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STATE OF ILLINOIS
SENATE REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE
HOUSE REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE
JOINT PUBLIC HEARING

Thursday, August 26, 2021

1:00 p.m.

Via Zoom Videoconference

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PRESENT via Zoom videoconference:

SENATE REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- SENATOR OMAR AQUINO, Chair
- SENATOR ELGIE SIMS, JR., Vice-Chair
- SENATOR SCOTT M. BENNETT, Member
- SENATOR CRISTINA CASTRO, Member
- SENATOR BILL CUNNINGHAM, Member
- SENATOR MATTIE HUNTER, Member
- SENATOR LAURA M. MURPHY, Member
- SENATOR JASON A. BARICKMAN, Minority Spokesperson
- SENATOR STEVE MCCLURE, Member
- SENATOR DAN MCCONCHIE, Member
- SENATOR JASON PLUMMER, Member

HOUSE REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- REPRESENTATIVE LISA HERNANDEZ, Chair
- REPRESENTATIVE CURTIS J. TARVER, II, Vice-Chair
- REPRESENTATIVE TIM BUTLER, Member
- REPRESENTATIVE AVERY BOURNE, Member
- REPRESENTATIVE KELLY M. BURKE, Member
- REPRESENTATIVE JEHAN GORDON-BOOTH, Member
- REPRESENTATIVE JAY HOFFMAN, Member
- REPRESENTATIVE THERESA MAH, Member
- REPRESENTATIVE TOM DEMMER, Member
- REPRESENTATIVE RYAN SPAIN, Member

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1 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: This senate
2 redistricting committee is called to order.
3 Will the Clerk please take the roll.

4 THE CLERK: Senator Plummer.

5 SENATOR PLUMMER: I'm here.

6 THE CLERK: Senator McConchie.

7 SENATOR MCCONCHIE: Here.

8 THE CLERK: Senator McClure.

9 SENATOR MCCLURE: Present.

10 THE CLERK: Jason Barickman.

11 SENATOR BARICKMAN: Present.

12 THE CLERK: Senator Murphy.

13 SENATOR MURPHY: Here.

14 THE CLERK: Senator Jones.

15 SENATOR JONES: (No audible response.)

16 THE CLERK: Senator Hunter.

17 SENATOR HUNTER: Here.

18 THE CLERK: Senator Cunningham.

19 SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Here.

20 THE CLERK: Senator Castro.

21 SENATOR CASTRO: Here.

22 THE CLERK: Senator Bennett.

23 SENATOR BENNETT: (No audible
24 response.)

1 THE CLERK: Vice-Chair Sims.

2 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Present.

3 THE CLERK: Chair Aquino.

4 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Present.

5 So there's a quorum present. The
6 following entities are seeking leave to
7 photograph and video the proceedings
8 BlueRoomStream and (inaudible).

9 Is there leave?

10 Leave being granted.

11 Senator Sims for a motion.

12 SENATOR SIMS: Thank you,
13 Mr. Chairman. I move that this hearing be
14 transcribed by the court reporter so that the
15 committee can have a full transcript of the
16 hearing.

17 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Senator Sims moves
18 to allow court reporter to transcribe the
19 hearing.

20 Is there leave?

21 Leave being granted.

22 The court reporter will be
23 allowed to transcribe the hearing.

24 I now turn to Chair Hernandez to

1 call the House Districting Committee to order.

2 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you,
3 Chair Aquino.

4 So calling the House
5 Redistricting Committee to order and asking the
6 Clerk to call the roll.

7 But before you do, I do have a
8 letter from Leader Durkin replacing Permanent
9 Member Severin with Temporary Member Demmer.

10 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you.

11 THE CLERK: Hernandez.

12 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Here.

13 THE CLERK: Tarver.

14 VICE-CHAIR TARVER: Present.

15 THE CLERK: Butler.

16 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Here.

17 THE CLERK: Bourne.

18 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: Here.

19 THE CLERK: Burke.

20 REPRESENTATIVE BURKE: Here.

21 THE CLERK: Gordon-Booth.

22 REPRESENTATIVE GORDON-BOOTH: Present.

23 THE CLERK: Hoffman.

24 REPRESENTATIVE HOFFMAN: (No

1 response.)

2 THE CLERK: Mah.

3 REPRESENTATIVE MAH: Here.

4 THE CLERK: Demmer.

5 REPRESENTATIVE DEMMER: Here.

6 THE CLERK: Spain.

7 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Here.

8 THE CLERK: Okay. I have nine
9 representatives answering the roll call.

10 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you. So
11 Chair -- Chair Aquino, would you allow me to
12 open up with the statement -- with a statement?
13 And then we can follow with yours and the
14 Minority Spokesperson's remarks?

15 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Yes, thank you.

16 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: So I want to
17 begin by saying good afternoon to everyone and
18 thank you to everyone who is taking time to
19 participate in today's hearing.

20 As you know, the House and Senate
21 Redistricting Committees undertook an extensive
22 series of public hearings, holding approximately
23 50 earlier this year in April and May to gather
24 input on redistricting in Illinois.

1 Based on the input from the
2 public and the best population data available at
3 the time, the General Assembly in May passed a
4 legislative redistricting plan that was signed
5 into law by the Governor as Public Act 102-0010
6 on June 4, to comply with the Illinois
7 Constitution's June 30 deadline.

8 At the time, I stated that when
9 the 2020 census data was released in the fall,
10 the House Democrats will review it to determine
11 if changes should be made.

12 On August 12, 2021, approximately
13 five months later, the normal, the United States
14 Census Bureau released the 2020 census
15 population data to Illinois as well as the other
16 states.

17 Now that we have the census data,
18 we are fulfilling our commitment to review the
19 data, seek additional input from the public, and
20 amend the redistricting plan to incorporate the
21 latest census data as needed.

22 As in the spring the House
23 Democrats remain committed to providing the
24 public with various ways to make their voices

1 heard to ensure a fair map that reflects the
2 broad racial and geographic diversity of
3 Illinois.

4 The House Redistricting Committee
5 will again offer virtual and hybrid hearings to
6 give everyone the opportunity to participate
7 from the comfort of their own homes during this
8 pandemic while COVID cases surge again.

9 Our staff reached out to those
10 individuals and groups who submitted testimony
11 in the spring to provide notice of these
12 hearings and invite them again to provide their
13 thoughts and recommendations.

