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, we're taking  
15 care of that as we speak.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Chairman Aquino,  
18 please continue.

19 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you.

20 Good afternoon, and welcome to the first  
21 of several joint Senate and House Redistricting  
22 Committee hearings we will hold this week to discuss  
23 the proposed map of new legislative boundaries.

24 It is an honor to be here with our  
25 colleagues from the other chamber, and we appreciate

1 all of the community organizations, grass-root groups,  
2 advocacy organizations, and individuals who are taking  
3 the time to testify today.

4           Between our two redistricting committees  
5 we have held more than 45 public hearings across the  
6 state and gather -- excuse me, across the state to  
7 gather input on how to ensure our communities receive  
8 fair and equal representation. The proposed map we  
9 will discuss today is a fair map that incorporates  
10 numerous suggestions gathered during those hearings.  
11 For instance, for the first time Chicago's Chinatown  
12 community will be kept whole and contained in one  
13 senate and one house district. Danville will be  
14 contained in one Senate and one House district, as will  
15 Carbondale, Galesburg, and the majority of  
16 Bloomington-Normal. The City of Evanston will be in  
17 one Senate district. And the Metro-East will be more  
18 consolidated.

19           Of course there is much more in this  
20 proposal which is designed to comply with federal and  
21 state law and insure the broad racial and geographic  
22 diversity of Illinois is reflected in the general  
23 assembly. We are here to gather additional feedback as  
24 we remain dedicated so that people across Illinois have  
25 a voice in this process. Making sure our community

1 have a say in this process is the reason why we must  
2 put in place a map by the June 30th deadline laid out  
3 in the Illinois Constitution. If we miss that  
4 deadline, map making will be turned over to a group of  
5 political appointees who have no obligation to listen  
6 to the public whatsoever. That would be an ultimate  
7 disservice to our communities. Again, I thank those  
8 who are here to participate and I look forward to the  
9 discussion.

10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Chairman  
11 Aquino. I will now pass it over to Minority Leader Tim  
12 Butler for a statement.

13 MINORITY LEADER BUTLER: Thank you, Madam  
14 Chair. And it seems we continue to have Senator  
15 Aquino's face on the screen.

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I -- I -- yeah, I  
17 beg your patience here, we are trying to get to the  
18 bottom of this.

19 MINORITY LEADER BUTLER: Well, I would  
20 say that we're all in the same building, it might be  
21 easier if we showed up in a room together so -- but I  
22 will move forward.

23 You know, over the last couple of months  
24 every hearing that we've had we've heard about  
25 transparency from the Majority, the transparency that

1 they have undertaken in this process. Madam Chair, I  
2 spoke with you at 12:43 this afternoon about this very  
3 hearing, and within 30 minutes, a map for the redoing  
4 the Supreme Court districts had appeared on a blog. I  
5 have asked repeatedly over the last two months if we  
6 would be seeing -- when we would be seeing legislative  
7 maps, when would we be seeing congressional maps, when  
8 we -- if the Majority had planned to redistrict the  
9 Supreme Court; I never once got a response to that. We  
10 had a discussion not less than a half hour before you  
11 were quoted in a statement about the Supreme Court maps  
12 being dropped, so I think this discussion of  
13 transparency and engagement especially with the  
14 minority party just goes straight out the window.

15 The hearings have been scheduled  
16 throughout the spring at odd times and places distant  
17 from each other, we had a hearing in Rock Island an  
18 hour before a hearing in Chicago on the south side. We  
19 had multiple hearings that were at the same time, and  
20 virtually. And so I think the idea, yes, technology  
21 has made it a tad easier maybe to engage the public,  
22 but the engagement just has not been there.

23 And for the witnesses today, I truly  
24 appreciate what you have done, often in difficult  
25 circumstances, to get your point across and to get your

1 message out and to have your testimony. Many of you I  
2 think testifying today have testified at previous  
3 hearings, and I appreciate that you're coming forward  
4 with your words, but as we've seen with the legislative  
5 map that was rolled out in a PDF on Friday night at  
6 7:30, that not much of what you said in these hearings  
7 was taken into consideration, certainly when it comes  
8 to transparency, certainly when it comes to having  
9 adequate time after the map is drawn to have input.

10 We don't even have a bill yet. It's a  
11 map, it's a PDF, it's a Google map. That's all we  
12 have. We have nothing in bill form yet. And as for  
13 the Majority statement that you listen to the public,  
14 listen to the advocacy groups, this morning the  
15 spokesman -- the spokesmen for the house speaker, when  
16 quizzed on a live radio show about the stated  
17 opposition of so many of the advocacy groups to the map  
18 that was rolled out Friday night, he said, quote, Well,  
19 look at their 990s. Look at their 990s. The inference  
20 there for the spokesman of the speaker was that  
21 advocacy groups were just front organizations for  
22 someone else. I think that tells the advocacy groups a  
23 lot of what they need to know with what the majority  
24 thinks about their input.

25 The governor has advocated for a

1 commission. The governor refused our request to  
2 testify at a hearing. The governor has said he's -- he  
3 would veto maps drawn by politicians. Governor, these  
4 maps are the worst example of politicians picking their  
5 people drawn behind closed doors without public input.  
6 Governor, you need to veto these maps.

7 Thank you, Madam Chair.

8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Leader  
9 Butler. I will offer, if there is any further  
10 statements from Chair Omar Aquino?

11 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you, Madam Chair.  
12 I would just defer and see if spokesperson Barickman  
13 and (inaudible) from the senate republicans had any  
14 statement that he'd like to share before we go into  
15 hearing from testimony from advocates and who we have  
16 here today.

17 SENATOR BARICKMAN: Thank you,  
18 Mr. Chairman, Madam Chair.

19 When we started these hearings back in  
20 March, the residents of our great state were promised  
21 transparency as they were encouraged to attend the  
22 hearings, offer their thoughts on how best to redraw  
23 the districts, and have their questions about the  
24 process answered. The people of Illinois answered this  
25 call. They rearranged their schedules on short notice

1 to participate in the hearings. They did their  
2 research to present educated testimonies and asked  
3 thoughtful questions. They reached out to their  
4 communities to get their input, and they kept their end  
5 of the bargain. As it is with the people of Illinois,  
6 they had different opinions on different issues;  
7 however, one request an overwhelming number of them  
8 made of this committee was to wait for the real census  
9 numbers to come out before drawing a map, and they had  
10 good reason for doing so, as witness after witness  
11 testified their concerns with the use of inaccurate  
12 data is that their community members would be  
13 disenfranchised, that their votes would be diminished  
14 in a government that requires equal representation,  
15 that their groups who represent real people in this  
16 state have at risk the very protections that are  
17 supposed to be afforded to them under our United States  
18 Constitution, our Illinois Constitution, and the Voting  
19 Rights Act, things that some members have given lip  
20 service, but are designed to give legal protections to  
21 voters to ensure that they are represented in their  
22 government.

23 The only thing that the witnesses and the  
24 general public have received throughout these hearings  
25 is evasive talking points from Democrats, deflection,

1 and repeated broken promises to provide answers that  
2 have never come. It's been a month since the last  
3 hearings were held, and in that time democratic  
4 legislators went behind closed doors and drew their own  
5 partisan districts. We all saw the news reports of  
6 Democrats shuffling in and out of their mapping room  
7 one by one to participate in the ultimate backroom  
8 process of politicians drawing their own districts. If  
9 that's not politicians picking their voters, I don't  
10 know what is.

11 In the last couple of days, when citizens  
12 were finally given the opportunity to see these drafted  
13 maps, Democrats actively chose to withhold any real  
14 details of their politician-drawn maps from the public.  
15 They have not answered basic questions about their  
16 choices or their process. What's the total population  
17 of each district? What's the racial and ethnic makeup  
18 of these districts? What communities of interest may  
19 or may not have been preserved? What is the underlying  
20 data that was used to draw these maps? To date, no one  
21 knows the answers to these fundamental questions. When  
22 they do choose to weigh in, it's only been with  
23 excuses. They say they have no other choice but to  
24 draw their map, but fail to mention there is  
25 legislation that's been sitting in the Senate



1 Assignment Committee for months that would remove  
2 lawmakers from the process and altogether create an  
3 independent commission, something that countless  
4 Democrats have given lip service to, including our own  
5 -- our very own governor. They say that they have a  
6 constitutional deadline, but fail to mention the  
7 deadline must only be met for them to draw a partisan  
8 map, instead of sending it to a bipartisan commission.

9                   They say they have no choice but to  
10 conduct these committees virtually, but fail to mention  
11 that the legislators who serve on the committee here  
12 today are sitting in this very building, evidently in  
13 their offices, rather than facing the public. Why?  
14 Because over and over, and again and again, the  
15 democratic majority continues to put their own  
16 political interest before the interest of the people  
17 they were chosen to represent. What's clear from all  
18 of this is that Democrats were never sincere in wanting  
19 an open and transparent process that provides all  
20 Illinoisans the protections they deserve under our  
21 Constitution and the Voting Rights Act. What is clear,  
22 is that there is a better way to do this. They're  
23 simply choosing their old way because it's the only way  
24 they know they can get what they want.

25                   They may act like this is a lost cause,

1 but there is certainly time to fix this process and  
2 provide the people of Illinois the real transparency,  
3 the real public participation, and the real  
4 representation that they deserve. We haven't even seen  
5 a bill. We've only seen Google maps and drawings. We  
6 don't know who the sponsor of the bill might be, but if  
7 the majority Democrats are committed to ramming through  
8 their own map, despite their constituents' objections,  
9 there is one more option to save Illinoisans from this  
10 process. Governor Pritzker could and should keep his  
11 promise that he made as a candidate and veto these  
12 politician-drawn maps. This is bigger than the  
13 governor keeping his word. This is about showing the  
14 people of Illinois, who have been so burdened with  
15 corruption and wrongdoing from their legislators, that  
16 the next ten years are going to be different. That  
17 things are going to get better for them and not just  
18 for the politicians. That a promise as big as this  
19 one, and the person who made it, can still be trusted.  
20 I guess we'll all know soon enough.

21 Thank you for that. And with that, I do  
22 have a question for the chair -- one of the chairs, I'm  
23 not sure who to direct it to, but there is a question  
24 for the chairs as to who we are supposed to direct our  
25 questions during this hearing? We have no legislation,

1 we don't have bill sponsor, so where does our question  
2 go? Where do questions go? The same goes for the  
3 witnesses who likely have the same question, where do  
4 questions go in the absence of legislation and a bill  
5 sponsor at a committee hearing like this?

6 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Senator Barickman, we  
7 are here to listen to the testimony on the proposed map  
8 that was released, from the witnesses that are here, so  
9 there are going to be a number of witnesses that are  
10 going to provide testimony on those proposed maps, and  
11 questions can be directed towards them. That's what  
12 we're here to do is to listen to the testimony of the  
13 proposed map that was released last Friday.

14 SENATOR BARICKMAN: So the questions may  
15 be directed to the witnesses but not to the majority  
16 who's drawn the maps?

17 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: We're here to continue  
18 to get community input, and this is a part of the  
19 process of where there is the proposed maps right now,  
20 and we are trying to take -- again, in our over 45  
21 hearings that we have, this is an extension of -- a  
22 continuation rather of that, of trying to get community  
23 input, and so there is a proposed map out there and  
24 we're trying to get that community input today, and so  
25 we hope to get to that point soon so that we can hear

1 the testimony from those people that are waiting to  
2 provide testimony on this map.

3 SENATOR BARICKMAN: A witness has asked  
4 this question though of me which is -- they posed it in  
5 the hypothetical, if they were to ask a question about  
6 the data that was used in drawing the maps that have  
7 now been made public, where might they direct that  
8 question, what data was used? Should that be directed  
9 to you, Mr. Chairman?

10 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: If a witness wants to  
11 ask a question while they provide testimony, at the end  
12 of their testimony they may provide -- they may ask the  
13 question then.

14 SENATOR BARICKMAN: Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Representative  
16 Hernandez, I think we're done with the opening  
17 statements, so I'm going to pass the chair over to you  
18 to continue with starting the testimony from the  
19 witnesses.

20 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Chair  
21 Aquino. So we are going to begin with the testimony of  
22 Dr. Allan Lichtman.

23 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Dr. Lichtman, you're on  
24 mute, sir, if you can make sure to unmute yourself?

25 DR. LICHTMAN: Is that better?

1                   CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you. Yes, sir.

2                   DR. LICHTMAN: Thank you. So I'm Allan  
3 Lichtman. And as I said, to quote the late great Yogi  
4 Berra, this is a bit like déjà vu all over again. I am  
5 once again retained as the voting rights redistricting  
6 advisor to the house and the senate. Some of you may  
7 remember me for speaking with this body ten years ago,  
8 I don't know if any of you have a long enough tenure to  
9 remember me speaking to this body 20 years ago. In  
10 both instances I was also the expert in the successful  
11 defense in court of the maps drawn by this august body.

12                   I am Distinguished Professor of History  
13 at American University in Washington, D.C. That's not  
14 something I made up. That's a real title. It's a  
15 university title. It's the highest academic title  
16 above full professor. There are only a handful of us  
17 out of many hundreds of faculty members in the  
18 university.

19                   I've been teaching at American  
20 University, I hate to say it, for 48 years, after I  
21 received my PhD from Harvard in 1973. Of course I was  
22 9 at the time, but that's a whole other story.

23                   I am the author of 12 coauthored or  
24 authored original books, hundreds of popular and  
25 scholarly articles. I'm humbled to say I've received a

1 number of honors for my academic work. I was Scholar  
2 Teacher of the Year at American University, the highest  
3 honor for a professor. My 2008 book, White Protestant  
4 Nation, The Rise of The American Conservative Movement,  
5 was a finalist, one of five, for all nonfiction books  
6 published in the United States from the National Book  
7 Critics Circle. My coauthored book with Richard  
8 Breitman, FDR and the Jews, won the National Jewish  
9 Book Award in American Jewish Studies, was a New York  
10 Times recommended book, and a finalist for the Los  
11 Angeles Book Prize for all books published in history.

12 I'm the recipient of the Marquis Lifetime  
13 Achievement Award for the top persons in the Marquis'  
14 Who's Who. I was listed by Rise Global as number 85 of  
15 the world's 100 leading geopolitical experts. And I am  
16 an elected member of the Literary Honor Society PEN  
17 America, among other things.

18 I think there are four areas of my  
19 scholarship that are directly relevant here, I'll  
20 briefly describe them.

21 One, methodological works, it's on  
22 quantitative applications in the social sciences and  
23 historical methodology. This is grounded in two books,  
24 my book Ecological Inference, which is not about the  
25 environment but about mathematical methods for studying

1 groups like African Americans, Hispanics, Asians. And  
2 my book *Historians and the Living Past: The Theory and*  
3 *Practice of Historical Study*. And in numerous articles  
4 in journals such as the *Proceedings of the National*  
5 *Academy of Sciences*, *Political Methodology*, *Social*  
6 *Science History*, *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*.

7           Second area would be the application of  
8 quantitative and historical methods for the study of  
9 American politics. This grounds almost all of my  
10 substantive books, including *White Protestant Nation*,  
11 which I described to you. My first historical book,  
12 *Prejudice and the Old Politics: The Presidential*  
13 *Election of 1928*. Running up to my very recent book,  
14 *The Embattled Vote in America: From the Founding to*  
15 *the Present*.

16           The third area is the application of  
17 statistical, quantitative and historical methods to  
18 voting rights analysis. This has been published of  
19 course in my book on the embattled vote, and in  
20 articles, in journals like the *Journal of Legal*  
21 *Studies*, the *Journal of Law and Politics*, and  
22 *Evaluation Review*.

23           And finally something I've become  
24 somewhat notorious for, political prediction. My book,  
25 *Keys to the White House*, predicting the next president,

1 has been in seven editions outlining my successful  
2 method for predicting the results of presidential  
3 elections. I've also published in the International  
4 Journal of Forecasting, the International Journal of  
5 Applied Forecasting, and twice keynoted the  
6 International Forecasting Summit.

7 Enough about me.

8 But I bring some very good news to the  
9 Illinois General Assembly, and that is in terms of  
10 providing minority representation in the general  
11 assembly, the State of Illinois is an exemplar, it's a  
12 model for the nation. About a third, a little under a  
13 third, of members of the state house and the state  
14 senate are African Americans, Asian Americans, or  
15 Hispanics. That's right in line with the minority  
16 citizen voting age population in the state. By  
17 contrast, a study by the National Conference of State  
18 Legislatures found that nationally minority  
19 representation of any kind lags far behind minority  
20 citizen voting age population in the nation, lags  
21 behind by a whopping 9 percentage points, as compared  
22 to what Illinois has been able to achieve.

23 What underlies this is something I spoke  
24 about a decade ago, and something I successfully  
25 presented to the court in the 2011 litigation, and that



1 is the diminution of racially polarized voting in the  
2 State of Illinois.

3 Now, certainly minorities have remained  
4 cohesive behind candidates of their choice, which are  
5 typically minorities, but not always. There are  
6 occasionally white candidates who in competition with  
7 minorities are in fact the minority candidate of their  
8 choice, but there is no question about overwhelming  
9 minority cohesion.

10 The real story though in the State of  
11 Illinois, as I presented to the court and as I'm going  
12 to present to you now, is the fact that there is no  
13 longer white/black voting that usually defeats the  
14 candidate of choice of minority voters, except, you  
15 know, in a very few overwhelmingly white districts and  
16 white areas that really can't do anything about it.  
17 I'm going to illustrate this to you, this substantial  
18 white voting for minority candidates of choice, with  
19 publicly available polling data. I'm first going to  
20 look at the three presidential polls, one -- that pose  
21 a black versus a white candidate, one for a primary,  
22 two for a general election. The beauty here is it  
23 takes into account the entire state, not just the  
24 Chicago area as I testified to in 2011, and it enables  
25 us to compare white voting for the minority candidate

1 in Illinois with white voting for the minority  
2 candidate nationwide.

3 We can first look at the 2008 primary  
4 between Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton. In both  
5 cases, both for the state and the nation, black voters  
6 strongly united behind Barack Obama, but even more so  
7 by about 11 points in Illinois. But here is the  
8 extraordinary difference, in the nation the white vote  
9 for Obama was 39 percent, in the State of Illinois, the  
10 white vote for Obama was a majority 57 percent, 18  
11 percentage points higher, almost 50 percent higher,  
12 than the white vote for Obama nationwide. So Obama was  
13 able to achieve a majority both of the black vote and  
14 of the white vote here in Illinois sharply contrasting  
15 with the nation.

16 Then we have the 2008 general election  
17 between Obama and McCain. And nationally 43 percent of  
18 white voters voted for Obama, and again black voters  
19 overwhelmingly, both in Illinois and the nation, united  
20 behind Obama. But in Illinois again Obama received a  
21 majority 51 percent, substantially higher than the  
22 nation. And we had a similar result in the 2012  
23 presidential election between Obama and Mitt Romney  
24 with nationwide 41 percent of white voters for Obama  
25 but 50 percent in the State of Illinois.

1                   We also had have a statewide election for  
2    which there is an exit poll, Tammy Duckworth versus  
3    Kirk in the 2016 U.S. senate election, and Duckworth  
4    got a very substantial 41 of the vote from white voters  
5    overwhelmingly winning the black vote, and then that  
6    enabled us -- her to prevail in a state that is about  
7    two-thirds white nonHispanic in its citizen voting age  
8    population.

9                   We also have some interesting polling  
10   from the mayoral elections. In the city of Chicago, we  
11   have a poll for that massive 2019 election, you know,  
12   with more than a dozen candidates, not an exit poll,  
13   but it's a poll taken right before the election, which  
14   took into account early voters and likely voters and  
15   its results were pretty much spot on. And again, we  
16   see considerable white crossover. In fact, the two  
17   leading candidates among whites were the African  
18   American candidate, Lightfoot, who went on to the  
19   runoff, and the white candidate, Dailey. They finished  
20   with an equal percentage, an overall 60 percent of  
21   white voters in that first round 2019 mayoral election  
22   voted for a black or an Hispanic candidate. A majority  
23   voted for nonwhite candidates.

24                  Then we did have an exit poll for the  
25   runoff in 2015, this time you had a white, Emanuel,

1 against an Hispanic, Garcia, and Emanuel wins with a  
2 pretty remarkable interracial coalition. He wins 66  
3 percent of the white vote, 58 percent of the black  
4 vote, and although Garcia gets a majority of the  
5 Hispanic vote, Emanuel still gets 32 percent.

6 That's why overwhelmingly under the  
7 current plan, in both the house and the senate, at  
8 about a 90 percent success level, Hispanic and black  
9 candidates are able to prevail in districts, not that  
10 are single race majority, and I talked about this in my  
11 previous testimony. A state drawing a plan does not  
12 have to create single race majority districts. It just  
13 has to create districts that work. And if you can do  
14 it at a lower level you create more districts, which is  
15 exactly what the plan did.

16 Anything in the citizen voting age  
17 population over 40 percent in the house and the senate,  
18 blacks and Hispanics overwhelmingly have won those  
19 districts, along with one white candidate who was in a  
20 contest with an Hispanic, the candidate of choice of  
21 Hispanics. There also have been black and Hispanic  
22 candidates elected at much lower levels of single race  
23 minority citizen voting age population. And we have  
24 about five Asian Americans elected in the house and  
25 senate. Not one of them from a district that is above

1 26 percent Asian in citizen voting age population.

2                   These candidates have been able to put  
3 together winning interracial coalitions, even in  
4 districts that are far short of single race Asian  
5 citizen voting age population. This all expands upon  
6 the testimony I gave a decade ago, and the testimony I  
7 gave to the court in 2011.

8                   And I want to comment on one other very  
9 important issue, and that is the use of American  
10 Community Survey data, which I understand is the data  
11 that was used to create this plan. Although let me say  
12 I had nothing to do with the creation of the plan, like  
13 everyone else I haven't seen any numbers out of the  
14 plan, I've simply conveyed through staff and attorneys  
15 the same things, the same principles and findings, that  
16 I'm giving to you today. And these of course are my  
17 own personal opinions. They're not the official  
18 opinions of anyone else, and they are an opinion of an  
19 historian, social scientist, voting rights expert; not  
20 the opinions of an attorney.

21                   So if we assume that American Community  
22 Survey data was used, that is, and I advised staff and  
23 attorneys on that, the best available data, because we  
24 don't have the census data. That is not due to any  
25 fault of anyone in Illinois, that is due to deep

1 problems in the federal government with the conduct of  
2 the census, problems that we have never witnessed  
3 before in the modern history of the taking of the  
4 census, but I'm not going to get into that any further.

5           There is no requirement under  
6 law nationally, there is no requirement under law of  
7 the Constitution in Illinois, that only decennial U.S.  
8 census data can be used for redistricting, in fact, the  
9 majority of states, I repeat that, according to the  
10 national conference of state legislators, do not  
11 explicitly require that you must use only decennial  
12 census data for internal redistricting purposes,  
13 particularly of course when such data is not available  
14 or delayed. In fact, some states are quite explicit in  
15 saying if data on the decennial census is not available  
16 or delayed, then the instruction is to use other  
17 sources of data for redistricting.

18           I have direct personal experience with  
19 the use of alternative data for redistricting. I was  
20 the expert for the Ronald Reagan Department of Justice  
21 in the landmark case of Garza v. The County of Los  
22 Angeles that established back in 1990 the first Latino  
23 opportunity district in Los Angeles County. Now, that  
24 may sound like not much, but it's a big deal. Even at  
25 that time Los Angeles County was almost 8,000,000

1 persons, and this was one of the most powerful  
2 positions one could have to be on the county council of  
3 Los Angeles County.

4 Now, we didn't have, of course, at that  
5 time, the 1990 census data. ACS was not yet  
6 established, so we used -- enter into the best  
7 available data, and that was population estimates and  
8 projections from the University of California Los  
9 Angeles, and it worked out perfectly well. The  
10 district we created, as expected, indeed performed for  
11 Hispanic voters who elected Gloria Molina as their  
12 candidate of choice, the first Hispanic person to serve  
13 on the Los Angeles County Council.

14 Social scientists like myself, state  
15 administrators, and leaders, use American Community  
16 Survey data all of the time. We use it to make  
17 assessments of districts to analyze the effectiveness  
18 of districts. It's the only source of data for the  
19 most pertinent of information for electoral and  
20 district analysis, citizen voting age population, as  
21 you all know, from the (inaudible) over the 2020  
22 census, there is no citizenship question on the long  
23 form census, so we have to rely on the ACS. And it's  
24 not, by the way, a little sample. It's not a tiny  
25 sample. It's 3.5 million across the nation. That

1 equals approximately 140,000 per year in Illinois, and  
2 taken over the five-year period for which it's often  
3 reported, that's 700,000 persons in the State of  
4 Illinois. I know there is some concern that while the  
5 total estimate from the ACS is only three-tenths of one  
6 percent off from what the census recently issued for  
7 the State of Illinois as a whole, and that's really  
8 good news, that's a very, very minimal and  
9 inconsequential difference. And remember, for drawing  
10 state legislative districts you have a 10 percent  
11 deviation to work with. I'm not saying you should push  
12 out the 10 percent, but it -- you know, the district  
13 doesn't have to be on the penny in terms of population.