14 In addition, the mapmaking portal
15 has been updated with the census data; and
16 again, made available for the public to submit
17 proposed maps and communities of interest for
18 consideration.

19 In addition to the public, Chair
20 Aquino and I sent letters to the Republicans and
21 invited them to testify, provide recommended
22 changes, and submit proposed maps to the
23 committees.

24 We look forward to gathering

1 feedback as we consider changes to the
2 legislative plan. We invite people to continue
3 submitting written testimony by email, emailing
4 the house redistricting committee at
5 redistrictingcommittee@hds.ilga.gov. That's
6 again, redistrictingcommittee@hds.ilga.gov.

7 The public is also invited to use
8 the mapmaking portal that can be found on the
9 House Democrats' redistricting websites at
10 Illinois -- I'm sorry, it's ilhousedems.com -
11 forward slash redistricting - forward slash
12 (ilhousedems.com/redistricting/).

13 I want to thank everyone, once
14 again, for your time and for your attention to
15 this important process.

16 I will turn it over to Chair
17 Aquino, and then on Minority Spokespersons
18 Butler and Barickman -- I believe they are here,
19 if they wish to make some opening remarks. And
20 then once we do that, we will follow with a
21 staff presentation and begin with the witnesses.

22 Chair Aquino?

23 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you, Chair
24 Hernandez.

1 First, let me start by thanking
2 all the community groups that helped pull off
3 the census during the pandemic with numerous
4 variants presented by the previous presidential
5 administration's work. Many of those groups
6 spent time before these redistricting committee
7 meetings in March, April, and May as we
8 endeavored to meet our constitutional deadline
9 to pass a map by June 30.

10 As you noted, the maps passed in
11 May were drafted with the best information we
12 had at the time, including input gathered at
13 public hearings just like the one we are having
14 today.

15 Our commitment to the people of
16 Illinois remains the same now as it was then.
17 Our goal is to enact a fair map that reflects
18 the diversity of this great state.

19 I look forward to once engaging
20 with community groups, the neighborhood
21 organizations, and individuals about what the
22 long-delayed results from the U.S. Census will
23 mean for Illinois.

24 In addition to today's hearing,

1 the Senate would hold several more regional
2 hearings in the coming days, including those
3 scheduled to take place in Joliet, Peoria, and
4 Carbondale.

5 In addition, we will likely have
6 a hearing in Springfield on Monday or Tuesday
7 leading up to the Tuesday special session.
8 These hearings will take place in a hybrid,
9 in-person, and online model allowing anyone to
10 safely participate during the ongoing pandemic.

11 We once again encourage anyone
12 who is interested in drafting a map for
13 consideration, to do so, this includes our
14 friends on the Republican side of the aisle.

15 Proposed maps can submitted
16 through our website,
17 www.ilsenateredistricting.com. I'll repeat
18 that, www.ilsenateredistricting.com, where we
19 have also uploaded the new census information
20 for review by the public.

21 As we have said all along, it is
22 important that all voices are heard to ensure
23 that every person in Illinois receives fair and
24 equal representation.

1 Thank you, and I look forward to
2 hearing from all witnesses today.

3 Madam Chair, I'll pass it over
4 and ask if Minority Spokesperson Butler has any
5 opening remarks, and then we'll move to Minority
6 Spokesperson Jason Barickman (audio distortion).

7 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Thank you,
8 Madam Chair Hernandez.

9 And first of all, let me say
10 thank you to all the advocacy groups that have
11 come forward over these last few months with
12 their thoughts and concerns and their views; and
13 very honestly, your frustrations over the
14 process up to this point; what we talked about
15 in the spring, with the use of the data that we
16 used in the spring came to fruition, when the
17 decennial census data came out on August 12.

18 Perhaps disparity between
19 districts, house districts that have three times
20 the legal limit that's allowed that came to
21 fruition, exactly what we talked about, and
22 honestly, what the advocacy groups talked about
23 this spring. The process has been flawed; the
24 process has been overtly political, and it's a

1 shame.

2 We first gathered in this very
3 room to start the process on April Fools' Day,
4 April 1, which is fitting with this whole
5 process.

6 We gather today, on Illinois
7 Constitution Day, our first constitution was
8 passed 203 years ago today. We have a process
9 that is admittedly violating the constitution.
10 The maps that were enacted under HB2777 are not
11 effective -- that's why we're here today, they
12 are not effective. That's what's called for in
13 the constitution, which means this is no longer
14 at the hands of the Illinois General Assembly,
15 it should be in the hands of the bipartisan
16 commission that is spelled out in our
17 constitution, our 1970 constitution. But we
18 continue -- the majority continues down this
19 path in an overtly partisan manner to try to
20 enact partisan maps for their political gain.

21 And if you would just indulge me
22 for a second, Madam Chair -- Madam Hernandez, I
23 just have a couple of questions I wanted to ask
24 as we move into this process, and that is -- my

1 first question is, have the new maps that you
2 are planning to unveil, have they been drawn
3 yet?

4 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: At the moment
5 all I know is that they are being reviewed.

6 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: So there are
7 maps?

8 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Well, it's the
9 same maps that are on the Google, as you have
10 seen them. Those maps are being reviewed. And
11 most importantly right now, it's about getting
12 the feedback, listening to the public, getting
13 the recommendations for any necessary
14 adjustments, obviously.

15 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: So we're
16 awaiting input from the public over these
17 hearings over these four days going into the
18 weekend, including hearings at 10:00 a.m. on a
19 Sunday morning in Aurora, which continues the
20 meeting that we had in the spring.

21 So I was here yesterday in this
22 very room for a hearing, and the gate was down
23 to this -- to this room, so I walked into the
24 adjacent room, which is the House of

1 Representative's room, just behind this hearing
2 room. And what I witnessed yesterday was many,
3 many House Democratic members in that room
4 looking at their maps, literally sitting in
5 front of laptops looking at their maps.

6 So to think that this process
7 isn't -- if this isn't an exercise in futility,
8 unfortunately, for all you advocacy groups, and
9 for those of us in the minority party, I
10 literally witnessed with my own eyes a member of
11 the General Assembly looking at their map,
12 talking to staff about whether it was square
13 enough or not, which is what I overheard.
14 There's many members of the majority in that
15 room looking at the maps.

16 Now, I would ask you, the people
17 who are going to testify today, have you been
18 invited into those meetings so far to look at
19 the maps? Are you having solid input on what
20 these maps are going to be; no. They're being
21 drawn by the majority, as we saw in the spring,
22 with partisan intent.

23 So I think the majority needs to
24 be honest and just forget the charade that we've

1 gone through here all spring long, and now
2 with -- whatever, seven hearings over four days,
3 and then another hearing, I assume, in
4 Springfield as Chair Aquino said. This is a
5 farce.

6 The current maps that were passed
7 in the spring, HB2777, was not effective. They
8 should be before the Commission. And I would
9 encourage all the advocacy groups to hold the
10 majority's feet to the fire.

11 First of all, what's the rush?
12 Why do you need to pass the map by August 31?
13 You put the election out until June. As far as
14 I know, congressional maps are nowhere to be
15 found. This hearing wasn't about congressional
16 maps, I believe. So I would encourage the
17 majority to listen to the advocacy groups who
18 said time and time and time again, give us at
19 least two weeks to review the maps; two weeks
20 after you put out a map to review it, and don't
21 sit in this room, in 600, in the Bilandic
22 Building, or the secret map room in the Stratton
23 Building, and draw your maps at the behest of
24 the politicians. We've given you options, many

1 options, over the last several months to take
2 the map drawing out of politicians' hands.
3 That's what needs to be done. And
4 unfortunately, we're going down the same
5 process, and it's going to -- there's no -- I
6 fear another flawed map that's going to pass on
7 August 31 only for partisan political gain from
8 the majority.

9 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you.
10 (Inaudible.)

11 SENATOR BARICKMAN: Thank you,
12 Chairman.

13 To my colleagues on the
14 Committee, and to members of the public, first
15 of all, I think there's a very real and
16 concerning lack of trust that exists as a result
17 of this month-long process that is important to
18 consider in the context of these hearings. A
19 number of us on the Republican side of the aisle
20 embraced very early on the notion that any lack
21 of due process should be done through an
22 independent process; in fact, by joining with
23 statements by the governor or by proposed
24 legislation to amend the constitution that was

1 put forward by some of our democratic colleagues
2 to create an independent body that would draw
3 these maps.

4 Those democratic members publicly
5 supported that proposal historically, the
6 governor was supportive of that proposal
7 historically, but when this process embarked --
8 or commenced this year, the governor and those
9 Democrats who previously had spoken in favor of
10 an independent commission planted that idea,
11 apparently, for partisan gain.

12 The governor, as a candidate, put
13 forward a very prominent position that he would
14 veto any maps that were drawn by politicians.
15 He stated that as a candidate. But when this
16 process commenced in the spring, the governor,
17 in fact, abandoned that promise he made to
18 voters and signed the proposal put forth on a
19 partisan basis to the General Assembly.

20 The lack of trust that exists
21 comes from those members and the governor who
22 not only abandoned the pledge for independence
23 and a pledge the governor pledged to veto. But
24 we heard statements made over the spring that

1 said, promised members on this committee, former
2 Democratic members, the governor promising that
3 they would only support a fair map. But many of
4 us question what exactly the threshold may be
5 for a determination of what is, in fact, fair.

6 But I think we know now the
7 result of ongoing federal litigation that the
8 map that was put forward on a partisan basis is
9 wholly unfair. In fact, it's unconstitutional.
10 And you can clearly see the reaction that
11 Democrats have to the fact that they are going
12 to lose a federal lawsuit because of the
13 unconstitutional map that they put forth.

14 Now, whatever your version of
15 fair is in the unconstitutional map, that the
16 roots, the votes of Illinoisans, and of many
17 minority interest groups in Illinois in a manner
18 that violates the equal protection clause of our
19 constitutions, both state and federal, is unfair
20 of a map as could ever exist.

21 I agree with Representative
22 Butler, the Illinois constitution articulates
23 very clearly that a map-making process done in
24 this whole season must be done through the

1 Bipartisan Redistricting Commission that's
2 authorized to our Illinois constitution.

3 Now, we all know -- or we all
4 knew this spring when those Democrats proceeded
5 with their own constitutional map, that it was
6 going to result in chaos and a diminishment of
7 very important voter rights that we're seeing
8 play out today.

9 It wasn't Republicans who were
10 simply raising those concerns, it was the many
11 of you in the audience and the many, many groups
12 and individuals who came to testify before us
13 and said that if the Democrats proceed with
14 their now unconstitutional map, that it would
15 have an effect of diminishing the rights of
16 voters throughout the state, because the
17 Democrats were relying on outdated and
18 inaccurate data.

19 So here we are. The courts most
20 recently instructed the defendants in the
21 lawsuit, which are the Democrats, to fix what is
22 apparent to everyone the unconstitutional maps
23 that they put forward and have made to address
24 the subsequent claims that have been raised by

1 the plaintiffs in the case, the Republicans.
2 Those issues require -- and other constitutional
3 issues, require action by the Democrats. And so
4 here we are at this initial hearing with no
5 proposal by the Democrats, no commitment or
6 response to Representative Butler's question
7 about when their proposed map will come forward
8 so that it may be analyzed to determine whether
9 they actually address the constitutional claims
10 that have been raised. And so we elect to
11 obtain the U.S. Census Bureau data that the many
12 of you were analyzing that data, were analyzing
13 it against the existing map put forth by the
14 Democrats, one that is clearly unconstitutional;
15 the fact is all that we can do against the
16 Democrats' proposal until they put forward some
17 apparent revised map; whatever that may be, in
18 however much time everyone is given to then
19 analyze it.

20 So I would urge of my Democratic
21 colleagues on this committee to listen to the
22 concerns we've raised to public testimony
23 throughout this forum. I think we are going to
24 hear more the same about this here, reiterating

1 the concerns that were raised; and ultimately, I
2 look forward to hearing from my Democratic
3 colleagues how, in fact, they intend to address
4 the very legitimate constitutional claims that
5 are pending in the U.S. courts today. Thank
6 you.

7 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: (Audio distortion)
8 You're right after the presentation from NCSL.
9 And just for Senator Plummer's -- we have you on
10 the roll, so thank you for your time.