14 Now, I know there is some worry about the  
15 fact at the county level there may be much larger  
16 deviations. And I have in my hand a memo, 4/30/2021,  
17 from various organizations, including MALDEF, the  
18 Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, that  
19 by the way was a plaintiff in that Garza case that drew  
20 a district for minorities and a districting plan on  
21 data other than the decennial census. And this memo  
22 warns about county total populations varying from 36.6  
23 percent to 51.5 percent, plus and minus.

24 Now I have to say I was a little alarmed  
25 when I saw that. And the truth is, if I found



1 deviation -- remember, this has nothing to do with  
2 Illinois. I don't know where this data came from but  
3 it's not specific to Illinois which is all that matters  
4 for our purposes. So I'm thinking, yeah, if I saw  
5 deviations of that magnitude in more than one or two  
6 isolated cases, then I might be worried about the use  
7 of ACS data in Illinois. In fact, I looked at every  
8 single county in Illinois, and did the same thing they  
9 did, compared the 2005 to 2009 ACS and the 2010  
10 decennial census, to see if we get anything like the  
11 magnitude of deviation that they're talking about. And  
12 in fact it couldn't be more different in Illinois.  
13 There is nothing like that here.

14                   The median deviation is 1.8 percent; the  
15 mean deviation is 2.3 percent; 58 percent of the  
16 counties have a deviation of under 2 percent; 76  
17 percent under 3 percent; 88 percent under 4 percent;  
18 only one county in the state is over 9 percent; and  
19 it's not at 37 or 51. It's Kendall County, which is at  
20 18 percent. And there is a very good explanation as to  
21 why that happened and won't happen again. Kendall  
22 County was unique in the 2000 to 2010 period. It was  
23 the fastest-growing county, not only in Illinois, but  
24 the fastest-growing county in America. It more than  
25 doubled its population during that period. Its rate of

1 growth was more than triple that of the second fastest  
2 growing county in Illinois.

3           As you all know, in the period we're  
4 dealing with now from 2010 to 2020, our growth has  
5 grinded to a halt in Illinois. In the previous decade  
6 it was over 4 percent, over 400,000 new residents. Now  
7 it's pretty much the same, dropped -- even dropped by a  
8 little bit. And Kendall County, based on the recently  
9 released census of population estimates, which is not  
10 the same as the ACS, is still the fastest-growing  
11 county in Illinois, but nowhere near the nation. It's  
12 only growing at about 14 percent compared to 110  
13 percent. So we just had one anomaly last time, and we  
14 wouldn't even expect that anomaly to emerge this time.  
15 And of course the census ACS was new, it was just  
16 instituted in 2005, and so you would expect, you know,  
17 there would be some growing pains and some glitches  
18 that certainly would have been worked out by the time  
19 we're dealing with 10 to 15 years later. We would  
20 certainly expect improvement.

21           I also looked at whether there was some  
22 concern about undercounting in small rural counties. I  
23 looked at I think there were 14 100 percent rural  
24 counties, very close between the 2010 census and the  
25 ACS. In fact, the ACS slightly over-counted.

1                   In terms of minority representation, I  
2 drilled down into voting age, which is a better  
3 assessment of districts than total population. You  
4 don't have CVAP of course from the census, and I found  
5 that for Hispanics, African Americans, and Asians, the  
6 differences between the 2010 census and the ACS were  
7 miniscule, ranging from about one percent to one-tenth  
8 of one percent, and in different directions. And again  
9 as de minimus as that was, we would expect probably  
10 even less this time as, you know, there has been a lot  
11 more experience with the ACS, and Illinois is a much  
12 more stable state over the last decade than it was  
13 during the previous decade.

14                   So these are the insights that I've  
15 shared with the staff and attorneys and now the  
16 insights that I'm sharing with this distinguished body  
17 and all members of the public. And if anyone has  
18 questions, I'd be happy to respond. Don't ask me about  
19 the opera and we'll be just very happy.

20                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Dr. Lichtman, thank  
21 you very much for that presentation, a lot of  
22 information there.

23                   What I'm going to ask is if we can go  
24 ahead with a few questions, we do quite have a list,  
25 but I feel that instead of waiting until the end maybe

1 there are some questions to ask, would that be okay?

2 DR. LICHTMAN: I'd much prefer to finish,  
3 yeah.

4 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.  
5 Representative Butler?

6 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Thank you, Madam  
7 Chair.

8 Just first of all a housekeeping. I know  
9 in our other hearings we had a court reporter at all of  
10 our hearings. Do we have a court reporter for this  
11 hearing?

12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I'm being told that  
13 the transcripts will be -- they would be handled with  
14 what technology we have right now.

15 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Well, the  
16 technology seems to be working fine tonight.

17 DR. LICHTMAN: (Laughing.) I hear you  
18 just fine, Representative Butler.

19 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Dr. Lichtman, I  
20 don't have a lot of questions other than thank you for  
21 your curriculum vitae earlier. Have you filled out a  
22 witness slip? I'm looking online here to see if you've  
23 registered --

24 DR. LICHTMAN: I haven't.

25 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: -- as a witness?

1 You have not?

2 DR. LICHTMAN: No.

3 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Okay. Would you  
4 please fill out a witness slip? I'm sure the staff can  
5 walk you through that. And who are -- since you don't  
6 have a witness slip, again, who are you here  
7 representing today?

8 DR. LICHTMAN: I have been hired by the  
9 house and senate --

10 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: By -- okay. I  
11 think -- I think Representative --

12 DR. LICHTMAN: -- just as I have been in  
13 the past --

14 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: I think  
15 Representative Spain has a couple of questions as well.

16 DR. LICHTMAN: -- this is my third  
17 redistricting go around as I've explained. But my  
18 opinions are my own. They're not officially sanctioned  
19 by anyone else.

20 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Thank you, Madam  
21 Chairman.

22 Dr. Lichtman, thank you for your  
23 testimony.

24 I just want to follow up on a few issues  
25 that you have mentioned.

1 DR. LICHTMAN: Certainly.

2 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: You talked about  
3 the use of ACS data, and in fact a lot of your  
4 testimony examined some of the issues and  
5 considerations when using ACS data. The maps that  
6 we're reviewing now and receiving public testimony on,  
7 have they been constructed using the ACS data?

8 DR. LICHTMAN: You'll have to ask the  
9 map. I recommended that. Now it doesn't mean they  
10 necessarily followed my recommendations. I would  
11 expect they would, but I have nothing to do with the  
12 drawing of the maps, so I can't with confidence answer  
13 that question.

14 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: So you have no  
15 knowledge what the data source used to create these  
16 maps actually would be even though you've just given us  
17 and delivered a defense of ACS data?

18 DR. LICHTMAN: I presume that's what they  
19 used because that's what I recommended, but, you know,  
20 they've typically followed my recommendations, but who  
21 knows.

22 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: And I ask the  
23 question because it's a question that we've asked at  
24 each and every hearing on redistricting that has been  
25 conducted in this state over the last many weeks, what

1 is the data? Is it ACS data? Tell us. Is it  
2 something else? Is it a proprietary blend that you've  
3 created? We would like to know what the data is. And  
4 that's why, I apologize for the frustration, Doctor,  
5 but I'm asking you with earnest hope that you could  
6 say, "yes, ACS data has been used for this map" --

7 DR. LICHTMAN: I wish I could help you --

8 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: -- because we  
9 don't know.

10 DR. LICHTMAN: -- and I would, but I had  
11 nothing do with the drafting of the plan. As I said I  
12 made a recommendation. I would anticipate it would be  
13 followed, but since I was not privy to the drawing of  
14 the plan, I can't help you any more than that. And I'm  
15 -- you know, I'm trying to help you as much as I can.

16 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: No, I appreciate  
17 that. Now, you mentioned that you have been retained  
18 by the house and by the senate, and I'm a member of the  
19 house. This is my first opportunity to meet you, so  
20 it's lovely to meet you, but --

21 DR. LICHTMAN: You're saying you weren't  
22 here ten years ago?

23 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: I was not here ten  
24 years ago. I was involved in local government at the  
25 time. But have you been retained by the Illinois

1 General Assembly, by the entire house and senate, or  
2 have you been retained by one of the partisan caucus  
3 arms of the house and senate?

4 DR. LICHTMAN: I don't know if I could  
5 answer that. I mean, I got a contract from the house  
6 and the senate, I don't think it was just a part of the  
7 house and the senate, but you have to -- you can ask  
8 them. I mean, it's public record.

9 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Madam Chair, I'd  
10 like to know --

11 So let me ask you this, Dr. Lichtman,  
12 you're not a volunteer then, you are a paid consultant?

13 DR. LICHTMAN: Correct; just as I was in  
14 2000 and 2010.

15 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Did you work in  
16 2000 --

17 DR. LICHTMAN: I have (inaudible) I did  
18 then.

19 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: In 2000 and 2010,  
20 were you retained by Speaker Mike Madigan in those  
21 instances?

22 DR. LICHTMAN: I'm not sure. It's  
23 possible. I don't really recall. It doesn't matter to  
24 me. I'd give the same testimony, the same analysis, no  
25 matter who I am retained by. Otherwise I would not



1 have been an expert in over 100 voting rights and civil  
2 rights cases, retained by expert -- excuse me, by  
3 defendants, plaintiffs, Republicans, Democrats,  
4 Department of Justice, civil rights groups, you name  
5 it. So I just go with the facts and the analyses and  
6 it doesn't matter to me, you know, who ultimately sits  
7 upstairs.

8 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Thank you. Madam  
9 Chair, this individual has not been retained by the  
10 house republican caucus or the senate republican  
11 caucus. Has this witness been retained and paid by the  
12 house democratic caucus, or the senate democratic  
13 caucus, or both?

14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I'm going to have to  
15 ask and take a look at the contract, so I'll have to  
16 get back to you.

17 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: That's the same  
18 answer that we've heard for weeks, again and again, and  
19 guess what, we never get the answer. You never get  
20 back to us. So we're about 30 minutes into the first  
21 redistricting meeting that will govern the State of  
22 Illinois for the next ten years, and we've had a paid  
23 witness using the first half hour of our time in a  
24 proceeding that is supposed to be to gather input from  
25 the public. I hope we will have a chance to do so as

1 we move forward. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So, Representative,  
3 I just got word back that, yes, he was -- to clarify  
4 things that it -- he was contracted by the house and  
5 senate caucuses.

6 And the answer to the ACS data, yes, we  
7 did use ACS data. I believe that was in the press  
8 release.

9 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I'm going to turn it  
11 over to the senate if there is any questions, Chair  
12 Aquino? Otherwise we'll go to the next witness.

13 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you, Madam Chair.  
14 I don't see any hands up on this -- on the virtual  
15 platform, so I would say if we could move towards the  
16 next witness.

17 DR. LICHTMAN: Thank you very much.

18 SENATOR MCCONCHIE: So, wait, wait. So,  
19 Madam Chair, I don't --

20 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Oh.

21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I'm sorry, there is  
22 further questions, so --

23 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: My apologies.

24 SENATOR MCCONCHIE: Due to the fact that  
25 I'm down here --

1 DR. LICHTMAN: I'm still here.

2 SENATOR MCCONCHIE: -- I have no ability  
3 to raise my hand, we use the technology that's here.

4 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Leader McConchie.

5 SENATOR MCCONCHIE: Thank you, Madam  
6 Chair.

7 So, Doctor, I appreciate your willingness  
8 to stick around just a bit further.

9 DR. LICHTMAN: Sure, no problem.

10 SENATOR MCCONCHIE: You did not make any  
11 determination as to whether these particular districts  
12 drawn will effectively elect minority candidates; is  
13 that accurate?

14 DR. LICHTMAN: I haven't seen the numbers  
15 on the districts, but I did advise staff and the  
16 attorneys, as I did before, that if the map is  
17 reasonably close to the district percentages of the  
18 previous map, then it would certainly be at least  
19 adequate and more for providing minority  
20 representation, but I haven't seen the numbers for the  
21 new map.

22 SENATOR MCCONCHIE: So isn't it necessary  
23 to see those numbers to verify that what you're -- what  
24 you believe to be the case with this map is accurate  
25 and real?

1 DR. LICHTMAN: I'm not sure I understand  
2 your question. If in fact the numbers are close to  
3 what the numbers were last time, then the map is  
4 accurate and real. And when the numbers come out, I'll  
5 certainly look at that, and, you know, if there is  
6 litigation, that's going to be a question for  
7 litigation, as it was in 2001, and 2011. I'm going to  
8 be totally honest with you, I'm not naïve enough to  
9 think there won't be litigation again this time.

10 SENATOR MCCONCHIE: Madam Chair, is there  
11 additional detail? We don't have a bill. All we have  
12 is a Google map. Is there additional detail in regards  
13 to the type of districts, the numbers, anything in  
14 regards to this? You know, we have a very  
15 distinguished witness here who is -- you know, believes  
16 that, you know, he's hopeful that this map is going to  
17 check certain boxes that need to be checked, but we --  
18 doesn't have the data himself or -- is that data going  
19 to become public at some point? And if so, when?

20 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So, Senator, I just  
21 want to remind you, and everybody else, that it's a  
22 draft. We are today taking a look at something that  
23 was put together. We are looking it over, and we are  
24 collecting further information, so --

25 SENATOR MCCONCHIE: So how can we

1 appropriately measure the draft without numbers?

2 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: That would be  
3 upcoming.

4 SENATOR MCCONCHIE: When?

5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Right now it's just  
6 a matter of getting feedback because that is going to  
7 take -- be taken into consideration whatever is said  
8 today.

9 SENATOR MCCONCHIE: We're looking at  
10 shapes on a map that doesn't give us the level of  
11 detail necessary to ensure that these concerns that  
12 have obviously been addressed or raised in the past,  
13 and here that the witness brought forward, I mean,  
14 there is no measurement. There is no ability to  
15 measure without the data, without -- other than just,  
16 you know, what we just have, the shapes on a map. I'm  
17 very concerned about the fact that you're asking for  
18 feedback on something that is incomplete even -- you  
19 know, I have the feeling that our witnesses are likely  
20 to testify that they're unsure. I don't want to put  
21 words in their mouth, but I mean, this seems -- you  
22 know, there is all of the -- for all of the talk of a  
23 transparent process, this seems to be counterproductive  
24 to that process, but I'll -- I guess we'll keep going.  
25 Thank you.

1                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Senator.  
2                   So, Dr. Lichtman, I'm going to ask if you  
3 would --  
4                   Oh, there is another question, I'm so  
5 sorry, Senator --  
6                   SENATOR BARICKMAN: No problem.  
7                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: -- Barickman. I  
8 hope I said it right.  
9                   SENATOR BARICKMAN: Yep, thanks, Madam  
10 Chair.  
11                   I think we just wants to clarify the  
12 answer given by Dr. Lichtman as to whom has hired him.  
13 You were asked that question; your response was the  
14 house and senate caucuses. Did you mean the house  
15 democratic caucus and the senate democratic caucus?  
16                   DR. LICHTMAN: That's not directed to me,  
17 I mean, I didn't say that.  
18                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: That's correct.  
19                   SENATOR BARICKMAN: That's correct to me?  
20 To my question? Yeah?  
21                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes.  
22                   SENATOR BARICKMAN: Okay. Thank you.  
23                   REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Madam Chair, you  
24 said there was a --  
25                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Leader Butler.

1 Okay.

2 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: You said there  
3 was a draft, you used the word draft --

4 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: The map is a draft.

5 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: So you don't have  
6 a draft of legislation?

7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Not that I know of.

8 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Okay.

9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Dr. Lichtman, I'm  
10 going to ask if you be willing to stay longer as we go  
11 through some of the witnesses in case there is further  
12 questions.

13 DR. LICHTMAN: Of course. Just let me  
14 know when you don't need me any more.

15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Sure. So next on  
16 the list I have Madeleine Doubek, from CHANGE Illinois,  
17 if she's with us.

18 MS. DOUBEK: I am. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Proceed.

20 MS. DOUBEK: Thank you, Chair Hernandez,  
21 Chair Aquino, and committee members, for allowing me  
22 the opportunity to provide testimony this evening.

23 My name is Madeleine Doubek, and I'm the  
24 executive director of CHANGE Illinois and the CHANGE  
25 Illinois Action Fund. Both are nonpartisan nonprofits

1 that educate, engage, and advocate for ethics and  
2 efficiency in government and elections. CHANGE  
3 Illinois is a coalition of more than 30 organizations  
4 that have a history of advocating for an independent,  
5 transparent redistricting process.

6           The maps unveiled Friday night are built  
7 on old, flawed data that never was meant to be used for  
8 redistricting. We and many other organizations and  
9 community members have said this repeatedly. The  
10 American Community Survey five-year estimates  
11 undercount Illinoisans by tens of thousands. Erasing  
12 these people from our maps is the equivalent of erasing  
13 cities like Oak Park, Rock Island, Quincy, or Buffalo  
14 Grove. The ACS data misses 41,877 people. That's more  
15 than one-third of a house district. These are real  
16 people whose representation matters. The ACS sampling  
17 collection did not have the benefit of the historic  
18 people-powered effort and state funding that the census  
19 did to ensure communities were counted, especially  
20 people in black communities. Our state spent millions  
21 of tax dollars and enlisted the help of hundreds of  
22 community partners for this very reason. The ACS  
23 collection process lacks the trusted community  
24 partnerships and engagement with civil rights  
25 organizations that are needed to ensure an accurate



1 count in historically disenfranchised communities. Our  
2 state's fastest-growing populations, Asian American and  
3 Latino communities, as well as its largest growing  
4 counties, Kendall, Kane, Champaign, and Monroe, also  
5 are highly likely to have been undercounted in the ACS  
6 sampling.

7                   Is this committee willing to risk  
8 disenfranchising all of these communities of color and  
9 others by proceedings with adopting new districts  
10 without complete census data? How are we doing right  
11 by the people of Illinois when we take the entire  
12 map-drawing process out of their hands? Proceeding  
13 with this process without the data from the census  
14 presents a fundamental foundational issue. We again  
15 urge you to step back from the brink and seek court  
16 approval to set aside deadlines to wait for the full  
17 census data. That's what leaders in California and  
18 Oregon have done. Michigan is seeking similar  
19 permission to set aside deadlines. Lawmakers in Maine  
20 have said they intend to do the same. Even Oklahoma,  
21 which already passed maps using the sampling data, and  
22 not the full census, has committed to returning to  
23 revised maps once the census data arrives in mid  
24 August.

25                   At about 7:30 p.m. last Friday, committee

1 members decided to unveil the long-awaited legislative  
2 maps, rather than providing detailed maps that could be  
3 analyzed by community members so they could provide  
4 meaningful feedback at this week's hearings. The  
5 people of Illinois were left with PDFs with very few  
6 details or explanations that can be used to understand  
7 the effects the new maps would have on their  
8 communities. We don't know how many majority/minority  
9 districts these maps create, what is the demographic  
10 data used to draw the maps, what is the voting age  
11 population in each district, what are the exact  
12 boundaries? We had none of that. Instead lawmakers  
13 are forcing the people of this state to rely on  
14 guesswork to determine the ramifications of your  
15 decisions on their communities for the next decade.

16 A press release issued by the  
17 redistricting committees claims that the maps had the  
18 federal and state Voting Rights Acts top of mind, yet  
19 the release stopped short of guaranteeing these maps  
20 actually fulfilled that promise required by law, nor  
21 did it include the necessary data to demonstrate  
22 compliance with federal and state Voting Rights Acts.  
23 This again is in spite of the fact that many who came  
24 to these hearings asked these committees to release a  
25 detailed compliance report with the map proposals. The

1 press release mentioned these hearings were being held  
2 for the purpose of giving the public a chance to  
3 provide feedback on the proposals, yet the  
4 redistricting websites and ilga.gov had no list of the  
5 hearings giving people a chance to register to testify  
6 until yesterday afternoon, again, after months and  
7 months of numerous groups pleading with committee  
8 members to provide two weeks' notice for these  
9 hearings, that minimal courtesy was not offered.

10 Over the course of two months, we saw  
11 very few people attending the initial hearings because  
12 of the failure of lawmakers to meaningfully engage and  
13 involve the public. Instead of recognizing this and  
14 working to correct it, today we have another committee  
15 hearing announced to the public barely five days ago.  
16 This track record of transparency failure was  
17 underscored a few hours ago when lawmakers unveiled new  
18 Illinois Supreme Court district maps without having  
19 made mention of a plan to do so over the course of the  
20 previous 46 hearings. This is a missed opportunity for  
21 lawmakers to work with community groups to reimagine  
22 what equity looks like for our state's highest court.

23 What is to happen if new legislative  
24 court or congressional maps are unveiled after these  
25 hearings? Will the public have the opportunity to

1 review, understand, and weigh in on these maps or any  
2 changes? People care about how the maps will affect  
3 their communities.

4 In the last few weeks, the Michigan  
5 Independent Redistricting Commission started holding  
6 public hearings and more than 60 people are showing up  
7 at each of them. People care and they will participate  
8 if an effort is made to reach them, if they're given  
9 meaningful opportunities, but little effort has been  
10 made to engage or accommodate people in Illinois. The  
11 number of hours and times that hearings were held are  
12 meaningless if you rob people of the opportunity to be  
13 part of the discussion. The hours are meaningless if  
14 the people who did show up had their voices and views  
15 and input ignored. The hours are meaningless if all of  
16 the decisions are made without them in a locked back  
17 room. Everyone should be heard. Everyone should  
18 count. No voices or votes should be suppressed in  
19 Illinois.

20 We urge you again to stop and ask the  
21 courts for permission to set aside the Constitutional  
22 deadlines so that we can wait for the full 2020 census  
23 data. Everyone in Illinois deserves representation.  
24 Representation is supposed to be about the people, not  
25 the politicians. Everyone in Illinois deserves

1 equitable redistricting centered on them and their  
2 needs. Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you,  
4 Ms. Doubek. Do we have questions?

5 REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: Madam Chair, I  
6 have my hand up.

7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I'm sorry?

8 REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: I have my hand  
9 up. I don't know if you can see my raised hand --

10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I --

11 REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: -- I just wanted  
12 to let you know.

13 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. I can't, so  
14 thank you. If you will, I'm going to have Senator  
15 Barickman first go and then Representative Tarver.

16 SENATOR BARICKMAN: Thank you, Madam  
17 Chair.

18 Ms. Doubek, thanks for your appearance  
19 here today. Your testimony referenced that the data  
20 was not known to you to analyze the districts. Do you  
21 know if -- the committee chair stated earlier that they  
22 used -- they announced in a press release their use of  
23 ACS data; do you now have enough information about the  
24 data set used by the Democrats to analyze the proposal  
25 that's been put into a map form now?

1 MS. DOUBEK: No, Senator, I would imagine  
2 that the ACS five-year estimates was not the only data  
3 put to use and we would need to know a lot more to be  
4 able to understand, for instance, how many  
5 majority/minority districts were created through this  
6 process, what the voting age population is in each  
7 district, and so forth.

8 SENATOR BARICKMAN: Madam Chair, can you  
9 tell us whether the -- what data -- what ACS data was  
10 used? The witness says the five-year estimate is her  
11 guess; is that true? And if so, which years of data  
12 were utilized?

13 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: What I can tell you  
14 is ACS was one source. And, yes, it was the five years  
15 -- or the five-year estimate.

16 SENATOR BARICKMAN: What then other --  
17 okay. So not in the press release was any other data  
18 sets; can you tell the committee, please, Madam Chair,  
19 what other data were used other than the ACS estimated  
20 data?

21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: In terms of data,  
22 what I know is ACS, but I think what we forget is that  
23 there was quite a bit of information from community  
24 interest groups that were taken into consideration as  
25 well.

1                   SENATOR BARICKMAN: Right; but that's not  
2 what you said. You said that other data sets may have  
3 been used, so the question is: What other data sets  
4 were used beyond the ACS data?

5                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Well then I stand  
6 corrected. I meant to say ACS is one source of data  
7 that was used, and what I mean by "other" is community  
8 interest groups' feedback, input that they put -- was  
9 very much taken into consideration.

10                  SENATOR BARICKMAN: Okay. So are we to  
11 draw from that statement that no other data sets were  
12 used?

13                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: All I know at the  
14 moment is that the data that was used was the five-year  
15 ACS data and community interest groups' information.

16                  SENATOR BARICKMAN: What date -- the  
17 census counts data as of a specific date. They in fact  
18 would use April 1st, 2020; what date is the ACS  
19 estimates as of?

20                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I believe it's the  
21 2019.

22                  SENATOR BARICKMAN: So it -- the -- you  
23 previously testified was that it was a five-year  
24 estimate, so are you referencing the 2015 to 2019  
25 five-year estimate?

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: That's correct.

2 SENATOR BARICKMAN: Okay. That data uses  
3 an equivalent average reporting date of 2017, three  
4 years earlier than the census date -- estimates that  
5 today are roughly four years old. How do we know  
6 whether that data is accurate to today's population, if  
7 it's roughly four years old?

8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I'm going to defer  
9 that question to Dr. Lichtman.