11 SENATOR PLUMMER: Thank you.

12 MR. AARON LOWE: (Audio distortion)
13 Hello. My name is Aaron Lowe. I'm an employee
14 of the Illinois House of Representatives. I'm
15 here to give a brief overview of the 2020 census
16 data, released earlier this month, showing for
17 the state overall, as well as the local --

18 According to the 2020 census, the
19 state's population is 12,812,508. This is a
20 decline of 0.14 percent or 18,124 over a
21 ten-year period. The state's total population,
22 according to the final 2020 census numbers is
23 approximately 0.3 percent of what the 2015 to
24 2019 American Community Survey five-year

1 estimates.

2 Statewide population shifts over
3 the past decade reflected an overall increase in
4 urban and suburban communities and declining
5 population in rural and downstate areas.

6 The state's northeastern
7 counties, Cook, DuPage, Lake, Will, McHenry,
8 Kane, Kendall, and Grundy all saw increases in
9 population, where Kendall County seemed the
10 largest population increase in the state.

11 While much of downstate lost
12 population, some areas did see noteworthy
13 increases, including Carroll, MacLean,
14 Champaign, Effingham, Monroe, Williamson, and
15 Johnson Counties.

16 Counties that saw the biggest
17 declines were located downstate.

18 Alexander County saw the state's
19 largest loss of population, while Calhoun,
20 Coles, Franklin and Greene, Hardin, Henderson,
21 Jackson, Jefferson, LaSalle-Pulaski counties saw
22 double-digit losses in population.

23 Overall, these rural areas of
24 Illinois were generally overestimated by the

1 2015 to 2019 American Community Survey five-year
2 estimates, while many urban years were
3 underestimated.

4 Locally, the City of Chicago's
5 population grew by two percent or 50,000 people,
6 according to the census.

7 Countywide, Cook County overall
8 saw a population growth by more than 80,000
9 people over the past decade.

10 City and county growth are both
11 larger than what was projected in the American
12 Community Survey Five-Year Estimates. House
13 Districts 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14,
14 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 25, 26, 35, 36, 44,
15 47, 49, 53, 54, 56, 57, 78, and 82 from the 2011
16 map saw an increase in population, while House
17 Districts 2, 3, 4 21, 24, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32,
18 33, 34, 38, 39, 40, 43, 45, 46, 47 saw a
19 decrease in population over the past decade.

20 Senate Districts 1, 2, 11, 14,
21 15, 16, 17, 20 and 39 also saw population
22 decreases, while senate districts 3, 4, 5, 6, 7,
23 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 18, 19, 27 and 28 experienced
24 population increases.

1 Countywide, Cook County saw a
2 dramatic decrease in White population, about
3 15 percent since 2010.

4 A smaller decline was seen in the
5 African-American population, around two percent.
6 The county gained both Asian and Hispanic
7 population in the last decade, around one and a
8 half percent and three percent, respectfully.

9 The City of Chicago saw a similar
10 decrease in white population for Cook County,
11 with a slightly higher decrease in the
12 African-American population of four percent.

13 The Latino population increased
14 around one percent, and Asian population
15 increase nearly one and a half percent in the
16 City of Chicago.

17 Thank you so much for your
18 attention and for coming out and sharing your
19 thoughts today. You'll be able to find hearing
20 information and testimony for this and other
21 hearings at ilga.gov,
22 ilhousedems.com/redistricting and
23 ilsenateredistricting.com. You can send further
24 testimony, suggestions by email to the House

1 **Redistricting Committee at**
2 **redistrictingcommittee@hds.ilga.gov and to the**
3 **Senate Redistricting Committee, at**
4 **redistrictingcommittee@sentatedem.ilga.gov.**

5 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you.

6 (Audio/mask distortion.)

7 Next the NCSL presentation on the
8 census by Wendy Underhill.

9 MS. WENDY UNDERHILL: Hello. And it's
10 nice to be here with you, and I'm pulling up
11 some slides. I hope you'll see them in a
12 moment.

13 So I've been asked to make a few
14 comments about the census, generally, and about
15 differential privacy, specifically, and do plan
16 to do that.

17 In working on this presentation,
18 I realized that I kept using the word
19 uncertainty, so I thought I would put that at
20 the top of my presentation, and then we will see
21 that that's a bit of a trend throughout the
22 presentation.

23 So I think you mostly know who
24 NCSL is, so I won't spend any time on this, just

1 reinforce that we are bipartisan in the way
2 we're structured, and that our work is
3 non-partisan, and that we don't make
4 recommendations to the legislatures as they do
5 their work.

6 So here is my outline for what I
7 thought I would talk about today. You can see
8 we are going to touch on the delays, then we
9 will touch on differential privacy, group
10 quarters, a few other data considerations, and I
11 didn't put on here, but I have a short slide on
12 several court cases that are already pending
13 this decade.

14 So we all know that the census is
15 done for a variety of reasons. This slide you
16 may have even seen before. There's a little bit
17 of boilerplate, but I did want to make the point
18 about we're here to talk about census data as it
19 relates to redistricting. Census data is also
20 super important in terms of finances for any
21 state or locality.

22 Illinois gets \$34 billion every
23 year -- or did, I should say, in the last decade
24 of federal funds that came to it based on

1 formulas that rely on census data, and that's
2 over \$2,600 per person in Illinois.

3 So I just mention that but it's
4 not the only reason that the census is
5 conducted.

6 As for delays, what I would like
7 to say is that we've heard a little bit about
8 them. We can see on this slide that delays were
9 made -- they're 4.5 months late. There were a
10 host of reasons why there were delays. It does
11 look like the time in the field was extended,
12 and then there was even more extension in the
13 pre-enumeration processing. And what does this
14 mean, that the data has come back late.

15 Well, I've got two sides that
16 show how the data worked, and how states were
17 doing on redistricting in 2011 and 2021 -- I'm
18 sorry. I'm having a little trouble with my
19 mouse today.

20 Okay. So this is July 2011, and
21 you can see that over half of the states have
22 done some kind of redistricting at that point.
23 They had draft maps out and had adopted actual
24 maps.

1 Then we go to the next decade,
2 which is the one we are currently in, of that
3 same time period, only three states have adopted
4 maps, and that's because of the delays in the
5 release of the data. In addition to what I'm
6 showing here, California and Oregon both went to
7 their courts for relief, and New Jersey went to
8 the voters for relief on their constitutional
9 requirements.