10 DR. LICHTMAN: Yep. A couple of points  
11 on that. One, with all due respect to the last  
12 speaker, the deviation is only .3 percent, and so you  
13 have a test right there of how close they are between  
14 the five-year ACS and the -- what the census has put  
15 out for the whole State of Illinois, and that is about  
16 43,000 people, but it's not true that those people  
17 would get erased. They're still in the plan. Nobody  
18 gets excluded from the plan. All it means is that the  
19 districts possibly, as compared to the 2020 census,  
20 might have a deviation of a tenth or two or three  
21 percentage points different. And remember, you have in  
22 state legislative plans a deviation of 10 percent.

23 The second thing we know about is to use  
24 the same methodology that all of these advocacy groups  
25 use in this memo that I analyzed, and that is to see



1    how close the 2005 to 2009 ACS was to the 2010  
2    decennial census.  There we have actual data to make  
3    the comparison.  And, you know, there was this extreme  
4    warning from the interest groups, and I was able to  
5    test that county by county in the state and found that  
6    there was, you know, very little deviation.  And it  
7    wasn't biased in one direction.  Sometimes it was  
8    undercount, sometimes it was overcount.  And the one  
9    major deviation is readily explicable, is very unlikely  
10   to happen again, you're not significantly undercounting  
11   minorities, you're not undercounting rural.  So we have  
12   a lot of very solid social scientific information to  
13   say that this is the best available data and it is very  
14   good data to use.

15                    SENATOR BARICKMAN:  Sir, you know, I  
16   notice in your testimony you continue to talk about the  
17   differences in the statewide data, but of course we're  
18   not talking about statewide data here; right, we're  
19   talking about local level districts for which your  
20   response quickly became -- instead of definitive, you  
21   know, you talked about "there might be, there might be  
22   these differences."  I think it's important to note,  
23   Doctor, that the plan here draws boundaries around  
24   census blocks.  The ACS estimates are only available at  
25   the block group level.  In plain speak, blocks consist

1 of people that might be 0 to 200 individuals large,  
2 block groups can consist of groups that are as large as  
3 2,000 or more. So there is a significant difference  
4 between statewide counts and those counts made at a  
5 local level. But nonetheless the question --

6 DR. LICHTMAN: Let me comment on that,  
7 please.

8 SENATOR BARICKMAN: The question about  
9 though -- the question that I raised was about the  
10 data, and so again the committee chair --

11 DR. LICHTMAN: Can I comment about  
12 (inaudible) --

13 SENATOR BARICKMAN: The committee chair  
14 though --

15 DR. LICHTMAN: -- correct --

16 SENATOR BARICKMAN: The committee  
17 chair --

18 DR. LICHTMAN: -- it mischaracterizes my  
19 testimony.

20 SENATOR BARICKMAN: Hold on.

21 DR. LICHTMAN: I went county by county.

22 I looked at 102 counties. I didn't just look at  
23 statewide data --

24 SENATOR BARICKMAN: Okay. But  
25 (inaudible) --

1 DR. LICHTMAN: -- I did exactly what all  
2 of the advocacy organizations said you should do, look  
3 at the counties, and that was a very significant part  
4 of my testimony. So just, with due respect, I didn't  
5 just look at total statewide data.

6 SENATOR BARICKMAN: Sure. We're not  
7 dealing with county legislative districts, though,  
8 we're dealing with legislative districts that carve --

9 DR. LICHTMAN: A lot of the counties are  
10 much smaller than legislative districts.

11 SENATOR BARICKMAN: So the question,  
12 Madam Chair, is: Again, we're trying to understand the  
13 data that was used, whether the ACS data was  
14 supplemented; could you please tell us what geographic  
15 boundaries were used with the ACS data?

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Senator, I don't  
17 have that information for you right now.

18 SENATOR BARICKMAN: So this is a really  
19 important question though for the -- again, the  
20 witnesses who are asked to analyze these maps have to  
21 understand this level of answer, because to simply tell  
22 them that there was a five-year data set used by ACS,  
23 it's still not clear to me whether that data was  
24 supplemented with other data, a critical question, but  
25 then becomes the question of what boundaries were used.

1 Did the Democrats use the 2020 boundaries or the 2020  
2 boundaries? The issue is how that will impact census  
3 blocks and an issue of how the Democrats' maps would  
4 treat a block group. If a block group under the 2010  
5 geographic data has subsequently been split into two  
6 block groups in the 2020 data, then we would need to  
7 know how the Democrats, when they drew their map,  
8 decided how many people to put into each of the block  
9 groups. So can you please tell us which boundary --  
10 which geographic boundaries were used?

11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Senator, I don't  
12 have that information with me right now.

13 SENATOR BARICKMAN: Okay. So again,  
14 Madam Chair, the frustration that exists here is  
15 because for months we've been told, we'll get back to  
16 you on the question of what data would be used. It's  
17 been presented here that the answer to that question  
18 was put in a press release, that it's ACS data. The  
19 response though is wholly inadequate to the witnesses  
20 who bring to this committee questions, like, are --  
21 whether their members are going to be provided the  
22 protections afforded them under the Equal Protections  
23 Clause of our Constitution and of the Voting Rights  
24 Act. So if not at today's hearing, when do we get an  
25 answer to the actual data that was used so that groups

1 can determine whether or not you've satisfied the  
2 Constitutional protections afforded to minorities,  
3 ethnic groups, and others in the state?

4 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Senator, I think  
5 that once we get through with all testimony, and we are  
6 able to review the input from communities at this  
7 point, you might just get your answers after that's all  
8 done.

9 SENATOR BARICKMAN: So -- but the input  
10 you want is simply to the color graph that was posted  
11 online; right? It's not to -- you're not asking then  
12 for their input to whether their community of interest  
13 may be kept intact at a local level? Is what you're --  
14 is that the question? Or is that what you're looking  
15 for from the witnesses?

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Senator, I'd just  
17 like to give the community interest groups a chance to  
18 have -- you know, give their information to help us  
19 further review and get to the point where we can have a  
20 map.

21 SENATOR BARICKMAN: Okay. Last question.  
22 Did you utilize population data to supplement the ACS  
23 data?

24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I don't have that  
25 information for you.

1                   SENATOR BARICKMAN: When will we get a  
2 response to these questions?

3                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Once again, I think  
4 if we have the opportunity to give these witnesses, you  
5 know, their time to give us feedback, we can get back  
6 to the drawing board. So if we can get through this,  
7 we still have a long list, Senator, and I'm really  
8 confident that once we get through all of this, you'll  
9 have your answers.

10                  SENATOR BARICKMAN: I believe there is  
11 more hearings scheduled even today yet, maybe we could  
12 get them at the next hearing?

13                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Are we done,  
14 Senator?

15                  SENATOR BARICKMAN: I'm just looking for  
16 when we'll get the dataset, Madam Chair.

17                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I'm going to move on  
18 to the next witness if that's okay -- oh, I'm sorry,  
19 there are more questions, so I'm going to move on to  
20 Representative Tarver.

21                  REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: Thank you, Madam  
22 Chair. And I will really ask a question of the chair,  
23 but I want to make sure the record is clear, we're  
24 talking about a draft map; is that correct?

25                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: That's correct.

1                   REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: Okay. I just  
2 want to make sure before I go down a couple of lines of  
3 questions.

4                   To the prior witness, Madeleine, from  
5 CHANGE Illinois, a few things. I think somewhere in  
6 your commentary you noted that the chair and/or  
7 Democrats are not guaranteed that the map was  
8 constitutional. And it's funny, I just spoke to my  
9 daughter's second grade class about government and  
10 things like that, who determines what's constitutional?  
11 Is that the legislative branch or is that the judicial  
12 branch? Just out of curiosity? That question is for  
13 you, Madeleine.

14                  MS. DOUBEK: The judicial branch.

15                  REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: Okay. I just  
16 wanted to make sure. And you recognize that none of us  
17 are in the judicial branch? You do recognize that;  
18 right?

19                  MS. DOUBEK: Absolutely.

20                  REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: Okay. All right.  
21 I was trying to really understand why you would ask a  
22 question like that. But beyond that --

23                  MS. DOUBEK: I do know you have a lot of  
24 helpful legal advice and so it was noted -- noteworthy  
25 to us that you didn't say more then about these maps

1 meeting the Federal and State Voting Rights Acts than  
2 that they were top of mind.

3 REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: Sure. And, thank  
4 you. And I'm sure you have legal advice over at CHANGE  
5 Illinois and they wouldn't allow you to walk out and  
6 guarantee anything either; right? Like, you can't  
7 guarantee, that's why you said "it's highly likely" or  
8 "likely" that there was undercounting and things like  
9 that. You guaranteed that there was undercounting?  
10 Did you guarantee when you, you know, put out your  
11 press release about black communities and things like  
12 that, how we've potentially been targeted by large  
13 scale misinformation, did you guarantee that we've been  
14 targeted by large scale information (sic) campaign?

15 MS. DOUBEK: Representative, the census  
16 bureau --

17 REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: My question --

18 MS. DOUBEK: -- (inaudible) overall --

19 REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: My question is  
20 different. And I appreciate your answer. My question  
21 -- thank you for what you're going to offer, but my  
22 question is: Did you guarantee that black communities  
23 were targeted by large scale misinformation campaigns?  
24 And what are those campaigns?

25 MS. DOUBEK: No, I didn't guarantee it.



1                    REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: Okay. But what  
2 are some of those campaigns? Because you raised money  
3 based on this fundraiser, I mean, that's the one number  
4 -- I see one number in all of your testimony, in your  
5 press release, 41,877 people. I don't see how much  
6 money you raised on the backs of black people in  
7 suggesting that black people have been targeted. How  
8 did you do on your fundraising this past weekend?

9                    MS. DOUBEK: I don't know,  
10 Representative.

11                   REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: Right. Okay.

12                   MS. DOUBEK: I haven't looked.

13                   REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: You couldn't  
14 guarantee that number either. I understand. No  
15 problem.

16                   I guess moving on, it sounded like, my  
17 notes could be incorrect, did you learn that the  
18 Democrats used ACS data today?

19                   MS. DOUBEK: No, on Friday night at --

20                   REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: Okay.

21                   MS. DOUBEK: -- 7:30 p.m. when the  
22 statement and the maps were put out.

23                   REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: Right; because  
24 you issued that press release on Friday, so pretty much  
25 as soon as you knew you issued a press release. It

1 sounded like from your testimony today that you  
2 suggested that you learned of it today.

3                   Can you talk to me a little bit more  
4 about this "likely" and "highly likely" when you talk  
5 about black and brown communities? I mean, I -- again,  
6 since you used numbers like 41,877, I'm trying to  
7 understand, what's the probability that we've been  
8 undercounted, or what's the probability that we've been  
9 targeted by large scale misinformation campaigns,  
10 what's the probability that we've been underresourced,  
11 I just want to get some of those numbers, like specific  
12 numbers.

13                   MS. DOUBEK: I don't have -- the number  
14 that I have that is specific came from the census  
15 bureau --

16                   REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: Okay.

17                   MS. DOUBEK: -- the five-year estimates  
18 indicate that they missed 41,877 people in the State of  
19 Illinois, I would think that it's a reasonable  
20 conclusion that that would include black people, brown  
21 people, Asian people, white people, and definitely some  
22 of our fastest-growing communities, who would not  
23 necessarily respond to government surveys and data,  
24 particularly communities who move around a lot and are  
25 more mobile, may not respond to something like this --

1 REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: Sure.

2 MS. DOUBEK: -- they didn't have the  
3 benefit of the trusted partnerships that so many  
4 organizations worked toward during the census.

5 REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: And thank you for  
6 that. I noticed that in your testimony now you  
7 mentioned our white population as well. For some odd  
8 reason, I don't see that in your actual press release,  
9 you only reference black communities, Asian  
10 communities, Latinx communities, and I'm looking at the  
11 press release, so is there a reason why you didn't  
12 mention white people since apparently that could have  
13 been an issue as well?

14 MS. DOUBEK: Because I presume that white  
15 people are taken for -- assumed that they're included  
16 in all of these conversations, and I'm trying to give  
17 voice to others who need it more with my colleagues  
18 from these organizations that are part of our  
19 coalition.

20 REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: Okay. And again  
21 let's get back to some numbers, again because all I'm  
22 hearing is "highly likely," and things like that, just  
23 kind of, you know, inflammatory statements that are  
24 good for fundraising purposes, but really a little  
25 wanting on specifics. What specific communities or

1 areas did you go in and talk to individuals in the  
2 black community, and they told you they were  
3 underresourced, targeted by large scale misinformation  
4 campaigns to disenfranchise them? Where did you get  
5 that from specifically? What are some of the black  
6 communities that you went into personally and discussed  
7 those issues --

8 MS. DOUBEK: I don't --

9 REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: -- prior to  
10 putting out the press release to raise funds?

11 MS. DOUBEK: I don't recall saying that  
12 certain communities were targeted by disinformation  
13 campaigns. We did hear from some of our coalition  
14 partners that there were robocalls happening on the  
15 south side trying to dissuade people from participating  
16 and responding.

17 REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: Did they tell you  
18 that any of those phone calls were in the 19th ward?  
19 The 19th ward is not black. Or did they tell you that  
20 it was only in, I don't know, specific wards like the  
21 8th ward or 6th ward? What did your colleagues tell  
22 you? Because that would help us to know.

23 MS. DOUBEK: The conversation was not  
24 that specific, Representative, I am sorry, I can't  
25 answer that.

1                   REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: Well, I think  
2 before you put out press releases that suggest that  
3 people have done something so wrong, and raised money  
4 on the backs of the disenfranchisement of black people,  
5 you should actually talk to some black people and  
6 understand --

7                   MS. DOUBEK: I have -- I have,  
8 Representative.

9                   REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: I just asked you.  
10 I just asked you who. What --

11                  MS. DOUBEK: And I just told you, some of  
12 my colleagues from the Black Roots Alliance, from the  
13 NAACP South Side, from the NAACP West Side, and lots of  
14 partners --

15                  REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: No, you said  
16 partners first, that's why I asked a more specific  
17 question. You said "some of our partners" is what you  
18 said. But to help you out, this is exactly what your  
19 press release says, "The undercount is likely to have a  
20 greater effect on people of color." Then you focus on  
21 black people. "Black communities have historically  
22 been underrepresented, underresourced, and targeted by  
23 large scale misinformation campaigns designed to  
24 further disenfranchise them." Now maybe you didn't  
25 draft this press release, but it says, "For all

1 inquiries, please contact Madeleine Doubek, Executive  
2 Director, CHANGE Illinois." Cell phone number, email.  
3 So I'm assuming that if you didn't draft this, you at  
4 least have some knowledge of it, but now it sounds like  
5 you're saying that you don't exactly know  
6 (inaudible) --

7 MS. DOUBEK: Representative, you're  
8 putting words in my mouth that I did not speak.

9 REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: I am reading your  
10 press release. I'm quoting the press release.

11 MS. DOUBEK: And I stand by the press  
12 release.

13 REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: Okay. So are  
14 those -- are they your words in the press release?

15 MS. DOUBEK: Yes.

16 REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: Okay. So then  
17 I'm not putting words in your mouth, I'm reading your  
18 press release.

19 MS. DOUBEK: You concluded some things  
20 after you read from the press release that were putting  
21 words in my mouth.

22 REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: I'm reading  
23 directly from the press release and I asked you a very  
24 simple question. Again, how many -- okay. How many  
25 black people did your partners talk to? Did they poll

1 these individuals to get to this point? Now I'm not  
2 putting words in your mouth, I'm asking you a question  
3 again. Did they poll -- let's just go with this: Did  
4 they poll people, "yes" or "no"?

5 MS. DOUBEK: Not that I'm aware of.

6 REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: Okay. So they  
7 didn't poll people, so we wouldn't even have a number  
8 of who was actually discussed -- this was discussed  
9 with, because they didn't poll anybody. The only  
10 number that you have, Ms. Doubek, is 41,877. Fine.  
11 But then you purposefully, or somebody in your staff,  
12 purposefully puts black people out front, and then  
13 mixes in Asian and Latinx, to raise funds without any  
14 specificity in your press release. There are no  
15 numbers but one. You can't even tell me if it's more  
16 probable than not. You just say, highly likely and  
17 likely, and then when I ask you to drill down on where  
18 you got to that conclusion, you can't do that. So I  
19 just want to make sure we had a clean record. I  
20 appreciate your time.

21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you,  
22 Representative.

23 MS. DOUBEK: Thank you, Representative.  
24 I appreciate yours.

25 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Do we have any

1 further questions? Representative Spain.

2 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Thank you very  
3 much, Madam Chair. And thank you, Ms. Doubek, for your  
4 testimony. Since we're learning about the Constitution  
5 here tonight, are you aware that legislators elected to  
6 the Illinois General Assembly swear on oath to uphold  
7 and defend the Constitution of the State of Illinois  
8 and the Constitution of the United States?

9 MS. DOUBEK: I am.

10 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Thank you. A  
11 question, I know that you have been working on this  
12 topic for a long time, including years in the making  
13 wishing that we would have created a different process  
14 than the one that is unfolding now with partisan  
15 legislative redistricting and use of an independent  
16 commission, but setting that aside, in the testimony  
17 that you provided in the numerous hearings that were  
18 conducted, you had asked for time and data in order to  
19 understand the maps that would be proposed by the  
20 majority party. And I just mean this in all sincerity,  
21 if you were given that time, because obviously you  
22 weren't, you asked for at least two weeks, you asked to  
23 have the data, what would have been -- in a better and  
24 more transparent world, what would have been the  
25 process that you would have undertaken if you were



1 given the opportunity to do so?

2 MS. DOUBEK: Well, I think that my  
3 organization and others who stand in coalition with us  
4 would have worked to assess some of the questions that  
5 I asked earlier in my testimony about how many  
6 majority/minority districts were created, for what  
7 communities, what is the voting age population in each  
8 of these districts, what is the political party  
9 affiliation in each of these districts, to try to  
10 provide a more detailed assessment of whether this map  
11 serves the people of this state.

12 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: So you were  
13 prepared to do all of those things if you were provided  
14 with the time and the data to do so?

15 MS. DOUBEK: We certainly would have  
16 given it our best effort.

17 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Thank you. I  
18 appreciate your testimony. And I look forward to  
19 hearing from other witnesses tonight. I find it very  
20 disappointing that we've heard from two witnesses so  
21 far. One is a paid consultant by the Democrats, and  
22 one is a leader in good government reform in our state  
23 who has just been excoriated by the majority party. I  
24 hope that the volunteer witnesses and community  
25 advocates are not dissuaded from sharing your very

1 important and earnest feedback about this work. Your  
2 testimony matters a great deal and I look forward to  
3 receiving it. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you,  
5 Representative. Are there -- oh, Representative  
6 Butler?

7 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Thank you, Madam  
8 Chair. And, Ms. Doubek, thank you so much for  
9 testifying and all of the work that CHANGE has done  
10 over these many years. Just a couple of quick  
11 questions for you. You've been on a lot of these  
12 hearings that we've had over the last couple of months.  
13 Have you heard testimony in these hearings that says  
14 that ACS data undercounts minority communities?

15 MS. DOUBEK: I believe I've provided some  
16 of that testimony.

17 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: And have you  
18 either provided testimony or heard testimony that ACS  
19 data undercounts rural communities and communities  
20 under 65,000?

21 MS. DOUBEK: Yes.

22 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you,  
24 Representative. I will ask if Chairman Aquino has any  
25 -- if any of his members have questions?

AUDIO TRANSCRIPTION OF RECORDING

1                   CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you, Madam Chair.  
2 We at this point do not. I think we can continue on  
3 with the next witness.

4                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Chair  
5 Aquino. Next we have Jay Young from Common Cause.

6                   MR. YOUNG: Good afternoon -- oh, I wrote  
7 the notes earlier today. Good evening, Chairs  
8 Hernandez and Aquino, Vice Chair Tarver, honorable  
9 members of this committee. Thank you so much for the  
10 opportunity to once again discuss the drawing of  
11 districts in our state.

12                   My name is Jay Young, and I'm the  
13 executive director of Common Cause Illinois. Over the  
14 last three years my organization and our 35,000 members  
15 and supporters around the state have dedicated  
16 themselves to ensuring that all Illinoisans had a voice  
17 in Census 2020 and in this redistricting process. For  
18 example, we -- our members submitted more public  
19 comments in opposition to the citizenship question than  
20 all of the other organizations in this state combined,  
21 and I'm really proud of my team and of our membership.

22                   You know, indeed there is -- was so much  
23 for our entire state to be proud of. In an incredibly  
24 difficult census year, our collective investment  
25 produced the nation's seventh best self-response rate.

1 It was number one among states with over 9,000,000  
2 people. Thanks to the leadership of this body, we  
3 responded to a global pandemic, a shameful partisan  
4 effort to hijack the process through that citizenship  
5 question I mentioned, the pain that spilled out into  
6 the streets following George Floyd's murder. We took  
7 that investment and we built an army of trusted  
8 messengers that flooded our communities with census  
9 ambassadors who distinguished themselves time and time  
10 again in the face of obstacles that frankly we've never  
11 seen before.

12 Then over the last three months, we threw  
13 a lot of that away. Beginning at that very first  
14 hearing that the Senate Redistricting Committee held  
15 back in March, we urged you to halt this process and  
16 follow in the footsteps of other states like  
17 California, Oregon, and Michigan in seeking relief from  
18 our Constitutional deadlines, waiting for the decennial  
19 census data before drawing the maps, and using this  
20 time to reengage those ambassadors that we just  
21 employed to enlist our communities in defining  
22 themselves for themselves. That didn't happen.  
23 Instead committees held more than 45 sparsely attended,  
24 mostly virtual hearings that usually left observers  
25 with more questions than answers.

1                   Looking at the witness list for today,  
2   it's once again mostly advocacy organizations on this  
3   Zoom, but then again, we only had a few hours of notice  
4   for these hearings. At those last hearings, I  
5   testified at more than a few of them, when the  
6   advocates pointed out that few community members were  
7   in the room, we were told that Illinoisans could draw  
8   their own maps using an online tool. As far as I can  
9   tell, there were really only three groups that actually  
10  managed to submit maps using that unnecessarily complex  
11  and undocumented tool. Had you engaged with the  
12  advocates, we could have let you know that there were  
13  much easier products out there to allow communities of  
14  interest to define themselves.

15                   The reason for the rush? Well, Illinois  
16  residents have been fed competing sets of talking  
17  points about the upcoming June 30 deadline. One side  
18  would have us believe that the Constitution requires  
19  maps to be completed by that date, or quote/unquote,  
20  political insiders take over. The other side argues  
21  that that's the date when true independence becomes  
22  possible. I believe that Illinois residents are savvy  
23  enough to understand that it's really all about  
24  control. Who they want to control this process may  
25  well be aligned with our political leanings, but the

1 truth is that this interim date is being used to force  
2 bad decisions about the underlying data that was used  
3 to produce these maps.

4                   On April 30th of this year, Common Cause  
5 Illinois circulated a letter to leadership from both  
6 committees, from 55 national civil rights and social  
7 justice organizations, map members -- mapmakers, excuse  
8 me, and nationally recognized census and redistricting  
9 efforts who explained the risks that were associated  
10 with states using American Communities -- the American  
11 Communities Survey in lieu of the decennial census data  
12 to draw maps. Those problems have been repeated here  
13 today. I won't dwell on them, but again, the American  
14 Community Survey, it's an excellent instrument, but it  
15 is a survey.

16                   In other words, it does not capture all  
17 of Illinoisans, or to that matter, Americans, who are  
18 living in a very -- in a particular community. Instead  
19 it talks more about how they live. The data doesn't  
20 come to sort of the granular level that the decennial  
21 census data goes to, and as has been noted, the  
22 five-year estimate is a blend of data of varying ages.  
23 The one thing that I will say though is that that  
24 oft-repeated talking point about numbers being within a  
25 percentage point of each other is flat-out misleading.

1 Just because I have an apple and an orange in my hand  
2 that are the same size does not mean that they're the  
3 same fruit. And frankly, it's not surprising that the  
4 ACS did a reasonable job of approximating a large  
5 number, like the total population of a large state like  
6 Illinois. Indeed it means that it's a good instrument,  
7 but I would also note that that same talking point  
8 that's been conveyed about Illinois, it's not the same  
9 nation-wide. The ACS did a much poorer job estimating  
10 smaller states like North Dakota or even the District  
11 of Columbia. Our entire argument has been smaller  
12 numbers include the size of a house district, or for  
13 example, one oft-quoted study that's out there refers  
14 to how the ACS tends to miss indigenous people. Again  
15 smaller subpopulations inside a larger population,  
16 those folks, their voices matter, too.

17 If reports are to be believed, and  
18 reports are all we have because we don't have the data,  
19 I know that there -- I saw I think last Friday a  
20 interview with Mr. Kimball Brace, who is the president  
21 of a data vendor that I believe was used by the state,  
22 and in that interview it was referenced that the ACS  
23 data was supplemented with some voter data. Again, I  
24 haven't seen the data sets, I can't speak to what sort  
25 of data was included, but I do have some concerns.

1 Certainly voter data might not be able to speak to  
2 nonvoters, for example, underage residents, or  
3 noncitizens, and it might overestimate --  
4 overemphasize, excuse me, communities with higher  
5 levels of voter participation.

6 In closing, I've been trying to stress  
7 throughout this process that Illinois should be a  
8 beacon to other states. We're a national leader on  
9 voting rights, you know, we've seen some really  
10 impressive, important legislation passed in just the  
11 last few months ranging from the Black Caucus agenda,  
12 advancing HB 376 to encourage studying of Asian  
13 American history in this moment. Those are the sort of  
14 things that put us at the vanguard of national  
15 equitable reforms, but when we hear that Illinois is  
16 following in the shoes of states like Oklahoma that are  
17 taking advantage of the pandemic and Trump's sabotage  
18 of the census, national observers are rightly worried  
19 that states that wish to silence voices will follow our  
20 lead. Process matters and we could have done so much  
21 more to engage our people under really difficult  
22 circumstances. There is still time. We can back away  
23 from this ledge and hit the pause button. We could  
24 still appeal to the courts. I urge you in the most  
25 strenuous way, please, take that opportunity.



1 Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you,  
3 Mr. Young, for your testimony.

4 Are there any questions from members?  
5 Representative Spain.

6 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Thank you, Madam  
7 Chair. Mr. Young, thank you for your testimony  
8 tonight. And just as I was trying to understand with  
9 the first witness, you're not under contract or  
10 retainer or paid to be here by either Republicans or  
11 Democrats that are involved in these hearings; is that  
12 correct?

13 MR. YOUNG: I am not.

14 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Thank you. You  
15 mentioned the construction of data for this proposed  
16 map, and you mentioned an individual, Mr. Kim Brace, is  
17 -- Madam Chair, is that someone else who is working  
18 with the house or senate Democrats on the proposed map?

19 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: My understanding is  
20 that he is a data vendor so the answer is yes.

21 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: A paid consultant;  
22 correct?

23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes.

24 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Thank you. And  
25 so, Mr. Young, the statement that you made, I just want

1 to make sure I understand it because I think it's  
2 important, Mr. Brace then -- and I ask because we've  
3 asked these questions in these hearings about the data  
4 used, in fact another member asked the chair what  
5 additional data beyond ACS is being used, and we were  
6 told the answer is only community input, but Mr. Brace  
7 has represented then that ACS data is supplemented by  
8 voter data; did I hear that correctly?

9 MR. YOUNG: Again, this is not a  
10 conversation that I've had with Mr. Brace. I'm, as I  
11 said, just going from the reports, and I'm --  
12 specifically I'm looking at a article from Mark  
13 Maxwell, May 20, where he sort of describes that  
14 process. Again, we're just doing the best we can to  
15 figure out how this process is working.

16 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Sure. So I know  
17 the feeling, we were trying to do the same, and I thank  
18 you.

19 I'll ask that question then to you, Madam  
20 Chair, is voter data being used to supplement the  
21 American community five-year estimate data that you  
22 mentioned earlier?

23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I don't know. I  
24 have to get back to you.

25 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Thank you. I've

1 heard that a lot, but in the interest of good faith  
2 I'll wait for you to get back to us. And if we could  
3 understand as well who made the decision to use this  
4 data, and when that decision was made, I'd be very  
5 grateful for those answers.

6 Thank you, Mr. Young, for your testimony.

7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you,  
8 Representative. Senator Barickman.

9 SENATOR BARICKMAN: Sure. Thank you,  
10 Madam Chair.

11 Mr. Young, thanks for being with us  
12 again. I think we heard from you at one of our earlier  
13 hearings. I guess I wonder if you could help us with a  
14 better understanding of the human element that is at  
15 issue here. We're -- there has been this, you know,  
16 discussion about data and, you know, it's kind of  
17 scientific, I suppose, in that regard, but I think  
18 what's potentially lost in this is the actual risks  
19 that I think you're trying to communicate to us that  
20 are at issue, the -- you know, things like the impact  
21 on neighborhoods, and on individual voting rights, and  
22 I just wonder if you could help provide to us an un- --  
23 a better understanding of what actually is at risk  
24 through the use of an -- of a inaccurate or flawed  
25 dataset like the ACS data?

1 MR. YOUNG: So again I want to be clear,  
2 the ACS is absolutely valuable for what it is used for.  
3 I do not want to be misunderstood to say that I think  
4 the ACS is bad. Honestly it's my understanding that  
5 voter data, for example, is also the sort of thing that  
6 is frequently used when we draw maps. I get that. I'm  
7 saying there is a better dataset. It's coming in three  
8 months, that's what I'm saying.

9 In terms of the question about the human  
10 element, at the end of the day you are correct, the  
11 redistricting process is about using data maps and  
12 frankly the preferences of the mapmakers to draw maps  
13 that are going to govern us for the next ten years, but  
14 at base, this process is supposed to be about  
15 communities, communities of interest, and making sure  
16 that those communities are reflected in our  
17 representative forms of government.

18 When I talked about the mapmaking tool, I  
19 used, for example -- I mentioned that I was somewhat  
20 alarmed that it didn't seem that too many people were  
21 able to avail themselves of that tool. I triple-tried  
22 tested it out myself, and frankly it's not as user  
23 friendly as some of the other options that are out  
24 there.

25 I've been through the training for tools,

1 like, District or Representative, and I can tell you  
2 what that process looks like, how advocates like Common  
3 Cause -- and again, for those that don't know Common  
4 Cause, we're a national organization with people on the  
5 ground in all 50 states, and we sort of push back  
6 against concerns where we think power is sort of acting  
7 in a nontransparent and an unaccountable way regardless  
8 of which party is sort of advancing that.

9                   In any event, coming back to the use of  
10 that tool. The way the process works is to sit down  
11 with folks and ask them, where do your kids go to  
12 school, where do you go buy groceries, what parks do  
13 you use, it's the process of understanding how we use  
14 our communities, and make sure that everybody, it's not  
15 just Jay Young who lives in Oak Park, talks to -- talks  
16 about where his go to -- kids go to school, but that  
17 all of my neighbors are included. And then, once we  
18 can able -- once we're able to develop a community of  
19 interest for in that case, you know, the people who  
20 live near me, but that community interest could be a  
21 racial group. It could be the members of a mosque. It  
22 could be any number of things, but the idea is to  
23 figure out what those communities look like and make  
24 sure that the interests of that community is what's  
25 being represented.

1                   There are rules that determine things,  
2     like, how people -- what the line should be, and the  
3     extent to which the number of folks in a given district  
4     should approximate the number of folks in another  
5     district under the one-person, one-vote rule, that is  
6     absolutely true. But again at base, this process  
7     should be about protecting the interest of communities.  
8     Equity is very important to me, and, you know, I have a  
9     ton of respect for those that are called to service,  
10    such as yourselves, members of both parties. It  
11    couldn't be me. I appreciate that, but I submit to you  
12    that equity is not about securing the political futures  
13    of our elected officials. Equity should be about  
14    ensuring that all of our voices are included in this  
15    process. Somebody is always going to run for the next  
16    race. We should just make sure that the lines reflect  
17    the communities that we all live in.

18                   SENATOR BARICKMAN: Okay. Well, thank  
19    you again for being with us here today.

20                   No further questions, Madam Chair.

21                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Senator.  
22    I will ask Chair Aquino if he has any questions from  
23    his members.

24                   CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you, Madam Chair.  
25    Not at this time. Thank you.

1                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you.  
2 Thank you. So we'll go to the next in -- the next  
3 witness is Griselda Vega Samuel from MALDEF.

4                   MS. VEGA SAMUEL: Good afternoon. Thank  
5 you, Madam Chair. I think everyone can hear me; right?  
6 Good evening members of the general assembly, and thank  
7 you for the opportunity to testify.

8                   My name is Griselda Vega Samuel, and I am  
9 the midwest regional counsel for the Mexican American  
10 Legal Defense and Educational Fund also known as  
11 MALDEF. MALDEF is a national civil rights law firm  
12 that works to protect the rights of the Latinos through  
13 community education, advocacy, and litigation. We have  
14 testified at several hearings of the senate and house  
15 redistricting committees. MALDEF's position on  
16 redistricting has been clear, consistent, and shared by  
17 voting right experts across the country. It is never  
18 appropriate to use American Community Survey or other  
19 alternative data as the primary basis for  
20 redistricting. We urge you to once again, base  
21 redistricting on the decennial census data. The  
22 U.S. Census Bureau will soon release this information  
23 in a format known as the P.L. 94-171 file. That data  
24 file will contain the most accurate numbers, and can  
25 overlay on to existing districts, and will be

1 accessible to everyone.

2 We are disappointed that this committee  
3 has chosen to repeat history by releasing maps last  
4 Friday night in the twilight of the legislative  
5 session, ignoring requests from diverse groups, and who  
6 are asking for two weeks' time to review these maps.  
7 And to further highlight the lack of transparency,  
8 release the judicial district maps two hours before  
9 this hearing. This body has declared time and again  
10 that you are, quote/unquote, dedicated to transparency  
11 and public participation in the redistricting process,  
12 end quote, but your actions prove otherwise.

13 The committee has not released population  
14 and demographic details for the proposed districts, nor  
15 has it made the raw data available. There was  
16 discussion earlier by an expert witness, Dr. Lichtman,  
17 who said that the American Community Survey data was  
18 acceptable but causes acceptable deviations when  
19 drawing those maps. We urge this committee to release  
20 the data files so that the public can in fact see how  
21 much unequal representation you find acceptable.

22 Why hide the data? The cornerstone of  
23 transparency and public participation in the  
24 redistricting process is based on that data. It's --  
25 I'm sorry, the cornerstone of transparency and public



1 participation in the redistricting process is the  
2 ability to compare the same data and make informed  
3 decisions based on that data. As it stands, this  
4 committee is asking the public for trust with no way to  
5 verify. The gold standard of transparency and accuracy  
6 in redistricting is the 2020 census data file coming in  
7 the P.L. 94-171 file.

8                   You hold the power to determine whether  
9 Latino communities can elect candidates of their choice  
10 or significantly influence elections in concert with  
11 other groups. If those objectives sound familiar,  
12 that's because they are required by the Federal Voting  
13 Rights Act and the Illinois Voting Rights Act of 2011.  
14 We must recognize what those rights mean so that they  
15 are not reduced to key words in the litigation, of  
16 press releases, or talking points.

17                   Ensuring that the Latino communities have  
18 the power to elect candidates of their choice, or to  
19 significantly sway elections, means that our Latinos  
20 will have influence reflective of their numbers and  
21 legislators who will be responsive to their concerns.  
22 Latinos and other minority groups have a long history  
23 of being marginalized in redistricting and of being  
24 treated subordinate to partisanship and other concerns.  
25 In 1964 the U.S. Supreme Court finally held that the

1 state legislative districts must be equal in  
2 population. That is after 146 years of Illinois  
3 drawing unequal districts that packed minority  
4 residents, Congress soon thereafter passed the widely  
5 celebrated Federal Voting Rights Act, and the U.S.  
6 Census Bureau began allowing people to identify as  
7 Hispanic with the 1980 census. However, in Illinois  
8 legislative redistricting, Latinos were immediately  
9 told that they would not be respected.

10 In 1982, Latino residents, including  
11 future senator, Miguel del Valle, challenged a plan  
12 that split Chicago Latino neighborhoods into numerous  
13 districts to effectively dilute Latino votes.  
14 Thankfully the court did not accept the defendant's  
15 rationale that Latinos were adequately given districts  
16 that, like children's, quote/unquote, snowsuits, would  
17 eventually fit them, a justification never applied to  
18 any other group. We should not take for granted the  
19 hard-fought gains of the past 40 years.

20 Members of the general assembly, you have  
21 been faced with events and challenges unprecedented in  
22 the history of our country. Illinois is one of the  
23 first states to redistrict and will set precedents  
24 nationally and for future redistricting cycles. You  
25 can still build on the gains of our predecessors who

1 have struggled to ensure that the Latino communities  
2 have an effective voice in our government. Know that  
3 the decennial census data is the only acceptable  
4 standard for redistricting. Any map based on American  
5 Community Survey estimates would very likely cause  
6 retrogression or a decline in the ability of the Latino  
7 communities to elect candidates of their choice which  
8 would significantly influence elections and would  
9 likely invite litigation. MALDEF urges you once again  
10 to base that redistricting on the decennial census data  
11 that is to come in a few months. It's time that the  
12 general assembly finally put away the snowsuits and  
13 give Latino communities the representation they  
14 accurately deserve today. We are the majority-minority  
15 and our time is now. Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Ms. Vega,  
17 for your presentations. Is there any questions from  
18 members? Senator McConchie.

19 SENATOR MCCONCHIE: Thank you, Madam  
20 Chair. Thank you, Ms. Vega Samuel, for your testimony.  
21 Briefly you just commented that no data files have been  
22 made available. Can you just specify what data files  
23 you would like to see made available that would allow  
24 you the level of analysis you're seeking to perform?

25 MS. VEGA SAMUEL: So as I've stated in my

1 position, we believe that we should wait for the U.S.  
2 -- for the census data that is to come, but we've also  
3 said that at this point these maps should come with  
4 whatever information that they have used to be able to  
5 look at the maps. The public has asked for it. The  
6 general assembly members have said that they are  
7 willing to be transparent and accountable, so share the  
8 data files, whatever those files are.

9 SENATOR MCCONCHIE: So if you were  
10 provided let's say with Shapefiles, which I think is  
11 what was provided ten years ago, how long would it take  
12 for your organization to be able to evaluate those to  
13 get the answers that you need in regards to what these  
14 maps look like and how they would affect your  
15 community?

16 MS. VEGA SAMUEL: I unfortunately cannot  
17 answer that question. I'm not a demographer, but I  
18 would assume -- there is -- you know, we understand  
19 that redistricting -- that the redistricting process  
20 would entail a number of informa- -- a number of data  
21 files and a number pieces of information, so I imagine  
22 that just having a Shapefile is not going to get us  
23 very far, very quickly, so it would probably take a  
24 very long time.

25 SENATOR MCCONCHIE: Okay. So I'm just

1 going to go back, Madam Chair, do we know when the  
2 types of data files that the witness is asking for will  
3 be made available?

4 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Senator, I have said  
5 it before, we're looking to try to take in all of the  
6 testimony, review, and after -- once that's all  
7 reviewed, we should be able to get everything out.

8 SENATOR MCCONCHIE: Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Any further  
10 questions from members? Chair Aquino?

11 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you, Madam Chair,  
12 none at this time.

13 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you.  
14 We will go to our next witness and that will be Shlomo  
15 Soroka from Agudath Israel of Illinois.

16 RABBI SOROKA: Thank you, Madam Chair.  
17 Thank you, Chair Aquino. Leaders Butler, Barickman,  
18 and Leader McConchie.

19 My name is Shlomo Soroka, director of  
20 government affairs for Agudath Israel of Illinois, a  
21 grassroots umbrella organization that represents the  
22 interests of the Orthodox Jewish community. As has  
23 been discussed today, fair maps is a concept that  
24 legislative leaders and members of the general assembly  
25 have pledged to uphold. Legislative maps are only fair

1 if they're drawn in a way that does not silence  
2 communities. Keeping communities of interest together  
3 ensures equity and diversity in government and is vital  
4 for our democracy, especially in our diverse State of  
5 Illinois.

6 Communities are encouraged -- communities  
7 were encouraged to engage in this mapmaking process  
8 through participating in multiple hearings, submitting  
9 proposed maps, and like many others we were told our  
10 effort was wanted and would be given all due  
11 consideration, so on behalf of the Orthodox Jewish  
12 community I testified before both senate and house  
13 redistricting committees. I drew maps, I submitted  
14 them, reached out to numerous legislators, and really  
15 did everything within my power to convey the importance  
16 of keeping our community together in a single compact  
17 and contiguous district.

18 The leading rabbis in our community, all  
19 60 of them, signed a public letter, and by the way that  
20 never happens, but all 60 of them signed a public  
21 letter asking for our community to be consolidated into  
22 a single district and concluded with the plea that we  
23 should not be divided further. We trusted our input  
24 was being listened to and we were optimistic that our  
25 request would be accommodated.

1 I have to say when the maps were  
2 unveiled, we were somewhat astonished to see that not  
3 only were the improvements that we asked for not made,  
4 and not only were we not further consolidated, but the  
5 exact opposite was done. We were further split and  
6 divided, maybe this is an exaggeration, but perhaps  
7 near the brink of political irrelevance. I'll explain,  
8 I'll elaborate. While most of our families currently  
9 reside in the 16th House District, a line dividing the  
10 15th and 16th House Districts runs right through the  
11 heart of Peterson Park where our families live,  
12 effectively cutting off a few hundred families, we ask  
13 that that line be moved over just a few blocks to  
14 incorporate these households into the 16th; however,  
15 instead of being included with the rest of the  
16 community, the remaining couple hundred families in  
17 Peterson Park were siphoned off into the 15th House  
18 District completely splitting the community  
19 neighborhoods. So now Peterson Park is now in a  
20 completely different district and all of those families  
21 are cut off. We ask that 500 families that live in  
22 Skokie, right north of where our community is located  
23 in the city, they be included in a contiguous and  
24 compact district that would connect it with our other  
25 neighborhoods. This request was not accommodated.

1                   But perhaps most egregiously on the  
2 northern boundary of the 8th Senate District or 16th  
3 House District where the city of Chicago borders in  
4 Evanston, there is a strip of city blocks containing  
5 over 200 families, and when I say families I just want  
6 to be clear, families that have more than one voter in  
7 it, these are multi-voter households. Over 200  
8 families live in this little strip of city blocks. It  
9 was just surgically cut out and annexed into Evanston's  
10 18th House District or 9th Senate District, which we  
11 previously have virtually no presence. And Chairman  
12 Aquino had mentioned before that it was -- an effort  
13 was made to preserve communities in this process and  
14 specifically highlighted that Evanston for the first  
15 time is in one district, but what happened over here  
16 also was that Evanston is also taking out a chunk of  
17 the city, which has a different neighborhood. It's a  
18 different community, and that community is being cut  
19 off from its -- the community that it's a part of.

20                   You know, what I found also very  
21 interesting was that -- I know that there is a lot of  
22 different pieces that go into consideration when these  
23 maps are being drawn. Our prior state representative  
24 in the 16th district lives -- his house is located in  
25 the area that is proposed to go into the 18th House



1 District, and I wonder if that former house district  
2 member would still be representing us would he -- would  
3 his residence have been put into another district or  
4 not. It may be difficult at this late hour to fully  
5 accommodate our request, but I would ask you to find  
6 reasonable alternatives on our northern border with  
7 Evanston, such as annexing the area a few blocks  
8 further east, maybe from Rockwell and go deeper into  
9 city territory, where fewer community members reside.

10 It is extremely important that our  
11 families in Peterson Park are not cut off from our  
12 neighborhoods in West Rogers Park and Lincolnwood.  
13 These areas are not only contiguous, but they are also  
14 cohesive and interdependent. I am sure that if our  
15 concern -- I am -- I'm sorry, I'm sure that if our  
16 concerns are taken seriously, there are other lines  
17 that can be slightly adjusted without compromising the  
18 political voice of a community to the extent that the  
19 current proposal does.

20 I don't want to rehash the testimony that  
21 I have already delivered in prior redistricting  
22 hearings. It is there for the record, and I think it  
23 speaks for itself. The only part I feel compelled to  
24 repeat is that the Orthodox Jewish community is one  
25 that unfortunately is often overlooked as a community

1 of interest despite our unique needs and interests.  
2 The purpose of my testimony today is to bring to the  
3 committee's attention what I hope to be a simple and  
4 inadvertent oversight and ask that this injustice is  
5 not repeated and exacerbated. I do not believe these  
6 changes were done with the intention to silence my  
7 community, but I need this honorable body to know that  
8 regardless of the intent, the effect will be the same.

9 And if there is any questions, I'm happy  
10 to take them.

11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you,  
12 Mr. Soroka. I'm going to move for member's --  
13 Representative Butler.

14 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Thank you, Madam  
15 Chair. And, Rabbi Soroka, thank you for being here  
16 again, and I appreciate the advocacy that the Orthodox  
17 Jewish community has done in these hearings, and as  
18 well as a very heartfelt letter that you sent to the  
19 chair and the spokesman on the committees as well as  
20 the governor about your concerns. I just want to ask  
21 just a to clarify for me, so under the proposed map  
22 that we have here, your community would be divided  
23 between the 16th and the 17th -- or, excuse me, 16th  
24 and 15th House District; is that correct?

25 RABBI SOROKA: It actually would be split

1 over four house districts, we would have in the 15th,  
2 16th, 17th and 18th House Districts --

3 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: So 15th --

4 RABBI SOROKA: -- under these proposed  
5 maps.

6 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: 15th, 16th, 17th,  
7 and 18th. And do those four districts all have  
8 incumbent legislators living in those new districts?

9 RABBI SOROKA: The 16th has a freshman,  
10 all others have -- are veteran lawmakers.

11 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: But they're --  
12 each of those four districts has a incumbent legislator  
13 in it; correct? I believe it does. I believe they do.

14 RABBI SOROKA: As opposed to?

15 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: I'm just asking  
16 if they have incumbents that were drawn into those four  
17 districts instead of keeping some open district or  
18 something like that.

19 RABBI SOROKA: Oh, there was -- yeah.  
20 Yeah, they all have incumbents; correct.

21 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Okay. Thank you,  
22 Rabbi.

23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Any further  
24 questions?

25 REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: I had my hand up,

1 Madam Chair, if that's okay?

2 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Oh, I'm sorry, if  
3 you will, Representative Barickman, let me have  
4 Representative Tarver first, and then you're next.

5 REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: It will be very  
6 brief. Rabbi Shlomo, good to see you, thank you for  
7 your advocacy. I just want to say I appreciate you, to  
8 one of the other person's points, humanizing this so  
9 that we have a chance to kind of understand what's  
10 going on in your neck of the woods.

11 I only have one question for you, because  
12 I'm more of a visual person, but did you have an  
13 opportunity to potentially draw a proposal map on the  
14 website that would, I guess, effectuate what it is you  
15 were looking for, sir?

16 RABBI SOROKA: Indeed I did. I drew up a  
17 map, I submitted it, and I actually shared hard copies  
18 with every interested -- every legislator that it would  
19 have been relevant to as well.

20 REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: Awesome. Thank  
21 you. If you don't mind, I think you have my  
22 information, feel free to send it to over to me as  
23 well. I appreciate it.

24 RABBI SOROKA: I will do that,  
25 Representative Tarver.

1 REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: Thank you.

2 RABBI SOROKA: Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Senator Barickman.

4 SENATOR BARICKMAN: Thank you. Rabbi  
5 Soroka, thanks for being with us. I think it's worth  
6 noting, to my knowledge, you may be the only group who  
7 successfully submitted a map through the portal. Did  
8 you get any feedback from that map from lawmakers?

9 RABBI SOROKA: I did. I got some  
10 feedback from some lawmakers that they were going to  
11 try to accommodate our request, and I do believe that  
12 some attempts were made by some. I don't know exactly  
13 what happened, because there are others that have -- I  
14 mean, decisions have to be made in collaboration with  
15 others. I know that we had some champions that were  
16 trying -- that were giving us feedback that they were  
17 working on it and that they thought they were making  
18 progress.

19 SENATOR BARICKMAN: The characterization  
20 that you've made in your testimony is that the  
21 community of interest for which you presented in your  
22 submitted map was significantly carved up. In other  
23 words, it didn't sound to me as if there was tinkering  
24 along the edges, it sounds like it was more draconian  
25 in nature, am I understanding that correctly?

1 RABBI SOROKA: Yes.

2 SENATOR BARICKMAN: I guess I might ask  
3 to our Senate Chair Aquino the purpose of asking for  
4 groups to submit maps if in fact we only got one map  
5 and seemingly it was not considered in the maps that  
6 were drawn by the Democrats. Senator Aquino, can you  
7 explain why that request, that sole request, was  
8 ignored?

9 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Well, Senator, this is  
10 the -- the great thing about this testimony here is  
11 that we are certainly address-- -- this is a draft as we  
12 started from the beginning to get exactly this, you  
13 know, testimony from those community members that have  
14 been an active part of this or want to be a part of  
15 this process, and so there is certainly things that I  
16 think that we can take from the witness's testimony  
17 here, and so, you know, this is hopefully going to make  
18 a better product based off of the hearing and why we're  
19 here today. So I'm hoping that we can not only be able  
20 to listen to this witness's perspective on this  
21 proposed map, but also the rest of the witnesses that  
22 we have still on -- you know, still waiting to testify.

23 SENATOR BARICKMAN: But how is this  
24 different? It sounds as though the rabbi's testimony  
25 at previous hearings is the same as it was today, in

1 fact, went further, it sounds like further than any  
2 other group went in submitting a map. There is no  
3 reason to have yet another hearing where the proposal  
4 by the Democrats ignored that submission. I mean,  
5 again, what's the purpose of -- why is today any  
6 different than the -- you know, than the previous  
7 testimony and the map that was submitted before today's  
8 hearing? Why did we need to have this hearing to hear  
9 nothing new in regards to this community of interest?

10 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Well, again we're here  
11 to hear the testimony from these folks and others on  
12 this proposed map, this is the -- you know, we unveiled  
13 the map, as we all know, on Friday, and so this was an  
14 opportunity for this witness and others to make  
15 commentary on what they saw with the product that was  
16 here and so we're going to be utilizing this testimony  
17 that we're hearing today, and that we're going to hear  
18 tomorrow as well, to address things that we can to try  
19 to get to a final product.