10 I guess my point here is -- I
11 should also say that these three states;
12 Colorado, Oklahoma, and Illinois, did have
13 June 30 deadlines, and most states do not, so
14 you were in a worse squeeze than other states.
15 I understand that you have a backup option, and
16 that is the Commission.

17 Oklahoma also was in that same
18 position, with a backup option of the -- moving
19 to a commission like Illinois decided to go
20 ahead with the data that was on hand in times
21 past.

22 But my point here is that the
23 delays have been felt by every single state in
24 the nation, and we are still feeling the

1 reverberations of that.

2 And now I would like to move on
3 to disclosure avoidance, and that's the umbrella
4 phrase that includes differential privacy, but
5 it also includes other maps that's protecting
6 individual responses to the census.

7 And it is clear that federal law
8 requires that respondent information be
9 protected, and I don't think anyone has any
10 concern about that as a worthy requirement.

11 The Census Bureau has indicated
12 that the systems that have been used before were
13 breakable, so they went out to look for
14 something new, and that's differential privacy,
15 which I will get to in just a moment; but
16 perhaps, more importantly than what the fine
17 points are, each system that could be used to
18 protect the privacy is the fact that there's an
19 inherent push-pull between privacy and accuracy.
20 It's hard to avoid it if you are going to have
21 data that's entirely private, it's going to be
22 virtually useless. And if you're going to have
23 data that's accurate down to every single person
24 and the characteristics of it, then privacy is

1 too easily broken. So it's not an easy balance
2 between these two goals.

3 So I've got slides here on two
4 other systems for protecting data or from
5 individuals that have been used in the past.
6 And this one is about data suppression. And
7 this was used not in the most recent decade, but
8 in previous decades.

9 So on the left we have a set
10 of -- this is just fake numbers, just to make
11 the point. We have some numbers as enumerated
12 on the left, but the little numbers, the small
13 ones, the ones -- and I see twos as well, are
14 switched over to S. And "S" means that it's
15 suppressed. So the only data that was released
16 by the Census Bureau when using data suppression
17 would be the data on the right-hand side.
18 Anything that was small and therefore more
19 easily identifiable was just plain suppressed.

20 Now, the next decade and last
21 decade, the system used by the bureau to protect
22 privacy was called swapping. This is an image
23 that does come from the Census Bureau, so I
24 appreciate the more -- much better geographical

1 capabilities than my own.

2 And you see that the way this
3 works is that we find households that are
4 geographically near to each other where one of
5 those households might have data that could be
6 easily identified. You swap the same number of
7 people in that household for a different
8 household in a nearby census block or region;
9 and therefore, you've not given the exact
10 details about the people who live in that house
11 that's in danger of being disclosed, but you
12 have kept the same number of people in that
13 household. So the population is correct at the
14 census block level, the race and age
15 characteristics of those people are not
16 100 percent correct. They do add up at the end
17 of the day.

18 But those are the two systems
19 that we have been shown to be breakable, at
20 least according to the Census Bureau, so they've
21 come up with something called differential
22 privacy this year, which is the injection of
23 noise.

24 And when I use that phrase with

1 our executive director, Tim Storey, he said,
2 come on, there's got to be a better word for
3 that, like, no, that's the actual word used by
4 the Census Bureau and by the statisticians who
5 come up with this process.

6 With this system, the population
7 in each census block is not held the same as it
8 was when it was enumerated. So unlike time
9 where the population in each census block was
10 held constant, here there can be variation of
11 this census level. Oh, and I should have said,
12 too, that this slide is also from the Census
13 Bureau.

14 So here on the box on the right,
15 all the numbers in red are slightly different
16 than the real numbers are on the left. And they
17 don't change much, so in the upper left box it's
18 14 on the left, and it's 13 on the right. In
19 the middle they are at 50 on the left, and 51 on
20 the right. So you get the sense that there's
21 some change going on, and that's the noise and
22 it's also known as fuzziness. Another phrase
23 that Director Storey thought I probably
24 shouldn't use.

1 Okay. So your use of
2 differential privacy to project data makes it
3 clear that the data at the census block level is
4 going to be different than what it was when it
5 was enumerated. The one thing we can say for
6 sure is that the state total population is the
7 same. They did not use any noise or fuzziness
8 at the state population level.

9 Also, the number of housing units
10 in each census block remains the same as in the
11 actual count. I will point out that whether
12 those housing units are occupied or not, it does
13 have differential privacy applied to it; so the
14 number of housing units, yes; outside study
15 whether they are occupied or not, no, that's not
16 held steady.

17 And then the number of group
18 quarters by type is the same as what they
19 actually enumerated.

20 So basically, everything above
21 the census block level -- excuse me, everything
22 below the state population level has been
23 treated with differential privacy, which means
24 that the data that's reported is somewhat

1 different than what was counted on the ground.

2 So over the last couple of years
3 the bureau has released five datasets, so data
4 analysts throughout the states could look at
5 what this differential privacy might mean, and
6 those datasets, NCSL has and gathered various
7 reports from our person in the district, that
8 have shown that there are more noticeable
9 variations in small geographic areas than the
10 larger ones, and that maybe small racial groups
11 or ethnic groups maybe have more variation in
12 them than larger racial and ethnic groups.

13 And we know that the bureau did
14 work hard to adjust its algorithms and its post
15 differential privacy data processing -- that's a
16 mouthful, post differential privacy data
17 processing, to improve the quality of the data,
18 and they were specifically looking at making
19 sure that the data is fit for use for
20 redistricters. That was their highest priority.

21 So did it work; well, opinions
22 differ, as you might imagine. NCSL did send a
23 letter in May of 2020 to the director of the
24 census expressing concerns about the delays and

1 also about differential privacy.

2 And if you're interested in
3 finding that letter or any number of the reports
4 from the various states on differential privacy
5 as applied to the 2010 data showed up, we've got
6 lots of that captured there.

7 I thought I would just bring one
8 particular opinion, because it's that of Acting
9 Director Ron Jarmin of the Census Bureau and he
10 put out about two weeks before the data was
11 released, he put out a blog that explained what
12 was coming.

13 And here you will see the key
14 phrase might be strongly encouraging data users
15 to aggregate group blocks together, and he's
16 referring to data users. I'm fairly sure he had
17 redistricters in mind when he's talking about
18 that.