20 SENATOR BARICKMAN: Okay. Unfortunately  
21 it just seems as though the prior hearings were for  
22 naught when the testimony and map provided prior to  
23 today's hearing told us exactly what is being said  
24 again today, so let's certainly hope that maybe in any  
25 subsequent version of the maps, a better job is done to

1 listen to the people of this state.

2 Thank you, Madam Chair.

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Senator.

4 Chair, are there any further questions  
5 from members in the House? Senator Aquino- -- Chair  
6 Aquino, do you have any members on your end?

7 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: No questions at this  
8 end. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. Next  
10 witness we have Dilara Sayeed from the Illinois Muslim  
11 Civic Coalition. Dilara, go ahead.

12 MS. SAYEED: Good evening, Chairman and  
13 Chairwoman, and thank you for having us. Legislators,  
14 witnesses, friends and allies. During this hearing one  
15 thing has been very clear, this is hard, this is  
16 contentious, this is important, and it's personal. In  
17 my family, we have five generations of Illinoisans.  
18 We've buried two generations of Illinoisans in  
19 Illinois. Our family is here as healthcare providers,  
20 doctors, nurses. Our community is here as small  
21 business people, corporate lawyers, and CEOs. We're on  
22 the front lines of supporting community members, and  
23 our most vulnerable communities, we're of every race,  
24 class, community, and background, so this is personal.

25 I'm a graduate of Head Start Preschool of



1 low income -- for low income children. I also have a  
2 doctorate from Harvard University. That's the success  
3 stories of what can happen when our government, our  
4 subsidies, our support, and our communities come  
5 together. And this is what redistricting is about,  
6 that all voices are heard, all communities' needs are  
7 met, and each of us have representation. What you are  
8 hearing today is not one community's voice saying we've  
9 got to do better, not three communities' voices saying  
10 we've got to do better, look at us across these  
11 screens. You're hearing from the Latino community, the  
12 African American community, the African immigrant  
13 community, the Jewish community, the Muslim community,  
14 the Chinese community, the Asian communities; you're  
15 hearing from all of us saying, please don't approve  
16 maps. Please don't vote yes on maps where our voices  
17 and our leadership and our communities have not been  
18 heard.

19                   The Illinois Muslim Civic Coalition and  
20 40 of our partners and leaders and allies have  
21 testified at 22 of the 45 hearings you've had.  
22 Twenty-two. We've seen all of you, and you've seen all  
23 of us over and over again, asking for fairness, asking  
24 for you to hear our voice. At no time in those 22  
25 hearings, or after those hearings, or with the

1 submission of our maps, did we hear a yes we heard your  
2 voice. As the rabbi said, there was some lawmakers who  
3 have been working with us, who have been giving their  
4 best in trying to advocate for us. So now clearly you  
5 haven't heard from all of us and our voices, but even  
6 some of your own. We have documented what we need in  
7 those hearings and in this one, and we as allies and  
8 supporters have said that we are all working with each  
9 other, whether it's the rabbis from the synagogues, the  
10 priests and the pastors from the churches across the  
11 south side of Chicago, or downstate, or the imams from  
12 the mosque, whether it's somebody who never goes to a  
13 house of worship and simply is an everyday citizen  
14 making a living and building a life, we have all  
15 testified at one point or another, because I've seen us  
16 at the hearings.

17 We also have shared with you that the  
18 community is so diverse in Illinois. Illinois has the  
19 largest Polish population outside of Warsaw, Poland,  
20 the one city that's the capital. Illinois has one of  
21 the largest South Asian populations outside of India or  
22 Pakistan. Illinois has the largest Palestinian  
23 population in the nation. It has the large -- one of  
24 the largest Latino and African American populations in  
25 the nation. It has one of the largest Asian

1 populations in the nation. And I have shared this map  
2 with you before, Illinois has one -- has the largest  
3 per capita population of American Muslims. These are  
4 things that we absolutely have shared with you and we  
5 have asked you to give us a voice, and we have asked  
6 you to give us the opportunity to be here and to be a  
7 part of the representation in Illinois.

8 We have also submitted maps. Honestly we  
9 couldn't do it during the portal, it -- the map, and  
10 the Shapesfile, et cetera, didn't work out, but here  
11 are the maps we shared of the ten regions where  
12 Illinoisans are -- also identify as Muslim, also  
13 identify as many different races, in Urbana, in  
14 Springfield, in Rockford, in Southwest Cook County,  
15 where our map had us in one district, and now we are in  
16 four different districts again. In Northwest Cook, in  
17 North Cook where our map had a district, and yet we  
18 have no voice now, in Lake County, in DuPage County.

19 So once we created our own maps, we then  
20 worked with our allies, and we made a unity map, and we  
21 submitted a unity map with UCCRO, which included the  
22 voice of Latino Americans, African Americans, African  
23 immigrants, those who identify as Muslim, and many --  
24 and those who identify as Asian, East Asian, or South  
25 Asian. This map is a unity map. It meets the criteria

1 that we believe you need and yet this map is not the  
2 map that we saw adopted. All of this really concerns  
3 us. We must get it right.

4 This is it. This is the decade where we  
5 can make the difference on racial equity. We can make  
6 the difference on class and communities. We can make  
7 the difference on integrating Illinois and all of its  
8 voices. In my family, there are Irish Catholics, there  
9 are Jewish Americans married to Muslim Americans, and  
10 they're both of different racial backgrounds. There  
11 are African Americans who are dating South Asians,  
12 like, this is the vibrancy of our community in  
13 Illinois. And when you don't give us voice, when  
14 communities that are Hindu have one state legislator  
15 but have one of the largest populations in the nation,  
16 when a community that is Muslim has the largest per  
17 capita population in Illinois, and has zero  
18 representation at the state level, when communities who  
19 identify as Latino or African immigrant are  
20 underrepresented, you're pitting us against each other.  
21 And you're pitting us against you, and that's not the  
22 way it works, because I know Senator Mattie Hunter has  
23 been an advocate for different communities. Senator  
24 Laura Murphy has worked with us on key legislation.  
25 Senator Cristina Castro has one of the largest

1 communities of our population, the most diverse in her  
2 district, and Representative Theresa Mah and Jehan  
3 Gordan-Booth have been friends to us, so we know you  
4 know us.

5 We need to know that you are giving us  
6 voice. We need to know that you will make sure that we  
7 represent ourselves, and that we are represented by  
8 compassionate and empathetic legislators as well. So  
9 we don't have a choice. We got to get it right in  
10 2021. Please do not adopt and approve the maps that  
11 you have created. Please work with us. You still have  
12 time as you said. If these are drafts, see them as  
13 drafts and see us here today asking you not to use  
14 those drafts, but you use data that is vibrant and  
15 diverse.

16 Some of it will come from the ACS, some  
17 of it will come from community organizations that know  
18 where their communities live. Some of it will come  
19 from the zip codes that mosques, temples, synagogues,  
20 and churches tell you are their communities. Some of  
21 it will come from the racial leaders and the ethnic  
22 leaders you see across these screens who know where  
23 those communities live. So use all of those different  
24 data, let us know what data you need, let us know what  
25 data you're using, and let's build these maps together.

1                   Because right now these draft maps,  
2 they're not built with us. They've been built for us,  
3 and we're not okay with them. This is not the Illinois  
4 that I want to raise my children and grandchildren in.  
5 I want it to be an Illinois that has maps and  
6 districting that looks like the Illinoisans, that looks  
7 like all of us on this screen here. Beseeching you and  
8 demanding you to give us representation and to make us  
9 part of this process. Not to show up at hearing after  
10 hearing, but to actually be there to help you create  
11 maps, use all our data, use our maps that we've  
12 provided, and make those maps together with us, please.

13                   We trust so many of you, please don't let  
14 us down this year in a very critical year for the next  
15 ten years of all our lives. Please don't let us down  
16 and make maps that do not include us and do not  
17 represent us. We have an opportunity to make 2020 to  
18 2030 the model Illinois. We got through a pandemic.  
19 We were a model of how we got through the pandemic.  
20 We're a model of voter engagement and turnout. We're a  
21 model for how cities work with their legislators and  
22 communities work with our legislators. Let's be a  
23 model where the legislative body looks like the  
24 community, every part of the community, and let's be a  
25 model for redistricting that's a positive model for all

1 of the United States. Thank you so much. And we  
2 really hope these maps will be exactly what you said  
3 they are, drafts. Now let's get working on the real  
4 maps.

5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you,  
6 Ms. Sayeed. I believe there are questions, Chair  
7 Aquino, on your end?

8 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Yes, Madam Chair,  
9 actually Senator Castro would like to ask a question.  
10 Thank you. Senator Castro.

11 SENATOR CASTRO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
12 Dilara, first off, thank you for submitting the maps  
13 through UCCRO. I do have just a couple of questions.  
14 My question is: Why didn't you submit or identify your  
15 communities of interest in the UCCRO map?

16 MS. SAYEED: So thank you for asking that  
17 question. In the UCCRO map what we wanted to do is get  
18 the maps for the senate and for the house for the  
19 districts, two of our districts are in the UCCRO map,  
20 then we also submitted it -- submitted separately our  
21 eight other communities of interest, and we submitted  
22 it then because, again like we said, the portal and  
23 even with the UCCRO map, we had difficulty using the  
24 portal, so we submitted it directly to Senator Aquino  
25 -- Chairman Aquino, to Representative Hernandez, to

1 Speaker Welch, to President Harmon, and their staff  
2 directly. We also submitted it to the Senate  
3 Redistricting Committee and to the House Redistricting  
4 Committee. But we believe the communities of influence  
5 would be managed a little bit differently than the  
6 actual districts that we were representing and wanted.  
7 I hope that answers your question.

8 SENATOR CASTRO: Dilara, do you remember  
9 when you sent those in? Do you have a date of when you  
10 sent those in?

11 MS. SAYEED: Yeah, so we originally sent  
12 near the end of April what we had at the time, which  
13 was data that was about -- the Google data we had on  
14 key spaces, key places, and the eight districts. Then  
15 just last week, we actually submitted the maps. We  
16 didn't know when this process would result in maps  
17 coming out from the community -- or from -- sorry, from  
18 the legislation, and we also had not had the reach out  
19 from the legislator -- the Senate Redistricting  
20 Committee and the House Redistricting Committee after  
21 we sent our first email. So it took longer than we  
22 thought to build our maps, and we submitted them last  
23 week. And then last week actually on Friday the maps  
24 came out, so we didn't know the maps were coming out on  
25 Friday. We actually thought we would have more time.



1                   But again we're here now as the drafts  
2   are -- you know, this is a draft, and now you have all  
3   of our maps, and we will resubmit them if you want so  
4   that you all have them.

5                   SENATOR CASTRO: Yeah, I was just going  
6   to ask you, because I wanted to see what you shared  
7   today, could you -- can you submit those?

8                   MS. SAYEED: Yes. So we will submit -- I  
9   have some of your emails. We'll submit them to now the  
10   entire senate and house list that we have, but we will  
11   resubmit them again to Chairman Aquino and to Chairman  
12   Hernandez and the leadership another time, and Butler  
13   and Cunningham.

14                  SENATOR CASTRO: Thank you. I have  
15   nothing further, Madam Chair.

16                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Any further  
17   questions? Leader Butler, I should say.

18                  REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Thank you, Leader  
19   Hernandez. Dr. Sayeed, thank you so much for your  
20   testimony, and I think one of the groups -- I don't  
21   know how many hearings you attended personally. I know  
22   you have been at several of these. I know the  
23   coalition I think attended just about every hearing we  
24   have, and I think the Muslim Civic Coalition did one of  
25   the best jobs of letting this committee -- these

1 committees know exactly what they were talking about.  
2 I just want to confirm with you, because I have not  
3 seen your maps, I think when you shared them on your  
4 screen was the first time that you've seen -- that  
5 you've shown them, but you did say that you submitted  
6 them to the Democratic staff as well as the leaders  
7 offices of the House and Senate; is that correct?

8 MS. SAYEED: Yes.

9 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: And could -- I  
10 guess to Senator Castro's point, if you could share  
11 that with all of us, or maybe this staff, maybe since  
12 the majority staff received these and didn't care to  
13 share it as other things have been shared, maybe the  
14 majority staff could actually share things that have  
15 been publicly submitted, that would be great.

16 I also want to bring up just one point  
17 about the portal, because this is a question that came  
18 up time and time again, literally I think from one of  
19 the first hearings we had, about asking the majority  
20 for a tutorial on the portal, which was never given, so  
21 the public -- you see what happens when we didn't walk  
22 the public through, people aren't able to submit their  
23 maps like you asked. So, Dr. Sayeed, if you could  
24 please share that, and I would ask maybe majority staff  
25 to share it, because obviously they have it somewhere,

1 but if you could share it again with all of us we would  
2 certainly appreciate that. And I just would like to  
3 add we are, I don't know, three hours in to this  
4 committee hearing so far, I think we have six people  
5 who've testified, and five independent groups have said  
6 wait for the census data to come out, and the paid  
7 consultant has said ACS is all good, so that's where we  
8 sit at 7:00.

9 MS. SAYEED: I'd like to share two points  
10 to what you said. Absolutely we will send our maps  
11 again. You know, and I -- and Dina, who you have met  
12 at some of these hearings, I believe she did send them  
13 to everybody, but that could be our mistake and I'll  
14 just make sure everybody -- we'll make sure everybody  
15 has them of whoever's emails we have, if you have them  
16 and you got them, please share them with the others.  
17 We got to make sure these maps that community  
18 organizations are submitting, get to everybody.

19 We understand, like I -- I started off  
20 saying, this is contentious, and this is complex. The  
21 community organizations here don't want to be in the  
22 middle of partisan fight. I just want to be really  
23 honest. We just want our communities represented. We  
24 don't want to be in the partisan fight where the  
25 Republicans and Democrats are using our hearing and our

1 time to talk about what the other side is doing wrong.  
2 We'll submit our maps to all of you, we will all  
3 resubmit our information to all of you --

4 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So, Dilara, I'm  
5 going to ask you if you would be kind enough to then  
6 submit to re- -- I'm going to give you where to send  
7 it, redistricting --

8 MS. SAYEED: Yeah.

9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: --  
10 committee@hds.ilga.gov.

11 Redistrictingcommittee@hds.ilga.gov.

12 MS. SAYEED: Yep, we will.

13 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: And, you know, and  
14 this is -- this is exactly why we're having these  
15 committees, because these are the kinds of instances  
16 that we have to take in consideration, so I want to  
17 thank you for your testimony.

18 MS. SAYEED: Yep. And we appreciate it.  
19 Again giving some representation to communities that  
20 have zero, yet have been a vibrant part of Illinois,  
21 and equitable representation to those who have been  
22 underrepresented, and we're not necessarily saying if  
23 you can't wait for census, look census is ideal, we all  
24 worked on the census, but if you can't wait for census,  
25 you have to include all of our data, all of our

1 demographics in the final mapping. Ideally the census  
2 would be great.

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. Thank  
4 you.

5 MS. SAYEED: But it can't just be ACS, it  
6 has to be everything.

7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So --

8 MS. SAYEED: Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: -- I appreciate your  
10 information. So I will tell you, we do have, let's  
11 see, one two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight --  
12 eight -- wait; one, two, three -- seven, seven more  
13 people wanting to testify, so I believe it's going to  
14 be a long night, so --

15 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Madam --

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: We're going to move  
17 to the next -- oh.

18 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Madam Chair, before --

19 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes.

20 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Before we do that, I  
21 just have one request.

22 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Sure.

23 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Dr. Sayeed, good seeing  
24 you again. I just want to just clarify if we can ask  
25 in terms of the maps if you can make sure to compress

1 those files. Sometimes, you know, files especially  
2 with maps can be very large, so if you can do that when  
3 sending them over, we'd appreciate your efforts.

4 Thanks again.

5 MS. SAYEED: Certainly, sir.

6 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: I have nothing further.  
7 We can move on to the next testimony. Thank you, Madam  
8 Chair.

9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Chair  
10 Aquino.

11 So next we will move to the next witness,  
12 Jose Paredes from the Latino Policy Forum. Jose.

13 MR. PAREDES: Thank you so much. The  
14 Latino Policy Forum would like to thank  
15 Chairman Aquino, Chairwoman Hernandez, thank you so  
16 much, and to the members of the Senate and the House  
17 Redistricting Committee for taking the time to hear  
18 from the forum and other advocates in response to the  
19 recent redistricting legislative maps released on  
20 Friday. My name is Jose Marco-Paredes, and I'm the  
21 director of Civic Engagement of the Latino Policy  
22 Forum. The forum is a statewide nonprofit advocacy and  
23 policy organization. Part of the forum's work to  
24 strengthen leadership includes ensuring that there is a  
25 fair redistricting process, and that provides

1 opportunities for the Latino community to elect the  
2 candidates of their choice. This also includes  
3 ensuring that there are cohesive Latino communities of  
4 interest in the state legislators mapping process,  
5 promoting equitable Latino representation in mapmaking  
6 proceedings, and advocating for a map that is  
7 reflective of the demographics of Illinois' Latino  
8 population. The Forum would also like to thank the  
9 Senate and the House Redistricting Committees for  
10 conducting over 40 hearings the past three months to  
11 ensure communities throughout Illinois receive an  
12 opportunity to provide testimony and give input  
13 regarding what is in the best interest for our  
14 neighborhoods, communities, and regions in the state.

15           The Forum was fortunate to provide  
16 testimony on three of them. Unfortunately, when the  
17 recent legislative maps were released on Friday, no  
18 racial, ethnic, demographic composition of districts  
19 were made available. The Forum is greatly disappointed  
20 that this data was not made public. Without this  
21 information it is impossible to analyze the maps and  
22 determine if they include the considerations that we  
23 made with -- when we provided testimony in this three  
24 past hearings. This is a significant problem and a  
25 barrier for the Forum and others to provide feedback

1 and input on the maps. With zero data available, zero  
2 analysis can be conducted. So when you couple this  
3 problem with the issues that we've heard today centered  
4 around not utilizing census data to draw the  
5 legislative maps, it is very troublesome and  
6 concerning, given that there are historical census  
7 (inaudible) counts of black and Latino communities.  
8 And knowing that the census 2020 state population  
9 numbers have an estimated undercount between 42,000 and  
10 140,000, we feel that these maps fall short to reflect  
11 the true diversity of the state.

12 For all of the above, the Latino Policy  
13 Forum is in opposition of the current legislative maps.  
14 We cannot analyze them. We cannot agree with them.  
15 But lastly I'm here to ask the Senate and the House  
16 Redistricting Committee and the state legislators to  
17 please release the demographic data associated to the  
18 maps that were provided to the public last week, so we  
19 can all fully and thoroughly give feedback and --  
20 around these legislative maps, as mentioned, without  
21 this data, it is impossible to know if (inaudible)  
22 standards and laws are being upheld, if any feedback or  
23 recommendations of the community were considered, and  
24 if there is any way to improve this version of the map  
25 for the betterment of our communities.



1                   The Forum strongly appreciate your  
2 support of this community during the 2021 remapping and  
3 we look forward to your continued support. Thank you  
4 so much for your consideration. Thank you.

5                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Jose, for  
6 your testimony. I'll move to questions from members?  
7 Representative Spain.

8                   CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Madam Chair, just --  
9 Madam Chair, sorry, I just want to formally ask  
10 Vice-Chairman Sims to be in the chair for a moment.  
11 Thank you.

12                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Sure.  
13 Representative Spain, you may proceed.

14                   REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Thank you, Madam  
15 Chair. And, Jose, thank you so much for your  
16 testimony. And I want to understand your request, I  
17 think you've stated it quite simply, which is just  
18 release the data; correct?

19                   MR. PAREDES: That is correct.

20                   REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: And how much time,  
21 when the data is released, will you need to do  
22 something with it, to analyze, and create findings, and  
23 return with recommendations?

24                   MR. PAREDES: Unfortunately, I'm not able  
25 to respond to that question. We would have to chat

1 with our demographers.

2 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: And so -- and I  
3 ask the question just because the clock is ticking.

4 MR. PAREDES: Yeah.

5 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: We're here in the  
6 final week of session, and we know the urgency of your  
7 request carries great weight and great consequences,  
8 and so the request that not only you have made, but so  
9 many other witnesses, to release the data needs to  
10 happen very quickly, because I fear that this  
11 intentional effort to run out the clock will be  
12 successful. So I hope, Madam Chair, that we comply  
13 with the many requests and we release the data. Thank  
14 you.

15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you,  
16 Representative Spain. Are there any further questions  
17 from the House? Representative Tarver.

18 REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: Yes, Madam Chair.  
19 And I apologize for continuing to chime in. I just  
20 want to make sure that we have a clear record here.  
21 There has been this notion that there is an intention  
22 of running out of the clock. I believe at every turn  
23 you've said as soon as we have the ability, we will  
24 release this information. I think you've continued to  
25 say these are draft maps. I think you've continued to

1 say that we will take all of this into account, and so  
2 I just want to make sure that we have a clear record,  
3 so thank you for giving me another moment.

4 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Sure.

5 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: I have a  
6 follow-up. I want to be clear then, if these are draft  
7 maps, and we will see changes, will data be provided,  
8 Madam Chair, when the final proposed map or the next  
9 proposed map is made available?

10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I believe so. We  
11 are -- once again, we are gathering the information.  
12 As you can see there are some information that's pretty  
13 interesting that we have to take into consideration.  
14 This is the purpose of having these sessions to see  
15 what else we have to look into before there is a final  
16 map.

17 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: So we have six  
18 days left. We were told that this is a draft map, and  
19 that changes would be made. I'd like to then  
20 understand when the data would be made available so  
21 that the work can be checked by the numerous advocacy  
22 groups that have raised very serious and very fair  
23 concerns tonight. I think we're going to need more  
24 time. Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you,

1 Representative. I will move it to the senate, if there  
2 is any further questions?

3 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you, Madam Chair,  
4 no questions from the senate.

5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. We'll  
6 move on to the next witness, and that is Jorge Perez  
7 from Lake Effect Community Development. Jorge, you can  
8 proceed.

9 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Before -- before it --  
10 Jorge, before you start, Aquino back in the chair.  
11 Thank you, Madam Chair.

12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Jorge, I think  
13 you're muted. Can you unmute yourself?

14 MR. PEREZ: I'm sorry, I'll -- yes, I'm  
15 sorry, I'll start all over. I'm sorry.

16 Yes, my name is Jorge Perez, and I'm  
17 representing as a board member, Lake Effect Community  
18 Development. I want to thank you, Chair Hernandez and  
19 also Chair Aquino for this opportunity to testify. I  
20 represent an organization located on the southeast side  
21 of Chicago looking at focus on community economic  
22 development. We did testify at a couple of hearings  
23 about a month ago. But I did want to reiterate the  
24 fact that in my previous incarnation for ten years I  
25 ran a very premier, very well-known organization that

1 represented Hispanics in architecture, engineering, and  
2 construction, throughout the State of Illinois, so I do  
3 have that perspective of both, obviously the southeast  
4 side and the Hispanics that live in this area, but also  
5 the track of Hispanics and the trends of Hispanics  
6 particularly in those industries that I mentioned over  
7 the past ten years.

8 I do want to say that I strongly believe  
9 that the process that was held, was very open and very  
10 accessible. I think all of the leadership and electeds  
11 have been very accessible in terms of questions  
12 regarding this matter. I don't agree with a lot of the  
13 other representation particularly (inaudible) of policy  
14 forum, they don't necessarily represent me, they don't  
15 represent the southeast side, and, no, I don't think  
16 they represent many Hispanics who for the most part  
17 have been just trying to achieve their version of the  
18 American dream throughout Illinois.

19 I do think that the data that was put  
20 out, particularly in terms of the Hispanic community's  
21 growth, in terms of its being very reflective is  
22 consistent throughout the whole State of Illinois, and  
23 I think as a result the maps that have been drawn do  
24 reflect that.

25 So again, on behalf of Lake Effect

1 Community Development, my name is Jorge Perez, and I  
2 appreciate this opportunity to speak. Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Jorge,  
4 for your presentation, is there any questions from  
5 members of the house? Okay. There being none, I turn  
6 it over to the senate, Chair Aquino?

7 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you. Unless  
8 there are committee members there that -- I don't know  
9 if there is someone that was trying to speak right now,  
10 I apologize, but, no, we do not have any questions at  
11 this moment.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Leader Aquino and  
13 Leader Hernandez, if I can just for the record, since  
14 everyone else was on here, and I've been diligently  
15 waiting, for the record, I'm a graduate of Loyola,  
16 Chicago -- Loyola University of Chicago, MBA, 1996.  
17 Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. A question  
20 for --

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I guess -- I  
22 suppose, go Ramblers, and I will end with that.

23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. I have a --

24 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Yeah, just --

25 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Representative

1 Spain, you have a question?

2 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Yeah, thank you,  
3 Madam Chair. Go Ramblers as well. Good to know.

4 Mr. Perez, we just, we want to be able as  
5 we follow-up here and continue to work on this, to be  
6 able to learn more about your organization, the Lake  
7 Effect Community Development, I'm an economic  
8 development person as well. Do you have a website or a  
9 place that you would point us to for further  
10 information?

11 MR. PEREZ: No, not at this point,  
12 actually the original name of the organization was the  
13 Hegewisch Development Corporation, but we've rebranded  
14 it, and all of that information, websites, all of the  
15 social media presence is being redone as we speak.

16 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Representative --  
18 Leader Butler, I should say.

19 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Thank you, Leader  
20 Hernandez. And, Jorge, nice to see you again and thank  
21 you. Thank you for showing up on Easter Saturday  
22 afternoon on 95th Street at that hearing that was  
23 sparsely attended. I just had a question, you  
24 mentioned that you thought that -- I don't want to put  
25 words in your mouth, but when you saw the maps, and you

1 thought this was reflective of the data, and can you  
2 tell me what you based that off of? What data have you  
3 seen that --

4 MR. PEREZ: Sure.

5 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: -- proves that  
6 you believe they're good maps?

7 MR. PEREZ: I would say that -- the best  
8 approach that I would take is that in the ten years  
9 that I was heading up HACIA, we have been doing  
10 modeling and forecast based upon how many construction  
11 companies have been started, how many professional  
12 service firms have been started by Hispanic  
13 individuals, and those who had eventually become  
14 certified by various, you know, municipalities, or some  
15 government agency. And the reason why we -- obviously  
16 I mention construction is because of the majority of  
17 small businesses that are started by the Hispanic  
18 community, roughly about 64 to 66 percent of them, go  
19 into the construction world, and so it's everything  
20 from, you know, your contracting, your subcontracting,  
21 all of the way through engineering, and architectural  
22 services. Most of those -- most of the entrepreneurs  
23 in our community focus on construction, and so those  
24 that would pop up, based upon the last ten years, were  
25 consistent with where obviously there has been growth



1 in the Hispanic communities throughout the State of  
2 Illinois, so up in Lake County there was clearly a big  
3 boom, even obviously out in DuPage, and Kane, and  
4 obviously in the southwest side of Chicago as well,  
5 that becomes a -- the basis for what -- why I'm saying  
6 that.

7 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: So the  
8 construction data, is that what you're telling me?

9 MR. PEREZ: Constr- -- the owners of  
10 construction and construction-related businesses --

11 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Okay.

12 MR. PEREZ: -- that are Hispanic-owned  
13 for the past ten years, what that growth rate has been,  
14 where they popped up, and whether or not they're  
15 certified by a local municipality, be it Cook County,  
16 or a local government agency, CMS, for example, that's  
17 what we base- -- that's what I'm basing it off of, how  
18 I've seen that. I didn't look at it from a -- you  
19 know, any other perspective but just on those business  
20 startups and those that have remained in business over  
21 the last ten years.

22 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: So as opposed to  
23 decennial census data where any rights where people  
24 lived, this is construction business from data;  
25 correct?

1 MR. PEREZ: That is correct. And  
2 actually there is a level of analysis that we took that  
3 most of the startup firms, are startup firms that start  
4 out of their house, or start out of a mix-use building  
5 where it's a storefront, for example, an apartment on  
6 the second floor, those businesses that are small, that  
7 are new, a truck, a couple of vans, those are the  
8 individuals -- that's how everyone pretty much starts,  
9 most of those individuals in the Hispanic community  
10 operate that way, and in many cases they live where  
11 they have their offices.

12 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Thank you, Jorge.

13 MR. PEREZ: Uh-huh.

14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Leader  
15 Butler.

16 MR. PEREZ: Thank you, Leader Butler.

17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Are we -- no  
18 further questions. Okay. Well, I want to thank you,  
19 Mr. Perez, for your testimony. We'll move on to the  
20 next witness. Grace Chan McKibben from the Coalition  
21 for a Better Chinese American Community. All right.  
22 Grace?

23 MS. CHAN MCKIBBEN: Yep. Thank you.  
24 Thank you, Chair Hernandez, Chair Aquino, Vice-Chair  
25 Tarver, and Vice-Chair Sims, and the rest of the

1 committee, for this opportunity to testify before you.

2 Thank you for listening to the community voices.

3 My name is Grace Chan McKibben. I'm the  
4 executive director for Coalition for a Better Chinese  
5 American Community, CBCAC for short, which is a policy  
6 and advocacy organization based in Chicago's Chinatown,  
7 and for those in the meeting who may be wondering if is  
8 CBCAC is a legitimate community-based organization, you  
9 don't have to look up our 990s. You can just ask  
10 Representative Mah who worked for CBCAC from 2010 to  
11 2013.

12 CBCAC has led nonpartisan Civic  
13 engagement and issue-based policy initiatives in  
14 Chicago's Chinatown area since 1998, and we've worked  
15 with many of the other advocacy organizations  
16 represented here today over the years to ensure that  
17 marginalized communities, particularly the immigrants  
18 with limited English proficiency, have opportunities to  
19 access government services, to participate in voting,  
20 and to participate in census.

21 The coalition currently operates as a  
22 collective that includes 13 other organizations that  
23 serve Chinese Americans in Chinatown and the  
24 surrounding neighborhoods of Bridgeport, McKinley Park,  
25 Brighton Park, Pilsen, South Loop, and Douglas.

1                   In the current redistricting process,  
2   CBCAC is also part of the unity map project led by  
3   UCCRO, the United Congress of Community and Religious  
4   Organizations. The same map that you all just saw  
5   Dilara Sayeed present, we were part of that effort as  
6   well. And we are also an active member of the CHANGE  
7   Illinois redistricting collective that's led by Jay  
8   Young and Madeleine Doubek, so we are all friends here.

9                   CBCAC has testified at both the state  
10   senate and house redistricting committee hearings in  
11   the past three months, as those of you that were at  
12   that sparsely attended Easter Saturday morning  
13   redistricting hearing on the east side may remember, I  
14   was the one that was testifying for CBCAC that day.

15                  The legislative map that was released by  
16   the Senate and House Redistricting Committee on May  
17   21st leaves many questions unanswered. Of most concern  
18   is that the underlying demographic data were not  
19   released with the map. As others have mentioned, this  
20   leaves community-based organizations struggling right  
21   now to match published census track data with the  
22   proposed districts. So if you are a data nerd like me,  
23   you would know that census tracks don't always coincide  
24   exactly and boundaries to other areas, so where the  
25   down boundaries do not exactly coincide, we're left to

1 guesswork.

2 My organization is interested in voting  
3 rights and equity of access, and it's not possible  
4 right now to ascertain whether the interests of  
5 communities are protected as required by the Federal  
6 Voting Rights Act and the Illinois Voting Rights Act of  
7 2011, and as you all heard in previous testimonies by  
8 CBCAC, we were instrumental in getting that particular  
9 Voting Rights Act passed ten years ago.

10 Ten years ago CBCAC was also part of the  
11 UCCRO unity map project, and we were very pleased at  
12 that time that 95 percent of the Asian Americans living  
13 in the greater Chinatown area were included in one  
14 state house district, District 2.

15 Earlier this evening in Chair Aquino's  
16 opening remarks he stated that Chinatown was kept whole  
17 in one state representative district in the  
18 newly-proposed map. While the shape of the legislative  
19 district in Chinatown is indeed roughly the same shape  
20 as the current legislative district with a little piece  
21 cut out, we don't exactly know why, but we actually do  
22 not have sufficient demographic data right now for the  
23 district to confirm whether there are any changes that  
24 would impact the Chinatown community or any other  
25 communities. We were however very surprised that the

1 state house district number is now different.

2 Without more information and explanation  
3 to our community by members of the redistricting  
4 community, we simply do not know what exactly this  
5 means, that Chinatown is now in the newly -- in the new  
6 map, in State Representative District 24 instead of  
7 State Rep District 2.

8 We know that all of those people who  
9 voted for Representative Mah in 2016 to be the first  
10 Asian American general assembly member would be as  
11 surprised as we were. To be sure, because of the  
12 pandemic, and delays in census enumeration, we are in  
13 challenging times for redistricting. The Census  
14 Bureau, as earlier stated, has announced that full  
15 redistricting data would not be available until  
16 September 2021; however, many policy organizations  
17 around the country have called for delaying  
18 redistricting until the full redistricting data are  
19 available.

20 California and Oregon, as Madeleine has  
21 stated, and Jay, have already given court approve to  
22 relieve from constitutional and legislation deadlines,  
23 and other states are in the process of seeking such  
24 relief so that they can wait for full and accurate  
25 information before redrawing that legislative maps, so

1 waiting is obviously one option.

2           If we decide not to wait a few more  
3 months for census data, using American Community Survey  
4 data estimates is another option, is one of the options  
5 currently available to the legislators, as well as to  
6 community organizations. The unity map that UCCRO  
7 submitted -- so UCCRO submitted a state senate map on  
8 May 7th, and then a state house map on May 14th, with  
9 plenty of time for this committee to consider, so the  
10 map -- unity map that was submitted for consideration  
11 did use ACS data, and for the record, it's the  
12 2015-to-2019 five-year estimate, but also took into  
13 account input from African American, Latinx, Asian  
14 American, and Muslim communities. CBCAC fully supports  
15 the unity map for keeping communities together,  
16 promoting the representation of communities of color  
17 more fairly, and centering community voice in this  
18 process.

19           It was mentioned earlier in this hearing  
20 that the map released last Friday is a draft, that the  
21 two -- the senate and house maps that were released  
22 were drafts -- are drafts that are waiting for more  
23 committee input. Here you are hearing community input  
24 right now. Before this draft map is finalized, we  
25 would like to discuss further how the various

1 community-drawn maps can be taken into account in the  
2 remapping process, so you have received community-drawn  
3 maps, and maybe some members have not been able to look  
4 into those, and please do, so that you can see how you  
5 can take those into account. And we also would like to  
6 get more insights from this committee about the  
7 underlying population and demographic data, like to get  
8 the data that underlines those maps, and we believe  
9 that we need a truly transparent process that takes  
10 into account community voices and feedback in  
11 meaningful ways, not just hearing us in committee  
12 hearings and then keep doing what you were planning to  
13 do anyway.

14 As we said -- as was said before me,  
15 Illinois can be a beacon of justice and equity. Having  
16 an accountable and transparent process for  
17 redistricting that ensures that all of our voices are  
18 heard as-needed, especially now. Please listen to us  
19 today and work with us to ensure that the new map will  
20 work for us all. Thank you for your time.

21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Grace. I  
22 will move to questions. Representative Spain?

23 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Thank you, Madam  
24 Chair. And thank you Ms. Chan McKibben for your  
25 testimony. I wanted to follow-up on something that you



1 said because it -- I wanted to understand it as well  
2 from the opening remarks from the senate chairman, and  
3 the comment was that Chinatown has been made whole  
4 under the proposed draft maps, but your testimony, I  
5 just wanted to bring some clarity to it, because I  
6 think you articulated that you're still trying to  
7 verify --

8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Excuse me,  
9 Representative --

10 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: -- or ascertain  
11 that --

12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Excuse me,  
13 Representative Spain, I'm going to put Representative  
14 Tarver in the chair for a minute or two. You --  
15 please, continue.

16 REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: No worries.

17 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Thank you.

18 REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: Tarver is in the  
19 chair.

20 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Anyway, Ms. Chan  
21 McKibben, the issue was I think you were saying -- you  
22 were trying to validate that and ascertain if that's  
23 correct, did I interpret your statements correctly?

24 MS. CHAN MCKIBBEN: That is correct.

25 Because we have not had enough time since the map was

1 released, particularly that there is no underlying  
2 demographic data, so what we are trying to do is to  
3 take existing census tract data and fit it inside the  
4 shapes that were in the goal map to see if the numbers  
5 are -- how the numbers match up.

6 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Thank you. That  
7 makes perfect sense. And it -- I just want to check  
8 this, because we have questions about Chinatown. The  
9 senate chairman mentioned that Danville has been  
10 restored. I exchanged messages with the house  
11 representative of Danville. He says actually the  
12 opposite is true, that precincts have been removed from  
13 Danville that was otherwise intact and whole before the  
14 majority's proposed maps were introduced. Other  
15 communities were mentioned being restored and united  
16 together, like Carbondale and Galesburg, and that does  
17 look to be true on the map, but there are other  
18 communities like Kankakee, Peoria, Macomb, DeKalb, tiny  
19 communities like the community of Good Hope, population  
20 396 people, that have been bifurcated in the proposed  
21 draft maps. So I appreciate that we're all looking to  
22 follow-up and do some much needed fact-checking.

23 REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: I have my hand  
24 up, but I can certainly defer if there are other  
25 questions. I would say I'm not in Room 114, so Ryan if

1 someone else -- if there is someone who has a question,  
2 just -- maybe just go ahead with your questions.

3 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Thank you,  
4 Mr. Vice Chairman, I think we are good. Yeah, I think  
5 we're good.

6 REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: Okay. I see  
7 Butler. Butler, did you have a question?

8 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: No, I did not,  
9 I'm just telling you we're good.

10 REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: Okay. Thank you.  
11 I appreciate that.

12 So just briefly on my end, I wanted to  
13 take time to obviously acknowledge the constituent, so  
14 thank you, Grace, for all that you do. And I wanted to  
15 say specifically thank you for being very clear in your  
16 testimony that you engaged multiple groups in your  
17 process. I think that is something that we also  
18 appreciate. And I was at that sparsely attended event  
19 on Easter Sunday --

20 MS. CHAN MCKIBBEN: I know, you, me, and  
21 three other people.

22 REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: Yeah, so thank  
23 you for coming out for that. Thank you to Jorge Perez  
24 as well who is also a constituent.

25 MS. CHAN MCKIBBEN: Yep.

1                   REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: And then lastly,  
2 thank you, Dr. Sayeed. I really appreciate your  
3 testimony and the consistency of your group throughout  
4 these -- throughout the process. So thank you very  
5 much.

6                   And I don't have a script in front of me,  
7 so I'm not sure who the next witness is.

8                   SENATOR PLUMMER: This is Senator  
9 Plummer. I have a question for the witness.

10                  Ms. McKibben, thank you for appearing  
11 before the committee today. Just to further clarify, I  
12 heard you reference these maps, as I believe you were  
13 saying you were hoping they were draft maps so that you  
14 could have additional input on them. Could you provide  
15 the committee a little bit more information as to what  
16 data would be useful to you to make sure that the final  
17 draft maps are more helpful and so that the communities  
18 of interest can have additional input?

19                  MS. CHAN MCKIBBEN: So when the maps were  
20 released by the state legislature ten years ago, they  
21 were released with the demographic data that back up  
22 those maps, so basically each house district, each  
23 senate district, we need to see exactly how many people  
24 from each demographic; ages, races, so on, are in each  
25 of these -- those districts so that we can do our own

1 fact checking. As I said, you know, the unity map  
2 proposed by UCCRO took into account all of these  
3 different communities of interest, and we discussed all  
4 of our needs, and moved blocks around on maps in order  
5 to come to a proposed map, and this is the process that  
6 is needed, and so we would welcome the data.

7 SENATOR PLUMMER: So I heard you say this  
8 is the process that's needed, I believe, you know, the  
9 last time we went through this ten years ago, a  
10 Shapefile was released that had a tremendous amount of  
11 useful data for folks that were looking at how these  
12 maps may impact their communities of interest, you  
13 know, that may want to try to replicate maps, so on and  
14 so forth. Assuming that you were to receive similar  
15 data, assuming that that was released to you and all of  
16 the other witnesses and the -- all of the people of  
17 Illinois, how much time would you need to be able to  
18 kind of review the data, and look at the map, and come  
19 back to the committee with some productive testimony?

20 MS. CHAN MCKIBBEN: It's difficult to  
21 say, I think it's probably -- it probably would be at  
22 least a couple of weeks because it -- you know, we want  
23 to be sure that we are looking at everything carefully,  
24 so it's not a matter of hours or a day or two.

25 SENATOR PLUMMER: So, I appreciate that,

1 I guess, thank you again for appearing, Ms. McKibben.  
2 I've heard several other witnesses express similar  
3 desires and similar comments in their testimony. I  
4 guess I would go to Chair Aquino, or the house chair,  
5 whomever, hearing that so many witnesses would like  
6 this data, can we get a commitment that it will be  
7 released? And if so, is there a date it will be  
8 released so that they can plan accordingly?

9 REPRESENTATIVE TARVER: I'll say at the  
10 risk of redundancy that I think Chair Hernandez was  
11 very clear. I won't speak for you, Chair Aquino, but I  
12 think, was very clear that we hear the concerns, Chair  
13 Hernandez has made very clear that as soon as we're  
14 able to provide that information, we will do so. I  
15 think she's also made it abundantly clear, these are  
16 draft maps. The purpose of this is to hear from the  
17 community, as we're doing right now, and just so we  
18 have clear record, for the tenth time, we will send  
19 that information out as soon as we are able to make it  
20 available.

21 SENATOR PLUMMER: So you clearly made it  
22 available to some people so that these maps could be  
23 drawn; why can't it be made available to the public?

24 REPRESENTATIVE TARVER sir, again, at the  
25 risk of redundancy, I'm -- we have a clear record,

1 you've asked the question, there has been a response.  
2 I'm not a witness. I've responded to your request,  
3 Chair Hernandez has responded to this 17 times prior to  
4 now, to Spain, and Butler, and others, and Barickman  
5 have asked the same thing, so I don't know why you  
6 anticipate at 7:34 p.m. you'll get a different answer  
7 than what's been said for the last three and a half  
8 hours, but that's the answer.

9 SENATOR PLUMMER: Perhaps the number of  
10 times that the question has been asked goes against  
11 your --

12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Representative back  
13 in the chair.

14 SENATOR PLUMMER: Thank you.

15 Perhaps the number of times the question  
16 has been asked goes against your comments as to clarity  
17 and transparency. Thank you, Ms. McKibben, thank you  
18 for being here, I apologize, the committee and the  
19 folks in Springfield have not provided you or other  
20 witnesses with data to make this a useful process.

21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Any further  
22 questions? Okay. Being -- there being none, I  
23 believe -- Chairman Aquino, on your end, no questions?

24 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: We have no questions at  
25 this -- we have no further questions at this time,

1 thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: All right. Thank  
3 you. We'll move on. I'm going to ask if we'd like to  
4 take a two-minute break? I do have three more who are  
5 looking to testify. Do you want to maybe just take  
6 one-minute break to just maybe -- or do you want to  
7 keep going?

8 (Inaudible.)

9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yep. Okay. All  
10 right. Sounds good. Then we'll keep moving on.

11 Next is Valerie Leonard from UCCRO and  
12 the Illinois African Americans for Equitable  
13 Redistricting. Valerie, please proceed.

14 MS. LEONARD: Okay. I am here. Is it  
15 possible for me to share my screen? Do I have  
16 permission?

17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: You may.

18 MS. LEONARD: Thank you. All right. I'm  
19 not quite sure why I'm here, I didn't mean to share my  
20 email. Bear with me.

21 All right. I just wanted to I guess  
22 share kind of a review of where I started when I  
23 started this process. My name is Valerie Leonard. I  
24 am the founder of nonprofit Utopia, a lifelong North  
25 Lawndale resident, convener of Illinois African



1 Americans for Equitable Redistricting, and I promise  
2 you that I won't be very long, but I am extremely  
3 concerned about this draft map.

4 Here is North Lawndale, North Lawndale  
5 community, also known legally as Community Area 29, and  
6 that's what I refer to when I speak of North Lawndale.  
7 It's a community of interests as well, overwhelmingly  
8 African American, over 86 percent African American. We  
9 have been in that community over 50 years as a cohesive  
10 community, similar culture. Many of our parents are  
11 migrants from places like Mississippi and Georgia and  
12 Alabama. And we have a number of customs that, you  
13 know, we have in common, and we'd like to stay  
14 together. Here are the current boundaries for legis-  
15 -- well, Representative District 9 and 10, and together  
16 they make Senate District 5, and as you all remember I  
17 was very concerned about the loss in population.

18 And, too -- I want to say, too,  
19 historically Legislative District 9 has been African  
20 American, and any time in years past, and I'm talking  
21 about 30 years, probably 40, it's -- you know, whenever  
22 we've lost population, there has been some  
23 adjustment -- and when I say "we," I'm talking about  
24 African Americans, there has been adjustments to  
25 restore the historic majority African American

1 district, both for Legislative Districts 9 and 10 and  
2 Senate District 5. All right. So I won't go through  
3 this in detail. I think you've seen this enough, but  
4 it does demonstrate that we have lost population  
5 between 2010 and 2019.

6                   However, even in spite of the fact that  
7 we've lost population, we were able to demonstrate that  
8 it's possible to restore that district as a  
9 historically majority black district, and here is a  
10 sample of some of the historically black districts and  
11 we were able to restore them to majority black.

12                   This is -- I guess, this is a map -- the  
13 current map, I just wanted to show District 5, the  
14 current District 5. This is Senate District 5, as it  
15 relates to, you know, adjacent senate districts. This  
16 is the current. We have Senate District 1 and Senate  
17 District 11. All right. And then also Senate District  
18 12. Okay. Bear with me, I'm having problems with this  
19 thing advancing.

20                   All right. We took a look at -- I'm  
21 sorry about that, I didn't mean for that to happen. We  
22 took a look at the current proposal, and I am deeply,  
23 deeply concerned, and I'm not the only one, that the  
24 shape of District 9 has changed. It's actually been  
25 drawn to be more diverse. You know, we don't have the

1 data but anybody can tell you, you know, just by look  
2 -- if you know anything about Chicago, and the  
3 communities, and the streets, you know that this is not  
4 as black as it used to be. And in fact it was drawn to  
5 be even more diverse, which means a lower percentage of  
6 blacks. And again, we don't have the data but, you  
7 know, I know these boundaries pretty well. I am  
8 concerned that North Lawndale has been split. This  
9 looks like Cermak Road here, this area that we call the  
10 triangle historically has always, always been in the  
11 same district with us in terms of the legislative  
12 district. They make up a significant black population.

13 They're extremely engaged in civic  
14 affairs. Those are our neighbors, we pray together, we  
15 go to school together, engage in many activities  
16 together, but yet we're separated. We're separated.  
17 There is, it looks like a new District 23, and just  
18 based on what I know about the community this is going  
19 to be primarily Latino, and a new District 24, and  
20 again I'm looking at this and I'm assuming that's going  
21 to be primarily Latino, and I believe that these will  
22 be nested together in a new senate district. And it's  
23 not necessary, I think. You don't need to have this  
24 area, we need that. You know, we -- when I say "we,"  
25 I'm talking about District 9 African American

1 community, but it looks like from the way this was  
2 drawn there is I guess an attempt to connect the Berwyn  
3 community with Little Village going through North  
4 Lawndale. In years past, they were connected, but they  
5 didn't take away this area that we call the triangle.

6           And what that does is it effectively  
7 dilutes African American voting power. Why do I say  
8 that? Because, one, this goes from an area that right  
9 now it's about 46 percent black, but again it's  
10 historically black, it can be redrawn to be majority  
11 black, and we have the data to prove it. We have the  
12 map to prove it; right, but yet whoever did this map  
13 chose not to do it. I mean, you can choose 50 million  
14 different ways to a draw a map, but this one actually  
15 dilutes the voting power of blacks, especially the ones  
16 in the triangle area. They go from an area that will  
17 -- that's 46 percent black now, and historically has  
18 been anywhere from 50 to 55 percent black, to now being  
19 approximately I would say about 3 to 4 percent, and  
20 they'll never ever get to the point where they will  
21 have enough power to elect, what, an African American  
22 in that community, and that's concerning. And here is  
23 -- this is a screenshot of what we submitted and how it  
24 was rendered on the ilga.gov site, so the whole map has  
25 been split into 12 pieces, and this is the West Chicago

1 and western Cook County.

2 And at this point I just want to share  
3 what we appreciate about the redistricting process and  
4 what we don't appreciate. And I'm going to -- at this  
5 point, when I say "we," I'm not necessarily speaking  
6 for UCCRO, but I can say that I'm speaking for the  
7 Illinois African Americans for Equitable Redistricting.  
8 We don't -- or rather we do like the fact that we had  
9 the opportunity to provide public input. You didn't  
10 limit or time. You let us express yourselves, and  
11 that's wonderful. We like the fact that the Senate  
12 shared mapping proposals that you got from the public,  
13 you posted them on your website, and we're blessed to  
14 have been one of, I believe, three groups -- and when I  
15 say "we" I'm talking about UCCRO. We also appreciate  
16 the fact that you're using ACS data, because that's the  
17 most recent data, and we believe that, you know, those  
18 data are sufficient to, you know, do a redistricting  
19 process.

20 We don't believe you necessarily have to  
21 wait until you get full census data, and again I'm not  
22 speaking for UCCRO. We believe that there are  
23 professionals that understand data, they understand the  
24 various datasets, in fact, we have access to a couple  
25 within our group who can just, you know, look at this

1 stuff and tell you immediately what's off. Right? And  
2 we like the fact that you're maintaining the deadlines  
3 set by the Illinois Constitution. And we like the fact  
4 that the districts have reportedly been drawn to be  
5 fair and within the guidelines of federal and state  
6 civil rights laws, but we have no way of verifying  
7 that; right, because we don't have the data.