19 His point is that what's happened
20 with differential privacy does make changes at
21 the census block level and he is clear about
22 that, that data does not hold constant, but that
23 when you put several blocks together and move
24 forward to build districts, and you look at the

1 district data, then it will be looking very
2 fine.

3 He noted also that the occupancy
4 status won't match population counts, and that
5 means some blocks may show that the housing
6 units are all occupied, but the occupation count
7 is zero, so that doesn't make sense, but he's
8 saying that that's the impact of differential
9 privacy.

10 And also, there will be census
11 blocks for children that look like they are
12 living alone, and we hope that that's an
13 aberration and not an actual fact; again,
14 because of differential privacy.

15 And then some households may
16 appear to be particularly large blocks that
17 might have several families that look like they
18 have 15 people in them.

19 So that's his view is that the
20 process that they've chosen -- is my audio okay
21 for you all? I'm hearing a lot of
22 reverberation. I should just keep going? Okay.
23 Great.

24 So the next thing I wanted to

1 talk about was group quarters, and this is a
2 place where because of the pandemic it was hard
3 to count people. And by the way, my vision here
4 is that this is a lonely student at a university
5 and he's studying in COVID times when everyone
6 else has moved home and he was left there. I
7 don't know if that's really what's going on
8 here, but that's what I was thinking.

9 So group quarters are any variety
10 of places where people live that have more than
11 family units in them, and I've listed some of
12 those options, and with the students in
13 particular you know when the pandemic hit, it
14 was in March of 2020, and census day is April 1,
15 2020. Well, students were moving home from all
16 around the nation because they were asked to
17 shut down the dormitories and such.

18 So the question with students is,
19 were they counted as they were intended to be
20 counted at the university, or were they counted
21 at their families' home, or were they counted
22 both, or were they counted not at all. So all
23 of those options were pretty tricky and I will
24 say that the Census Bureau did a lot of post

1 enumeration double-checking with the data at not
2 only universities but these other kinds of group
3 quarters as well to try to narrow that down and
4 improve the quality of the data.

5 I do think that this is a place,
6 and particularly with prisons where your instate
7 data experts will be able to look for anomalies,
8 so for instance, if a prison says that there's
9 500 people, their records show that that's how
10 many were there on April 1, 2020, and the census
11 says there are 800, we know that's an anomaly,
12 so that's a place where it's easier to look to
13 see how things are going than in many other
14 places.

15 So I do have three other data
16 considerations I thought I would bring to your
17 attention. The first is relating to imputation,
18 and this is a process that the bureau has used
19 in the last several decades, at least the last
20 two, I should say, and it's possible that this
21 decade they've needed to use it more than in
22 others. And imputation is when a household
23 doesn't respond to the census, and the bureau
24 can't find a neighbor or a postal carrier to say

1 who lives in that household, and there aren't
2 any administrative records to put people in that
3 homeowners, then, and only then the bureau can
4 impute, and I think the word estimate might be
5 more user friendly here, the number of people in
6 that household based on the number of people in
7 similar households nearby.

8 They also impute or estimate the
9 race and age characteristics of those people.

10 Is this an issue? That's up for
11 others to decide. It does make me think that
12 it's impossible to count everyone exactly
13 correctly, and by using imputation, imperfect as
14 it is, at least it makes undercounts less likely
15 than they would be otherwise.

16 Then this under here, the data on
17 race and ethnicity, I'll point out that the 2020
18 data shows that the number of people who
19 self-identified as multiracial is twice as high
20 as it was in 2010. That's just a standard
21 around the country, not specific to Illinois.
22 And this is partly due, of course, to the
23 increase in interracial households, but it's
24 also due to a different way that the census

1 gathered information in 2020 than it did in
2 2010. It made it much easier for people to
3 respond with multiracial on both of the white
4 plus up to four or five other categories that
5 are African-American plus up to those same
6 numbers.

7 So there are many, many, many,
8 many, many buckets that people could fit into.
9 It also made it easier for people to identify
10 the specifics of their background, so instead of
11 being Caribbean, that could be from Dominican
12 Republic versus Haiti, that kind of thing.

13 So a lot more detailed data, but
14 what that means is that the comparison of how
15 many people were counted as White or
16 African-American or Latino in 2010 is not a
17 direct exact comparison to the 2020 data.

18 And that might make it trickier
19 to draw majority-minority districts, but I think
20 that's something that your data folks are
21 probably looking at right now.

22 And then I did mention that there
23 are undercounts, I'll also say that there are
24 sometimes overcounts. And we don't know what

1 the size of the undercounts or overcounts were
2 for the 2020 data until a survey is released in
3 2022, a survey conducted by the Census Bureau.
4 And they will go back out and they'll ask the
5 same questions again and come up with some
6 information for us where we have other counts
7 and what kinds of people were more likely to be
8 undercounted or overcounted.

9 Even though that new survey will
10 come out in 2022, it doesn't change the data
11 that you're working with now. So your data is
12 what it is. It's not going to be altered when
13 we learn more about that. So I guess I'd say
14 like differential privacy, it's not quite clear
15 what a state can do knowing that there could
16 easily have been undercounts or overcounts,
17 because this is the data that you have available
18 to you.

19 And then I did put a slide
20 together on some lawsuits. It's fair to say
21 that the Census Bureau is often sued over
22 something or other, but it seems as though the
23 action in this decade, both against the Census
24 Bureau itself and based on census data will be

1 more prolific than in previous decades.

2 And I'll quickly run through
3 these in alphabetical order; Alabama, the state
4 alleged that the use of differential privacy
5 made the data potentially unusable. That has
6 been dismissed. It is possible there could be
7 an appeal -- I don't know if there will be or
8 not.

9 I'm going to skip Illinois,
10 because you all know much more about that than I
11 do.

12 In Louisiana, Minnesota,
13 Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, various parties are
14 suing, and sometimes more than one party is
15 suing in each of those states asking the state
16 courts to go ahead and do the districting now
17 rather than to wait for the legislators to do
18 the work.

19 Each of these states has divided
20 government so either the governor or one of the
21 chambers in the legislature is a different party
22 than the others, and the theory of these, if I
23 could generalize for them, is that that means
24 that they won't get to a satisfactory solution

1 where the two chambers agree and the governor
2 signs, and so skip that step and go straight to
3 the courts. I don't have any sense of whether
4 that's going to have legs or not.

5 The Ohio suit was just about the
6 deadlines, but that was settled and the
7 deadlines, as you know, have come out the way
8 they have.