8 We do know that we are very painstaking  
9 in our own process to make sure that we adhere to all  
10 of the civil rights laws at the federal level as well  
11 as at the state level. We're very, very, very, very,  
12 very concerned about the lack of transparency in the  
13 way the maps were drawn. There were, obviously we've  
14 been hearing this all night, no supporting data, so  
15 that we can understand the demographic makeup of the  
16 districts. I even did a FOIA request over the weekend  
17 so that I could get those data so I could at least have  
18 some educated way to talk to you tonight about what's  
19 good and what's not so good about these maps. It just  
20 so happens I'm intimately aware of my own boundaries,  
21 but, you know, I can't look at the whole state and tell  
22 you that, what's going on. But our FOIA request was  
23 denied, and the House so far, to the best of my  
24 knowledge, has refused to share the maps that the  
25 public has shared. You know, we like the fact that the

1 Senate has shared those maps so we can look at other  
2 people's perspectives, but we don't have that same  
3 luxury on the House side. You know, I know we  
4 submitted one, and I'm sure others have submitted, but  
5 we've not been able to see their maps.

6                   And I know, you know, just from our  
7 example that, you know, North Lawndale black voting  
8 power has been diluted, particularly for those folks in  
9 the triangle. I mean it's bad enough for us who are in  
10 the major part of North Lawndale, but if you look at  
11 our district -- I'm going to go back and show you how  
12 this is drawn. I mean, it's almost like the tale of  
13 two cities, you got North Lawndale, which is one of the  
14 poorest communities in the city, and probably one of  
15 the poorest communities in the state with more than  
16 half of the people living below poverty on the west  
17 side; right, but they drew our district even further  
18 north. I mean it already went to Old Town, but now it  
19 goes up to Lincoln Park, you know.

20                   We're -- we've got the best of two  
21 worlds, like the tale of two cities, we've got the  
22 poorest folks, combined with some of the richest folks  
23 in the state, in the same district and is more diverse.  
24 The likelihood over time as things change if these  
25 boundaries are not changed, the likelihood of some poor

1 person -- poor black person from North Lawndale being  
2 able to compete with somebody with many, many more  
3 resources in other parts of the district, that's new.  
4 All right.

5                   So, again, I think what's most concerning  
6 is you guys listened to me, at least you heard -- no, I  
7 can't even say you heard me, I can't even say you  
8 listened to me, I ranted and I raved every time I came  
9 here, but, you know, this time I'm really, really  
10 personally upset, because this is my community, my  
11 community that you guys are diluting. You know, I feel  
12 like people are just looking at North Lawndale and  
13 trying to figure out what's best for them, rather than  
14 what's best for the people.

15                   I've shared with you time and time again  
16 how we're losing black population. I shared with you  
17 time and time again our desire for you to recalibrate  
18 this district so that it returns to its historic  
19 majority black status. We have shown you through the  
20 data, we have shown you through the map, that it is  
21 possible to recalibrate this to majority black  
22 district, but looking at the way this district has been  
23 drawn, without having the data, I can tell you it's  
24 even more diverse now than it -- well, it will be more  
25 diverse than it is now. All right. Meaning less



1 black, it's not going to be a majority black district  
2 if you leave those -- leave that proposal in place.

3 We're asking you to support the UCCRO  
4 map. Why? Because it optimizes opportunities for  
5 minorities to elect candidates of choice, not just  
6 black people, not just Latino people, not just Asians,  
7 not just Muslims, but everybody. This map has  
8 optimized opportunities all over the state. It's the  
9 most comprehensive proposal of any community group in  
10 the state. It's backed up with data. It was drawn  
11 within the parameters of the Voting Rights Act of 1964,  
12 and the Illinois Voting Rights Act of 2011.

13 And right now if you look at our current  
14 district, our current map has eight black senate  
15 districts that are over 50 percent. The proposed state  
16 map has six black districts. There are five Latino  
17 districts and goes up to six. There is one Asian  
18 senate district. And six Asian districts. And these  
19 are influence districts over 15 percent. 16 black  
20 house districts. 13 -- and 16 house black districts  
21 currently, 16 black majority. And then 13 black  
22 majority districts over 50 percent. And then 11 Latino  
23 House Districts over 55 percent, compared to 13 Latino  
24 House Districts over 55 percent, and 13 Asian. So you  
25 can see that there is significant dilution of black

1 power going from the current map to what is proposed  
2 based on what we've been able to reverse engineer. All  
3 right?

4 So are there any questions? I'm going to  
5 stop right there, but needless to say, you might get  
6 the sense that I really don't like this map. I prefer  
7 that you use the UCCRO map as the basis. You know,  
8 it's based -- it's grounded in data, it's grounded in  
9 the Civil Rights Act, and it's verifiable. All right?  
10 I'm done.

11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Valerie,  
12 for that presentation, lengthy presentation, detailed  
13 presentation. I do see that there are hands for  
14 questions. Let me see, where do we start?  
15 Representative Butler. Or Leader Butler.

16 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Senator  
17 (inaudible.)

18 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Senator Plummer.

19 SENATOR PLUMMER: Yes, thank you, Madam  
20 Chair. And to the witness thank you for your very  
21 thorough testimony.

22 If you want to share your screen again, I  
23 would appreciate it, maybe the second or third to last  
24 slide you presented had a graph that compared I believe  
25 the existing map to the maps we saw come out late

1 Friday night broke down. Here we go. Yeah, I'll wait  
2 until you get there, towards the end of the  
3 presentation.

4 MS. LEONARD: Okay. Bear with me.

5 SENATOR PLUMMER: No problem.

6 MS. LEONARD: Okay. That's the current.

7 SENATOR PLUMMER: Yeah, let's go a couple  
8 more.

9 MS. LEONARD: This one?

10 SENATOR PLUMMER: A couple more. It --  
11 the slide by -- the side-by-side where it had the --

12 MS. LEONARD: With the data?

13 SENATOR PLUMMER: Yes. Here we go, right  
14 there.

15 MS. LEONARD: That one?

16 SENATOR PLUMMER: This one. Yes. Yes.  
17 Where did you get the information to generate the  
18 claims under the column that says "The proposed state  
19 map has"?

20 MS. LEONARD: Uh-huh. I have access to  
21 people who can reverse engineer stuff. You know, one  
22 of the people on our team has worked with the  
23 University of Illinois, and was a data person for the  
24 University of Illinois, very well versed in GIS, very  
25 well versed in census data, and all of that good stuff.

1 He took a look at the maps, and these are just  
2 estimates, you know, you never really know what's going  
3 on until you get the actual data, but there are people  
4 who know how to reverse engineer.

5 SENATOR PLUMMER: So -- and thank you for  
6 that. So this expert that you were utilizing, what  
7 data did he use to come up with this information?

8 MS. LEONARD: ACS. Did you hear me?  
9 ACS.

10 SENATOR PLUMMER: Yes, yes, I heard you.

11 MS. LEONARD: Okay.

12 SENATOR PLUMMER: As has been discussed a  
13 few times tonight, and as well as at some of the other  
14 hearings, there is obviously various types of ACS data.  
15 Do you know specifically what type of ACS data your  
16 expert used to generate this information?

17 MS. LEONARD: You know what, I don't.  
18 You know, I'm not the data geek, I just listen to  
19 conversations. I ask general questions. He's the one  
20 who gets in the weeds, you know, he has access to many,  
21 many datasets and other things --

22 SENATOR PLUMMER: Sure.

23 MS. LEONARD: -- and how to manipulate  
24 them.

25 SENATOR PLUMMER: So I just heard you say

1 he has access to many, many datasets. So did he use  
2 any datasets in addition to the ACS dataset to generate  
3 this information?

4 MS. LEONARD: To the best of my  
5 knowledge, no.

6 SENATOR PLUMMER: Okay. Would your  
7 expert be willing to communicate with us so that we can  
8 learn more about how he generated this information?

9 MS. LEONARD: I can ask him. I think he  
10 would be really -- he would be a really good person to  
11 also look at the bias in maps. You know, and when I  
12 say bias, I'm talking about the political bias and how  
13 it's really in our best interest to make sure that we  
14 have the most diverse maps. And when you have a -- and  
15 when I say diverse, I'm talking about ethnically and  
16 racially diverse maps, when you have opportunities for  
17 everybody, that tends to take away the political bias,  
18 either Democrat or Republican, and you (inaudible) data  
19 that actually proves that (inaudible).

20 SENATOR PLUMMER: It would be wonderful  
21 to remove the politics from the process. I couldn't  
22 agree more. Do you mind sharing the name of this  
23 expert? I know that we would love to be able to  
24 communicate with him.

25 MS. LEONARD: I need to ask him if it's

1 okay to give his name, you know, I don't just put  
2 people on blast like that.

3 SENATOR PLUMMER: Sure. Sure.

4 MS. LEONARD: Okay.

5 SENATOR PLUMMER: Well, I definitely --  
6 it definitely wouldn't be our side that's blasting  
7 anyone tonight. I sure do appreciate your testimony.  
8 The information that your expert could provide us would  
9 be wonderful. We'd love to have it. We'd love to  
10 communicate with him, and I appreciate your time.

11 MS. LEONARD: Okay. Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Do we have further  
13 questions? Leader Bourne.

14 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: Thank you, Madam  
15 Chair. Thank you, Ms. Leonard, for joining us again,  
16 good to see you. You mentioned -- it was exactly the  
17 exact slide that Senator Plummer asked about, so I'd  
18 like to ask a question of the chairwoman to see, are  
19 the numbers reflected in her data the same numbers that  
20 you have for majority-minority districts?

21 MS. LEONARD: Let me share that. Oh,  
22 bear with me, slide --

23 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: Yeah, we can see  
24 it, that's perfect.

25 MS. LEONARD: Okay. You don't need to

1 see it as a slide -- okay.

2 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: But, Madam Chair,  
3 are these the numbers consistent with the numbers that  
4 you have for the majority-minority districts?

5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Leader Bourne, I  
6 don't have those numbers.

7 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: Okay. Thank you.  
8 Ms. Leonard also mentioned political bias, and I was  
9 looking at that North Lawndale district that she had  
10 showed on her screen --

11 MS. LEONARD: You need me to show that  
12 again?

13 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: Sure. And I  
14 overlaid it with an incumbent map. So my question to  
15 you, Madam Chairwoman, is: Are these maps drawn  
16 intentionally to disproportionately favor Democrats or  
17 democratic incumbents? Because it seems to be that her  
18 testimony is that she doesn't see that as a community  
19 of interest, but it does seem to scoop up a democratic  
20 incumbent, so my question is around the intention of  
21 the maps being drawn that way.

22 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Once again I don't  
23 have that information. I'm looking for us to compile.  
24 Once we compile and go through, we will come up with a  
25 map, along with data, that would answer a lot of these

1 questions.

2 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: Okay. Thank you.  
3 But I just want to -- I mean, it was drawn for some  
4 reason, so I just am wondering -- we have had a lot of  
5 testimony tonight asking very pointed questions, not  
6 just from lawmakers, but from these groups and from  
7 community organizations who are giving you their input  
8 and asking, I think, specific questions so they can  
9 analyze the maps, so I think that's a pretty easy "yes"  
10 or "no" question. And I just can't help but think that  
11 -- we had one person testify that they left many of the  
12 previous hearings with more questions than answers, and  
13 I think that will be true tonight, and that's very  
14 disappointing, because if we are going to leave with  
15 more questions than answers, and never get the answers,  
16 and then you're going to push through a map without  
17 giving us answers, that's the opposite of I think what  
18 your stated intention is for these hearings.

19 MS. LEONARD: A question for you, who was  
20 it who wanted to be introduced to my contact? Is that  
21 Representative Butler?

22 REPRESENTATIVE PLUMMER: That was me --  
23 that was me, Senator Plummer.

24 MS. LEONARD: Senator -- okay.

25 SENATOR PLUMMER: Yep.



1 MS. LEONARD: Okay. I'll call your  
2 office tomorrow.

3 SENATOR PLUMMER: That's great. My  
4 information can be found at senatorjasonplummer.com.

5 MS. LEONARD: Okay.

6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you,  
7 Ms. Leonard. I'm going to ask if the senate -- on the  
8 senate if there are any further questions? Senator  
9 Plummer?

10 SENATOR PLUMMER: Yes, thank you, Madam  
11 Chair. Following up on Leader Bourne's question, I  
12 heard your answer. I guess my question would be on the  
13 senate side, clearly, you know, these maps just kind of  
14 appeared out of nowhere. Nobody can answer how or why  
15 or who or what, so I thought maybe we would try on the  
16 senate side just to learn more about these, because I  
17 think Ms. Leonard's presentation has been very  
18 interesting and has raised a lot of questions, looking  
19 at the district that Leader Bourne highlighted --

20 MS. LEONARD: Do you want me to bring it  
21 back up?

22 SENATOR PLUMMER: If you don't mind, that  
23 would be wonderful, yes.

24 MS. LEONARD: Just a moment.

25 SENATOR PLUMMER: Thank you.

1 MS. LEONARD: Okay.

2 SENATOR PLUMMER: So looking at this,  
3 Chairman Aquino, I mean, did -- were these maps drawn  
4 to disproportionately favor Democrats or at least  
5 Democrat incumbents? I mean, is that why these  
6 districts look like this and have been changed like  
7 this?

8 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Senator Plummer, I'm  
9 going to defer to my colleague, Leader Hunter, who  
10 wants to respond.

11 SENATOR PLUMMER: Okay.

12 SENATOR HUNTER: Hi, Valerie, how are  
13 you?

14 MS. LEONARD: I'm good. And you? I --  
15 is that Senator Hunter? I can't --

16 SENATOR HUNTER: It's I. Yes, it is me.  
17 It is me.

18 MS. LEONARD: I recognize your voice.

19 SENATOR HUNTER: Okay. Thank you so much  
20 for hanging in there with us. You've been very  
21 diligent and consistent in attending all of the  
22 hearings and presenting your data, so we really  
23 appreciate you.

24 But let me ask you a question. The map  
25 that you've drawn, isn't it quite similar to what

1 Van Pelt's district exists now? What is the  
2 difference? Isn't it about the same?

3 MS. LEONARD: What's the difference?

4 It's very similar, but it goes further north, up into  
5 Lincoln Park, so we're going further north here, and I  
6 believe the current district stops somewhere down here,  
7 and it takes off the black population here. So --

8 (Inaudible.)

9 MS. LEONARD: So those are the main  
10 differences I can see without, you know, overlaying one  
11 over the other.

12 SENATOR HUNTER: Yeah. Yeah, because I  
13 notice that -- you know, I know -- I'm very familiar  
14 with the boundaries that you've drawn, and I'm also  
15 very familiar with Senator Van Pelt's district, and I  
16 kept watching the boundaries, and they really look  
17 quite similar actually.

18 MS. LEONARD: Yeah, they do.

19 SENATOR HUNTER: Yeah, so --

20 MS. LEONARD: But it's just amaze- -- I'm  
21 sorry. I'm sorry. But it's amazing what a difference  
22 a few precincts make.

23 SENATOR HUNTER: Oh, it does.

24 MS. LEONARD: Yeah. And what makes --  
25 what concerns me most is this area here of North

1 Lawndale being cut off, this area --

2 SENATOR HUNTER: And what area -- what --

3 MS. LEONARD: This triangle here -- okay.

4 You see this diagonal line here? This is Ogden, this  
5 is city limits, and this is Cermak, just --

6 SENATOR HUNTER: Cermak, okay.

7 MS. LEONARD: Cermak Road.

8 SENATOR HUNTER: All right. Well --

9 MS. LEONARD: (Inaudible.)

10 SENATOR HUNTER: -- you know what, thank  
11 you. Okay. Well, I tell you what, thank you so much  
12 for your concerns, and we will definitely take it into  
13 -- we'll take the concerns back.

14 MS. LEONARD: All right. Thank you.

15 SENATOR HUNTER: Okay. Thank you, I  
16 really appreciate you, Valerie.

17 SENATOR PLUMMER: Leader Hunter, this is  
18 Senator Plummer. I think Chairman Aquino said that you  
19 would answer my question, so -- and I think you guys  
20 just hit on this a little bit more talking about how  
21 some of these seem to look like they were drawn to  
22 favor Democratic incumbents, so I guess the question  
23 that I had --

24 SENATOR HUNTER: No, I never -- I never  
25 -- I never stated that at all, Senator Plummer --

1 SENATOR PLUMMER: Right.

2 SENATOR HUNTER: -- where did you get  
3 that from?

4 SENATOR PLUMMER: Just the description of  
5 the districts and how they seem to --

6 SENATOR HUNTER: Only because -- only  
7 because I know the west side, and I know the City of  
8 Chicago, and that is exactly what I was referring to.

9 SENATOR PLUMMER: Right. So I guess --

10 SENATOR HUNTER: I never mentioned  
11 anything about any Democrats, or political affiliation,  
12 or anything like that, Senator Plummer.

13 SENATOR PLUMMER: Well, yeah, you  
14 mentioned Senator Van Pelt, and other folks who happen  
15 to be Democrats, so I just made the assumption, my  
16 apologies.

17 So my question then -- my question then  
18 Leader --

19 SENATOR HUNTER: It's just like we're all  
20 black, too; right?

21 SENATOR PLUMMER: So my question --

22 MS. LEONARD: This is the stuff that  
23 happens at 8:00.

24 SENATOR PLUMMER: So my question, Leader  
25 Hunter, is: Was this map drawn, to your knowledge, in

1 a way to disproportionately favor Democrats or democrat  
2 incumbents?

3 SENATOR HUNTER: Not to my knowledge, no,  
4 not at all, Senator Plummer.

5 SENATOR PLUMMER: Okay. Thank you.  
6 Thank you, Leader Hunter.

7 SENATOR HUNTER: It looks like the  
8 current district to me, that's why --

9 MS. LEONARD: Yeah.

10 SENATOR HUNTER: That's exactly why I  
11 made a comment, Valerie.

12 MS. LEONARD: Yeah, I can see why. You  
13 know, when I saw it at first, you know, before the --  
14 you know, before we got the street underlay, I was  
15 like, oh, they kept us intact for the most part; right,  
16 but, you know, there -- the devil is in the details, I  
17 started looking at the streets and we're further north.

18 SENATOR HUNTER: And I did the same, I  
19 looked at the streets and it looked quite similar to  
20 me, that's why I was -- I had to make a comment.

21 MS. LEONARD: Yes.

22 SENATOR HUNTER: That's all. That's all.

23 MS. LEONARD: But I don't think you have  
24 -- I think the current one might stop around here. You  
25 don't have that long tail.

1 SENATOR HUNTER: Yeah. Okay.

2 MS. LEONARD: So it's more diverse. It's  
3 even more diverse than it is post losing population.

4 SENATOR HUNTER: Okay. Thank you very  
5 much. Okay.

6 MS. LEONARD: All right. Any more  
7 questions?

8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Chair Aquino, is  
9 that all we have on your end?

10 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: That's all from us,  
11 thank you. And, thank you, Ms. Leonard again for your  
12 testimony and your continuous advocacy here. I would  
13 say that this is the purpose of the hearing is to get  
14 that sort of finite, either from -- from folks that are  
15 rooted in their community that know the area well and  
16 so it's -- we will certainly take back that note of  
17 that triangle area of your concern, so thank you so  
18 much for your testimony this evening.

19 MS. LEONARD: Yes. And I want to make it  
20 clear, I don't think anybody was being diabolical, but,  
21 you know, like I said, the devil is in the detail.

22 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Madam Chair, we have no  
23 further questions at this time, we can move on to the  
24 next witness.

25 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. Thank

1 you, Chair Aquino. So thank you again -- once again,  
2 Ms. Leonard, we're going to go to our next, and we have  
3 Robin Hood who is with UCCRO. Robin, are you there?

4 REVEREND HOOD: Yes, I am. Can you hear  
5 me?

6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Please proceed.  
7 Yes.

8 REVEREND HOOD: Okay. My name is  
9 Reverend Robin Hood. First of all I want to thank you  
10 all for allowing us to be part of this conversation,  
11 because the map put us all in a state of shock, so I  
12 want to thank you all for inviting us.

13 My name is Reverend Robin Hood, and I'm  
14 the pastor of Redeemed Outreach Ministries on the west  
15 side, but I am also an organizer with United Congress  
16 of Community and Religious Organizations which has been  
17 mentioned quite a few times by some of my colleagues.  
18 The United Congress of Community and Religious  
19 Organization is a grassroots led multi-ethnic and  
20 multi-faith human rights alliance mobilizing people,  
21 policy, and ideas, to drive societal transformation and  
22 forge unity for equitable advancement of marginalized  
23 community. That's why many of our friends, as part of  
24 this map, works with us. The thing that stumped me the  
25 most is not having enough information where we can



1 adequately service our people and show them how this  
2 map is a great for them or could be harmful to many.

3           So I kind of want to say a little bit  
4 about what this map does for us. We can't evaluate  
5 what we can't see, so it's hard to judge this map  
6 because it doesn't have enough information. And just  
7 like my colleague, Valerie Leonard, said to request a  
8 FOIA and not get it was kind of confusing, because the  
9 basis of our map, which we know is a unity map, we  
10 submitted our map in hopes that our map would have  
11 consideration because we're not only in Chicago, we're  
12 all over the State of Illinois, and we're not only  
13 African American, Latino, and Asian, but we're also  
14 Christians, Muslim, and Catholics also. So we want to  
15 be able to evaluate this map so that we can at least  
16 give our communities the information so they'll know  
17 what this map will represent.

18           So we're standing firm together with the  
19 other 25 groups that have joined us for the unity map.  
20 We sent the unity map, and we heard from many  
21 testimonies. Just like Valerie Leonard, I'm, too, down  
22 from North Lawndale, and the area that was talked about  
23 much between Cermak and Ogden, we will be losing a  
24 little -- you know, quite a few people because of that  
25 map. But however, if the map is done with fairness and

1 true intent -- and believe me, just to help the other  
2 senators that's concerned whether it was a Democrat or  
3 a Republican graph, that -- it's not going to change  
4 nothing when you talk about voting, but what it will  
5 change is the resources for those people that are in  
6 the marginalized communities that are served. Thank  
7 you.

8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Hood.  
9 I will move to questions now. Is there any questions  
10 from members of the House? Seeing none. Chair Aquino,  
11 any questions on your end?

12 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: We have no questions at  
13 this time, but we thank Reverend Hood for his  
14 testimony.

15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. We will  
16 go to our next witness and that's Ami Gandhi from the  
17 Chicago Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights.  
18 Ms. Gandhi.

19 MS. GANDHI: Thank you. Thanks for the  
20 opportunity to share testimony. It's been a long  
21 evening I know for all of us. My name is Ami Gandhi,  
22 and I'm a senior counsel at Chicago Lawyers Committee  
23 for Civil Rights, a nonprofit/nonpartisan organization  
24 that's been working for the last 50 years to advance  
25 racial equity and economic opportunity for all.

1                   Our organization has a long history of  
2 representing black community organizations in  
3 redistricting litigation under the Federal Voting  
4 Rights Act and under the Constitution. We regularly  
5 partner with National Lawyers Committee for Civil  
6 Rights under law on civil rights cases. Even aside  
7 from litigation, we're proud to work with black voters,  
8 and other voters of color, every day in working  
9 collaboratively together with our government leaders to  
10 try to strengthen voting rights and our ability to  
11 elect the candidates of our choice. Despite numerous  
12 barriers to access to this redistricting process this  
13 time around, community members have been eager to give  
14 input during this cycle and have expressed -- we've  
15 heard here tonight that this input is not being  
16 meaningfully considered by lawmakers. As a voting  
17 rights attorney, I am deeply concerned with -- about  
18 the flaws with the 2021 redistricting process. We  
19 heard a lot in the earlier part of the hearing about  
20 the expert's credentials. I have a lot of credentials,  
21 MALDEF attorneys have a lot of credentials, as do the  
22 other nonpartisan civic organizations who are  
23 represented here tonight. And with regard to that  
24 expert's remarks we heard earlier, all of the  
25 credentials of the map proponents expert do not make up

1 for a fundamentally flawed argument. Saying that  
2 racially polarized voting is a vestige of the past is  
3 not only unconvincing, it's dangerous. Unfortunately  
4 we're not past racism. All of us who work with voters  
5 of color in Illinois, we know that. And we're not past  
6 needing legal protections for voters of color.

7           And I'm shocked and very concerned to be  
8 hearing such a statement in Illinois in the year 2021.  
9 Civil rights laws protecting voters of color are a  
10 deeply important part of our history and remain an  
11 important part of addressing systemic racism to this  
12 day. Federal civil rights protections were  
13 historically enacted to stop the suppression of black  
14 voters, and they're necessary tools to address  
15 disenfranchisement of Latino, Asian, and other  
16 communities of color as well. There are serious  
17 unresolved questions and concerns about what data was  
18 used in the proposed maps, how data was used, the  
19 reliability of that data, and what estimation  
20 techniques were used. This means that civil rights  
21 attorneys cannot confirm yet that there is compliance  
22 with the Federal Voting Rights Act.

23           I thought 2011 redistricting was  
24 challenging when we advocates had a unity map effort  
25 back then through the leadership of United Congress,

1 and struggled to be heard, but this is worse. We have  
2 not -- we as members of the public, and as advocates,  
3 have not even been provided a simple spreadsheet or  
4 chart, like the Illinois Senate and House published in  
5 2011, saying basically this is what the racial  
6 demographics are of the districts that have been  
7 proposed, so that we can have some substantive  
8 conversations, so that we can see how communities of  
9 color are protected, or were supposedly protected, by  
10 the proposed lines.