9 And then the Fair Lines America
10 is a group that is suing the Census Bureau to
11 release records that relate to their
12 decision-making about group quarters. So I
13 don't know what will be found, if they should
14 get that information, but the group is
15 interested in how it got determined how to treat
16 those this decade to see if there's anything
17 that is useful to them as they go about
18 redistricting.

19 And then the last one I'll
20 mention is the speaker -- the former speaker of
21 the Iowa house is suing the Census Bureau to get
22 access to internal communications about a
23 decision to use differential privacy for the
24 American Community Survey, which is not the

1 decennial census, it's a separate product of the
2 Census Bureau altogether. It is a survey and
3 it's not an enumeration. I don't know where
4 that will go.

5 And that is what I've brought for
6 you. I do want to say, again, that uncertainty
7 seems to be the key fact with all of this. And
8 that I don't know if I said this upfront, but I
9 do take questions from people outside of the
10 hearing room. I'm happy to hear from anybody.
11 I'll try to answer your questions as best I can.
12 And we do it on a confidential basis. I won't
13 share with other folks what you're asking about.
14 And I'll stop there. Thank you very much.

15 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you, Wendy
16 Underhill and NCSL. And I'll open up to the
17 committee to see if there's any questions?
18 Representative Spain?

19 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Ms. Underhill,
20 thank you very much for your presentation.

21 **A couple of things that I wanted**
22 **to go back to, towards the beginning of the**
23 **presentation you showed some striking signs**
24 **about where states were in the process in 2011**

1 versus where states are now in the process in
2 2021, with 47 out of 50 states not moving
3 forward on redistributing until receiving the
4 census data. So three states, you said, had
5 moved forward, ours is one. You had Colorado on
6 the list as well, that they were a different
7 color on the map and then you showed where they
8 had draft maps. Could you explain what Colorado
9 has done so far?

10 MS. WENDY UNDERHILL: Mr. Chair,
11 Representative, I would be happy to try to do
12 that. I do live in Colorado, so I should have
13 this down pat, but let's see how it goes.

14 Their constitution required that
15 draft maps be created and those would be the
16 maps that would be shared around the state to
17 gather information, and then a final set of maps
18 would be drawn. So their constitutional
19 requirement was different than that in Illinois
20 and in Oklahoma.

21 And I will say that Colorado had
22 an effort by the legislature to go to the
23 Supreme Court saying let's delay all of this.
24 The Commission said, we are not bound by the

1 legislature, we are an independent commission
2 and we are not asking the Court, and the Court
3 did not approve the legislature's request for a
4 delay in the process.

5 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Okay. So two
6 things then, Colorado uses an independent
7 commission; correct?

8 MS. WENDY UNDERHILL: Yes.

9 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Okay. And then
10 they were -- so the maps that were presented
11 that were -- the draft maps that were presented,
12 were given to solicit, what was the date that
13 those maps were adopted for public presentation
14 and feedback?

15 MS. WENDY UNDERHILL: Mr. Chair,
16 Representative, I will say that they are really
17 picky about this. There's two commissions. One
18 does congressional; one does legislative. This
19 was the legislative commission that went forward
20 with the maps. And they adopted them towards
21 the end of June; I want to say around
22 June 20-ish. And again, they weren't adopted
23 for use in going forward in running elections.
24 They were a first stab at something that the

1 public could respond to, I think on the theory
2 that the public has -- if it has something to
3 respond to rather than work in a vacuum, that
4 they are better able to provide feedback. And
5 now there's a whole series of these hearings yet
6 to come in Colorado with these draft maps. And
7 they, like Illinois, are looking at how the new
8 data from the decennial census can be used as
9 well.

10 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: It sounds like
11 a great idea that is taking place in your home
12 state. It's consistent with the 50 hearings
13 that we held in Illinois in the spring where
14 advocacy groups are, we would like at least two
15 weeks to look at maps so that we can interpret
16 and understand them, make actual feedback that
17 would be meaningful and share that with the
18 decision makers.

19 So whether it was sometime at the
20 end of June until where we are now, towards the
21 end of August, it certainly sounds like Colorado
22 is keeping the minimal request that we had from
23 any groups in the State of Illinois.

24 Do you know, what was the data

1 that Colorado used for the draft maps? And I
2 ask because we have asked the question here in
3 Illinois, what is the data used by the majority
4 to draw the maps that were adopted in May. And
5 I'm still waiting for that answer, but I would
6 like to know what Colorado did?

7 MS. WENDY UNDERHILL: I'm going to be
8 at the 90 percent level of confidence, which is
9 different than the 100 percent level of
10 confidence that they used the ACS Five-Year
11 Estimates, and if you would like me to
12 double-check, I can get back to you on that.

13 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Because we
14 heard in Illinois that there's only census data,
15 but then there are other data sources as well,
16 and so those other data sources, I'm curious
17 about what are some of the best practices for
18 various data components in other states.

19 And then one more question. I
20 just want to make sure I understood you
21 correctly in the section on differential
22 privacy, which we all learned a lot about. It's
23 a really interesting and complex change for this
24 2020 census. But I had a recommendation, I want

1 to make sure I captured it correctly from the
2 acting director of the Census Bureau, and that
3 was a recommendation to use census block group
4 level data to avoid some of the issues that
5 could develop with differential privacy. Was I
6 reading that correctly on the slide?

7 MS. WENDY UNDERHILL: And Mr. Chair,
8 and Representative Bilandic, yes, and that link
9 that's on that slide goes directly to his blog
10 post, so of course, he's more -- he explains
11 himself exactly as he wants to.

12 He makes the point that the
13 census blocks themselves look funny when you
14 grab them together. If you can do most of your
15 work at the block group level, you will not see
16 those -- those odd funny, fuzzy, noisy things
17 that you do at the block level itself.

18 This is new for redistricters all
19 across the station, and I think people are right
20 at this moment probably checking this out how
21 well is this working for them.

22 So again, uncertainty on whether
23 his suggestion is useful or not. I do know that
24 that's a pretty major change from the way

1 redistricting has traditionally been done where
2 we do expect each block to be correct. And when
3 you add them, the addition works.

4 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Thank you. And
5 I think it's always important to appreciate your
6 advice and recommendations from the Census
7 Bureau, including the recommendation, don't use
8 a guess for redistricting.