11 So again, we don't know if communities of  
12 color will be able to elect the candidates of their  
13 choice in accordance with the law. We don't know if  
14 specific input about places like North Lawndale that  
15 we've heard about, Chinatown, Little Village, the  
16 southwest suburbs, southwest suburban Cook County, for  
17 example, we don't know if that input, that specific  
18 input, has been incorporated into the maps. So we  
19 don't know if communities of color will be able to  
20 elect the candidates of their choice in accordance with  
21 the law. If we don't have information about  
22 majority-minority districts, we don't know if  
23 communities of color will be able to elect the  
24 candidates of their choice in accordance with the law.

25 I know I sound like a bit of a broken

1 record, but I also know that Illinois is definitely  
2 capable of doing better to protect the voting rights of  
3 people of color. And Illinois absolutely should do  
4 better. Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you,  
6 Ms. Gandhi. I'm going to go to questions. Any  
7 questions from members of the house? Representative  
8 Spain?

9 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Thank you, Madam  
10 Chairwoman. And Ms. Gandhi, thank you for your  
11 testimony. I have been looking forward to hearing you and  
12 never knowing the order that we'll proceed through  
13 witnesses, I'm glad that you stuck with us. We  
14 certainly hear your frustration and your request for  
15 further information and I hope that we'll get it.

16 A question that we've asked a lot of  
17 witnesses, assume tomorrow morning you receive all of  
18 the data that you need, how much time do you need to  
19 make meaningful use of it?

20 MS. GANDHI: I would have to check with  
21 folks who have expertise on our end, which is including  
22 people beyond my level of expertise, for the  
23 demographic analysis and other pieces of this that are  
24 essential, so I don't have a concrete answer for you  
25 right now, but as Grace Chan McKibben said earlier

1 today, we're talking about weeks, we're not talking  
2 about hours, we're not talking about days, in terms of  
3 what's just humanly possible for Civil Rights Experts  
4 and others who are interested to be able to make some  
5 meaningful sense out of such data.

6 And it's important that that data be  
7 shared in a way that's accessible, if we weren't -- if  
8 we have any chance at engaging people in it, or any  
9 chance at reassuring people's concerns. If there is  
10 some reality out there that actually voters of color  
11 are protected through the proposed map, then please  
12 share it with us. And putting that kind of information  
13 in a text-heavy resolution is not going to be  
14 accessible to most people who are looking to use the  
15 information to better understand the proposal.

16 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: I agree, that's  
17 one of my big fears in the process is the next steps.  
18 We've members of the majority party and the  
19 redistricting committee say that this is only a draft  
20 and that more information will be provided, if that  
21 information comes in the form of hundreds of pages of  
22 legislative texts dropped at the very end of a  
23 legislative session, I worry that any of us will be  
24 able to make meaningful use of it.

25 So I know that you would have an interest

1 in data that would reflect the number of majority  
2 African American, majority Latinx, majority Asian house  
3 districts, I assume, is there -- we want to be helpful  
4 advocates, I hope, to try and get the data that's  
5 needed. Are there other specific types of data that we  
6 need to be looking at? We had a discussion earlier  
7 this evening about voting -- voters and voting-age  
8 population, but I'm just curious what other data needs  
9 to be provided that we would request to be included  
10 when we -- when and if we receive it?

11 MS. GANDHI: Yeah, one of my impressions  
12 of this concerning hearing this evening is having a lot  
13 of awe and respect for people who know their  
14 communities the best. We've heard from one voice after  
15 another, from advocates who have been studying their  
16 communities, who know their neighbors, and who have  
17 made specific requests for data for quite some time  
18 now, so I really leave it to them. They've very  
19 effectively outlined what data they're seeking. We  
20 share the interest in that data as nonpartisan civil  
21 rights advocates. As Dr. Dilara shared earlier, we're  
22 also not here to be used by one party or another.  
23 We're here to stand up for the rights of voters.

24 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Thank you, I  
25 appreciate that and greatly appreciate your testimony



1 tonight. I think what we're hoping to see is -- and  
2 it's been said many times by the majority tonight, that  
3 this is simply a draft, and that we are earnestly  
4 receiving feedback tonight that will be incorporated.  
5 We all thought that the nearly 40 hearings we  
6 participated in earlier were to accomplish that same  
7 objective, and so now we're hearing that we have a  
8 draft, and that further input is being received  
9 earnestly tonight, and that that is the logical next  
10 step in this process.

11 But I would just suggest, and as we've  
12 heard from so many advocates, we need the data to be  
13 able to look at this draft and make observations and  
14 divine outcomes from it, and so it's not fair enough,  
15 Madam Chair, to just say, we have a draft, we're taking  
16 your input, and then we'll proceed with the next step.  
17 We really need to provide the data that goes with this  
18 draft so that witnesses can weigh in with their  
19 findings, and then we could make further adjustments  
20 and provide additional data based on those adjustments.  
21 Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you,  
23 Representative. Are there any further questions from  
24 members of the House? There being none, I defer to the  
25 Senate. Chair Aquino?

1                   CHAIRMAN AQUINO: We have no questions at  
2 this time. Thank you, Madam Chair.

3                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. We're up to  
4 our last. I will say that we did have Mr. Richard  
5 Greenfield and Mr. Anthony Perino and Mr. Rod Wilson,  
6 but they all are no longer in -- available. So next we  
7 have Mr. Eddie Guillen. Eddie are you -- is he there?  
8 Okay. Mr. Guillen, you can proceed.

9                   MR. GUILLEN: Good evening. Thank you so  
10 much, Madam Chair Hernandez, and, Chair Aquino, and  
11 everybody part of the committee, I know it's been a  
12 long night, but again, thank you so much for hearing  
13 everybody, and all of the advocates and organizations  
14 that are trying to make a difference and impact.

15                   So a little about me, my name is Eddie  
16 Guillen. I've been a lifelong southwest -- part of the  
17 community of West Lawn, been there for 14 years, before  
18 that it was Bryant Park. But through my work with  
19 Envision Community Services, with other nonprofits that  
20 work closely with the community, there is so many local  
21 needs that definitely need to be addressed. I'm also a  
22 local business owner in the community of West Lawn, and  
23 so I also believe that the current district on  
24 Chicago's southwest side reflects how Midway Airport as  
25 a hub for our region. For example, the neighborhoods

1 of West Lawn, Clearing, West Elsdon, Garfield Ridge,  
2 Gage Park, and Archer Park, are spokes of this hub.  
3 These neighborhoods are likely linked by their  
4 proximity to Midway, which has a major impact shaping  
5 the local economy, development, housing,  
6 transportation, and more. Homeowners in the Midway  
7 community share common interests, one of them which is  
8 soundproofing. These common interests and concerns are  
9 best addressed when representation of these communities  
10 is considered as much as possible. So again, the  
11 current districts also empowers that these diverse  
12 communities happened to have led to candidates of their  
13 choosing and we hope that this will continue to be a  
14 case under the new boundaries.

15 The hub of Midway Airport and the  
16 diversity of these neighborhoods which links to them as  
17 a community of interest, something that is well  
18 reflected by current districts. We ask that you  
19 continue to empower these neighborhoods, to have our  
20 voices heard, and elect candidates of our choosing.  
21 Again, thank you so much everybody for tuning in this  
22 evening. I really appreciate you hearing my concerns  
23 and voice. Hopefully we'll get through this together.  
24 Thank you so much for your time.

25 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you,

1 Mr. Guillen. Any questions from members of the House?  
2 With no questions, I defer to the Senate. Chair  
3 Aquino?

4 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: We have no questions at  
5 this time. We just want to thank Mr. Guillen and all  
6 of those that testified this evening. We have no  
7 questions at this time.

8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you.  
9 So that is the end of the list of witnesses. I want to  
10 once again thank everyone, all of the folks that  
11 testified today, very interesting information, some  
12 that is really -- I feel strongly that we're going to  
13 be looking at very closely. And so that will conclude  
14 our -- so that will conclude --

15 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Madam Chair, if you --

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: -- our committee  
17 today. And if you -- have any last words,  
18 Chairman Aquino?

19 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: No, with no further  
20 business coming before the Senate Redistricting  
21 Committee, the Senate Redistricting Committee has  
22 adjourned. Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. So on our  
24 end, we're probably going to take a five, ten-minute  
25 recess and we'll come back to continue with another

1 committee session.

2 (End of audio recording of Joint  
3 Committee Redistricting, 5-25-21.)

4 (Beginning of audio recording of  
5 Redistricting, Subject Matter: Illinois Communities &  
6 Proposed Boundaries, 5-25-21.)

7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: So the House  
8 Redistricting Committee will reconvene.

9 I do have a letter from Leader Durkin  
10 replacing permanent member Representative Severin with  
11 temporary member Leader Demmer.

12 Being that there is no witnesses -- oh,  
13 I'm sorry, Leader Demmer, you have some words? A  
14 statement of words to say?

15 REPRESENTATIVE DEMMER: Yeah, thank you,  
16 Madam Chair, and thank you to the Joint Committee over  
17 the last couple of hours and the testimony that we  
18 heard. I notice that tonight it's, you know, past  
19 8:45, almost 9:00 on a Tuesday evening. We have no  
20 members of the public. We have no witnesses to hear  
21 from in this house hearing. I certainly hope we'll  
22 have an opportunity as a House Redistricting Committee  
23 to hear from members of the public in the future.  
24 Tonight we do not have that opportunity. But over the  
25 last couple of hours, I listened as the Joint Committee

1 heard witness after witness after witness make certain  
2 requests, and I thought it was appropriate that as a  
3 House Redistricting Committee this evening, we get a  
4 little bit further clarification on those requests, and  
5 what we might expect from those. So nearly every  
6 witness suggested that using American Community Survey  
7 data was not an appropriate dataset to draw district  
8 maps with, and I believe, Madam Chair, that you've  
9 indicated, the House Democratic caucuses, indicated  
10 that you have drawn these legislative maps using ACS  
11 data; is that correct?

12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: It's one of the  
13 sources that we're using, yes.

14 REPRESENTATIVE DEMMER: Could you  
15 identify the other sources that are being used?

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: All I can tell you  
17 is ACS was one of the sources and what the community --  
18 and the interest groups have been contributing other  
19 information, that was all taken into consideration.

20 REPRESENTATIVE DEMMER: So community  
21 input is different than a data source. Could you  
22 identify other data sources that have been used other  
23 than the American Community Survey?

24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: No, I don't have  
25 that with me.

1                   REPRESENTATIVE DEMMER: Have you used,  
2 for example, voter registration data?

3                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Leader Demmer, I  
4 don't have that information with me.

5                   REPRESENTATIVE DEMMER: Who might have  
6 that information?

7                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I would suggest that  
8 the purpose behind these hearings is to obviously  
9 listen to further testimony and to see what further  
10 information we should be looking at and consider, as we  
11 can see there is information -- very interesting  
12 information that we do have to look through. With  
13 that, that will help us get to the point of coming back  
14 with a final map hopefully and along with the data that  
15 was used, that information.

16                  REPRESENTATIVE DEMMER: But what makes  
17 this hearing unique is that unlike the previous  
18 hearings that have been held in which a -- general  
19 feedback has been solicited, these hearings are  
20 designed to solicit feedback on a specific map proposal  
21 that has been offered by the House Democratic Caucus.  
22 So I'm asking in creating that specific map proposal,  
23 distinct from the earlier hearings gathering general  
24 feedback, what specific data sources were used in  
25 creating the map that has been offered by the House

1 Democratic Caucus?

2 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I don't have that  
3 information.

4 REPRESENTATIVE DEMMER: And I'll renew my  
5 question, who does have that information?

6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: We -- I think we  
7 will find out in a few days. After we've compiled and  
8 gone through the information, we will have that  
9 eventually.

10 REPRESENTATIVE DEMMER: But you don't  
11 need to compile future information to understand who  
12 drew a map that was offered several days ago. Who drew  
13 the map that was offered several days ago?

14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Once again, it's a  
15 draft based on ACS and community interest group  
16 information. Today was about taking a look and  
17 listening to further information that needs to be  
18 possibly taken into consideration so that we can come  
19 up with a final map and -- along with the various  
20 information data that we used.

21 REPRESENTATIVE DEMMER: So understanding  
22 that it's a draft map, would you be willing to provide  
23 draft data used to craft the draft map?

24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I'll repeat myself  
25 again that what we have today is a draft of what was



1 concluded based on community interest information along  
2 with ACS data and --

3 REPRESENTATIVE DEMMER: Were any other  
4 data sources used besides the American Community Survey  
5 to draw this draft map which relies on a draft dataset?  
6 Were any datasets besides the American Community Survey  
7 data used?

8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: All I know is that  
9 ACS was a source, data source that was used, and that  
10 we -- they compiled all of the information from the  
11 interest groups and was combed through and some of the  
12 information from there was used to come up with this  
13 draft.

14 REPRESENTATIVE DEMMER: But again,  
15 testimony at hearings is not a data source, so in  
16 addition to American Community Survey data, were any  
17 other data sources used in the creation of this map?

18 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Say that again.

19 REPRESENTATIVE DEMMER: Testimony that's  
20 offered in a committee meeting is not a data source, so  
21 were any --

22 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: No, but it's --

23 REPRESENTATIVE DEMMER: Were any data  
24 sources, besides American Community Survey data, used  
25 in the creation of this draft map?

1                   CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: At the moment I'm  
2 not aware of any further data, but I do -- I want to  
3 point out that a lot of that information that was given  
4 from community interest groups is extremely valuable in  
5 making the -- in creating the draft map.

6                   REPRESENTATIVE DEMMER: Was the testimony  
7 from countless interest groups that American Community  
8 Survey data is not appropriate for the purposes of  
9 redistricting, was that testimony incorporated in the  
10 draft?

11                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: There was some -- I  
12 believe there was some groups that were not for it and  
13 there was some that were.

14                  REPRESENTATIVE DEMMER: Could you cite  
15 the groups that were in favor of using American  
16 Community Survey data for map drawing?

17                  CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: No, I can't.

18                  REPRESENTATIVE DEMMER: I could cite to  
19 you at least 55 groups who were opposed to using  
20 American Community Survey data for map drawing.

21                  So let me ask again, in addition to voter  
22 -- in addition to American Community Survey data, it's  
23 been suggested that voter registration data was used in  
24 the creation of these draft maps. Do you know -- are  
25 you aware of any other sources, including voter data,

1 that was used in the creation of this map?

2 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: No, I'm not. I  
3 don't know.

4 REPRESENTATIVE DEMMER: Who would know  
5 what data sources were used in the creation of these  
6 maps?

7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Once again, I think  
8 it's information that will be available as soon as we  
9 get through all of the additional testimony that we  
10 went through today. That will come -- be forthcoming.

11 REPRESENTATIVE DEMMER: Madam Chair, I  
12 understand that there could be future revisions,  
13 including your future revisions to data sources;  
14 however, a map has been drawn and offered by the House  
15 Democratic Caucus for public inspection, for public  
16 input, which we have none of here tonight at 9:00 on a  
17 Tuesday evening. Some data sources were used in the  
18 creation of those maps. Was a data -- was voter data  
19 used in the creation of those maps, was Esri data or  
20 other third-party proprietary data used in the drawing  
21 of those draft maps?

22 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Leader Demmer, all I  
23 know for the moment is that ACS was one of the sources  
24 and community interest group information to draw up  
25 this map.

1                   REPRESENTATIVE DEMMER: I appreciate  
2     that, Madam Chair, and so let me conclude my remarks by  
3     saying, what we heard this evening from witness after  
4     witness after witness is that they are unable to offer  
5     input on the maps that have been offered because they  
6     do not have the underlying data by which those maps  
7     were drawn. By depriving public groups, by depriving  
8     the voters of Illinois of the data that drew the maps  
9     that they're now asked to comment on, we've deprived  
10    ourselves of the opportunity to hear their honest and  
11    genuine input into what these maps represent. Perhaps  
12    there are groups that support these maps. We know for  
13    sure there are groups that oppose the data sources that  
14    you've identified, but the fact is we don't know  
15    whether voter data was used, whether third party  
16    proprietary bought and paid for data that's not  
17    accessible to the public was used.

18                   We cannot ask members of the public -- we  
19    cannot conduct public hearings on maps without  
20    disclosing to them the information necessary to judge  
21    those maps. We have an obligation to make an honest  
22    representation to the people that we serve, and to give  
23    them the opportunity to weigh in, to make suggestions,  
24    to offer support or opposition to legislative proposals  
25    that are pending before the House and the Senate. This

1 is that very opportunity here this evening, yet because  
2 not only have we not disclosed the datasets, we've not  
3 even verbally disclosed whether any data sources, other  
4 than the American Community Survey data, have been  
5 used, which is certainly from insinuation suggests that  
6 there have been.

7 We owe it to the people of Illinois to  
8 tell them how these maps have been drawn by politicians  
9 behind closed doors to pick the districts that they'll  
10 represent over the next ten years. We owe it to them  
11 to be honest about how this process has proceeded.  
12 Thus far we have not. Thank you, Madam Chair.

13 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Leader Butler?

14 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Thank you, Madam  
15 Chair, I have a question about the upcoming schedule.

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes.

17 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: So we have a  
18 Joint Committee hearing tomorrow at 4:00.

19 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: That's correct.

20 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: A Senate  
21 Redistricting hearing at 6:00. And I'm just wondering,  
22 the last redistricting hearing we had before today was  
23 April 24th maybe, if I'm looking correctly.

24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: You're about right.

25 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: So April 24th to

1 last Friday, the 21st of May, almost four weeks based  
2 off that input at hearings, to draw a PDF that came out  
3 on Friday night. So you've been telling us that you're  
4 taking what is here tonight and you're going to produce  
5 something else that would be a new map, I assume, other  
6 than something that's out there. Can you tell me when  
7 we should expect a brand new map to come out, since it  
8 took a month to produce the one -- at least a month to  
9 produce the one that we saw on Friday?

10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Well, I see we have  
11 a draft. It's something to be working off of. It's  
12 just we need to hear from -- you know, the input from  
13 -- after seeing the draft, we need to hear from  
14 community interest groups and other to see what our --  
15 you know, based on that what may be possible -- a  
16 change or considerations we have to take, and the hope  
17 is, you know, we do have a deadline of June 30th, so  
18 we've got to get it done.

19 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Okay. I think it  
20 was loud and clear on what we heard from the advocates  
21 and the witnesses this evening by and large, except for  
22 a paid advocate for the House Democrats, as well as I  
23 think one other witness that used construction data to  
24 figure out the new trends in census.

25 I have a question about the judicial maps

1 that were unveiled earlier today. In the news release  
2 that you sent out earlier today, it said the public has  
3 the opportunity to provide input on this proposed map  
4 at four scheduled redistricting hearings. So do we  
5 anticipate a discussion of not just the legislative  
6 maps but the judicial map as well?

7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: It's -- at some  
8 point, yes.

9 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: At some point.

10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Very in the near  
11 future I would say.

12 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: When? Are we --  
13 so is it the -- is it the -- is the majority planning  
14 to go past May 31st to discuss the judicial map?

15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Anyone is -- you  
16 know, it's open for anyone who wants to come and talk  
17 about the map, the --

18 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Well, they just  
19 -- you just rolled out a new map today to the people of  
20 Illinois with a judicial map that has been in effect  
21 since basically my entire life, and you're giving them  
22 no notice to come and testify, so I'm wondering what  
23 the plan is for the judicial maps.

24 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Well, I would say  
25 that we welcome any remarks, especially now that we

1 have these committees opened.

2 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Okay. And so  
3 finally there is one other map that has a lot of  
4 discussion and that's the redrawing of the  
5 congressional districts now that we've been  
6 reapportioned to 17 congressional districts. When can  
7 we expect the majority to roll out a congressional map?

8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I don't know.

9 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: I've heard that  
10 before.

11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: If I -- once I know,  
12 I'll give you a heads-up, Representative.

13 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: And I would  
14 appreciate that. So any clarity you can provide on the  
15 process would be helpful. Thank you, Madam Chair.

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Of course.  
17 Representative Spain?

18 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Thank you so much,  
19 Madam Chairwoman. Just following up on that discussion  
20 about the remapping of the State Supreme Court, looking  
21 at the same thing, that the public has the opportunity  
22 to provide input on this proposed map at four scheduled  
23 redistricting hearings between the House and Senate,  
24 are we in one of those hearings now, and did we just  
25 conclude one of those hearings? Or will there be



1 additional hearings with a subject matter assigned to  
2 the Supreme Court?

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I -- not that I know  
4 of yet. It's possible.

5 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: So the four  
6 hearings that were referenced in the press release this  
7 afternoon from Democrats, we are -- we've concluded one  
8 of those hearings, and we are sitting in the second of  
9 those hearings, am I reading that correctly?

10 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: That's correct.

11 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Did we receive any  
12 testimony regarding the Supreme Court map during the  
13 first hearing?

14 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Not yet.

15 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Well, not yet, I  
16 mean, we can't go back in time, the answer is no;  
17 correct?

18 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Well, we didn't  
19 receive any, but there is still opportunity.

20 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Right; but in the  
21 first hearing we did not receive testimony regarding  
22 the Supreme Court map?

23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: That's correct.

24 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: And as we have no  
25 witnesses for this committee, we also will not be

1 receiving testimony on the proposed Supreme Court map  
2 that was presented this afternoon; correct?

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Correct. But let me  
4 point out that the first committee, the Senate and  
5 House committee, we went four hours. We never imagined  
6 that we were going to go four hours. And what happened  
7 is some of the witnesses that were going to jump on at  
8 the 6:00, ended up jumping on at the first one, so that  
9 prolonged the first one to perhaps -- I mean, it --  
10 we're essentially at the time frame we expected we  
11 would end.

12 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Madam Chair, with  
13 something this important, that only comes about every  
14 ten years, or in the case of the Supreme Court every 50  
15 years, I certainly would have expectation that the  
16 hearings would be lengthy because the subject matter is  
17 so important.

18 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Absolutely.

19 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: So wouldn't it be  
20 in the interest of our state and our constituents to  
21 dedicate specific time to a discussion of the Supreme  
22 Court proposed draft remap?

23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: I understand, but  
24 let me just also point out that one of the -- there is  
25 a real opportunity, because we are in a remote manner

1 of conducting our business, that it has allowed and  
2 given opportunity for the public to participate in that  
3 way. If you recall ten years ago you had to be in  
4 person, so this -- you know, we can't forget that -- if  
5 anything about Zoom or remote, it has allowed for  
6 engagement, further engagement, more engagement to  
7 occur. So I would say we are, like -- you know,  
8 although it's a small window, we have the technology  
9 available to really engage folks.

10 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Well, Madam Chair,  
11 I looked forward to the new opportunities of virtual  
12 testimony that would become available as a -- I guess a  
13 side effect of the pandemic. And we received a  
14 remarkable number of hearings. We conducted a  
15 remarkable number of hearings, and witnesses provided  
16 testimony, but as we heard tonight, resoundingly those  
17 witnesses have returned and said, boy, we didn't feel  
18 like you listened to us at all, and we hope we didn't  
19 waste our time in those nearly 40 hearings that were  
20 conducted throughout the state. So the ability to  
21 convene these discussions virtually is a great thing,  
22 but we actually have to have an interest in using the  
23 testimony that's presented, and what we heard from  
24 everyone tonight is that has not happened.

25 So I ask going forward, I think we need

1 to have a discussion about the Supreme Court. When we  
2 have subject matter hearings, we announce a topic for  
3 those discussions. It's disingenuous to present a new  
4 Supreme Court map on the afternoon of these hearings,  
5 hours before the first one is set to convene, and of  
6 course we didn't receive testimony, because we didn't  
7 give the public adequate notice and adequate  
8 transparency and adequate access to be a part of what  
9 their government should look like in the future.

10 So with that very sincere frustration, I  
11 would like to understand, we heard it again and again  
12 tonight that we're only looking at a draft map, and  
13 that the hearings that we conducted over many weeks,  
14 perhaps they weren't the relevant hearings, but the  
15 hearing tonight matters a lot, that the input we  
16 receive tonight will be used to make changes to the  
17 maps, and that after those changes, then data can be  
18 shared. So can you commit that we will provide the  
19 public with additional hearings after the next map is  
20 released so that they can review the data that you've  
21 promised and they can provide testimony to inform our  
22 opinion on those round two maps?

23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: We're going to have  
24 another hearing, we're going to hear further testimony,  
25 and eventually, yes, we will come up with a finalized

1 map along with data -- the data that was used.

2 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: And this --

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: There will be a  
4 hearing after that.

5 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: That's my  
6 question, will the redistricting committee be convened  
7 to receive witness testimony on the next map proposal?  
8 And this map will be really important because this one  
9 you said will actually come with data that advocacy  
10 groups can use to better inform their testimony?

11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Uh-huh.

12 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: So the  
13 Redistricting Committee will meet again after another  
14 map is released?

15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Correct.

16 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. No further  
18 questions. And no testimonies. The Chair will call  
19 recess.

20 Thank you all. See you tomorrow.

21 (End of audio recording of Redistricting,  
22 Subject Matter: Illinois Communities & Proposed  
23 Boundaries, 5-25-21.)

24

25



**AUDIO TRANSCRIPTION OF RECORDING**

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