9 I don't have further questions
10 now, Madam Chair and Mr. Chair. I think before
11 we move on to the witness panels though, it
12 would be appropriate to ask a few questions
13 about process. I would like to understand if we
14 plan on following the recommendation for the
15 Census Bureau to use block group as the lines of
16 division, and the majority party's efforts for
17 this latest round of maps. So I'll stop here,
18 in case there are further questions, but I would
19 like to have a status check on the process so we
20 can inform our witnesses and they can provide
21 the best possible testimony. Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you,
23 Representative Spain -- answer it now, or we're
24 having a number of testimony -- or rather

1 hearings this weekend, so we'll work through
2 these things and see what data points we have to
3 use to draw a map and adjust and making tweaks
4 from the most accurate information we have in
5 front of us.

6 So with that, I don't see anyone
7 else's hand up on the Zoom.

8 Just a reminder for those of our
9 colleagues that have Zoomed in, please use the
10 raise-your-hand function so that we can identify
11 it.

12 Butler has a question.

13 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Thank you,
14 Mr. Chairman.

15 Just to follow up on that same
16 question. The maps that I had witnessed
17 firsthand in the very next door yesterday, was
18 it on the block group level or -- I don't know
19 if Chair Hernandez, can you answer the question?
20 There was obviously maps out there. Are you
21 using block group level?

22 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Representative,
23 I -- if anything, whatever maps you're looking
24 at currently, because I hear that the

1 Republicans are also analyzing the map, the same
2 thing.

3 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Well, no, I'm
4 not talking about analyzing the maps. It's the
5 maps that I walked into Room 600 next to where
6 we're standing yesterday and I saw your members
7 literally looking at maps with staff, talking
8 about the boundaries. New maps and new
9 boundaries. Was that block group level?

10 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: I couldn't tell
11 you because I haven't even looked at those maps.
12 I haven't been in that room.

13 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Okay.

14 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Senator Barickman?

15 SENATOR BARICKMAN: Thank you, Madam
16 Chair and Senator Underhill -- I forget your
17 last name.

18 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Aquino.

19 SENATOR BARICKMAN: Aquino.

20 I want to go back to the slide
21 that discussed the depiction of the country and
22 the -- where the states are at in the map-making
23 process.

24 Now that the Census Bureau has

1 released the actual census data, what do you
2 anticipate to see in the course of the next, you
3 know, days, weeks, and months regarding how the
4 states will utilize that data and produce maps
5 for their state? What kind of work do you
6 anticipate and timeline do you anticipate the
7 states taking as they come forward with the
8 maps?

9 MS. WENDY UNDERHILL: Madam Chair, I
10 want to apologize to you. I didn't quite grasp
11 that I had a Madam Chair and a Mr. Chair, and so
12 I'm sorry that I keep referring to Mr. Chair.

13 So Madam Chair and Mr. Chair, if
14 I may, and respond to the question. States are
15 lining up special sessions right now as early as
16 in September; some will be as late as November.
17 Every state has its own timeline. I was on a
18 call earlier today in Nebraska, and they have
19 reduced the amount of time that local election
20 officials have to do their work, which follows
21 after the redistricters do their work by
22 50 percent, and so they've got quite a squeeze
23 now on the re-precincting and the local
24 redistricting. So any amount of time that's

1 used by redistricters reduces the time available
2 to local election officials to prepare for the
3 primaries, and also even to prepare for
4 candidate filing.

5 So what I'm seeing is that people
6 will be doing their work -- mostly they are
7 giving their data people maybe a couple of
8 weeks, I'm going to say, to look through the
9 data to see if it's working right and understand
10 what there is to be known about it, and then
11 special sessions between here and the end of the
12 year.

13 **A handful, maybe as many as ten**
14 **or so, will wait until their first legislative**
15 **session in 2022 to do their redistricting; and**
16 **that you can imagine if that's the case, it's**
17 **going to be the very first item on the docket.**

18 **So each state has got its own**
19 **concerns and its own timeline. And hopefully,**
20 **someone is keeping a timeline for Illinois, too,**
21 **so that you can get to the primary on time.**

22 SENATOR BARICKMAN: Thank you for that
23 response. I know your statement that you
24 anticipate over the course of the data build

1 over the next several weeks, we'll be doing the
2 work that goes into that.

3 Are you aware of any states other
4 than Illinois who are contemplating the adoption
5 of a map as early as next week?

6 MS. WENDY UNDERHILL: Madam Chair,
7 Mr. Chair and Representative, I'm not aware of
8 any others. That doesn't mean that they aren't
9 out there. And if I catch them, I will bring
10 them back to your attention.

11 SENATOR BARICKMAN: Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you -- (audio
13 distortion) -- before we move on to our agenda
14 here, I see that former state senator and former
15 Chicago clerk, Miguel del Valle has signed in to
16 provide testimony.

17 Mr. del Valle, if you can see on
18 the screen, if you can unmute yourself and begin
19 your testimony. Thank you.

20 MR. MIGUEL DEL VALLE: Thank you,
21 Mr. Chairman and Madam Chair for this
22 opportunity.

23 I would like to just -- before I
24 get into the matter, I would like to just share

1 a brief history.

2 I was the first Latino plaintiff
3 in the first redistricting case brought by
4 MALDEF in 1981. At that time, a Democrat-drawn
5 map was challenged in federal court. At that
6 time, there were zero Latino representatives in
7 the House, and zero Latino state senators.

8 As a result of a new map that was
9 drawn in that case, even though at the time that
10 I agreed to be a plaintiff, I had no intentions
11 of running for office. I was executive director
12 of a human services agency, but several years
13 later as a result of the creation of a different
14 senate district that had favorable numbers for
15 Latinos, I was elected the first Latino state
16 senator in Illinois, and started serving in
17 1987.

18 The first Latino state rep was
19 elected in 1982 after we were successful with
20 that redistricting case, and that was Joseph
21 Berrios, who served in the House as the first
22 Latino state representative.

23 Then ten years later as a result
24 of my direct involvement in the redistricting

1 process, then as a state senator, we were
2 successful in creating another Latino majority
3 senate district on the South Side where Jesus
4 Garcia was elected the second Latino state
5 senator.

6 Ten years after that, I was also
7 directly involved, and we were able to create
8 two more Latino majority state senators and
9 state senate districts, and that's what led to
10 the election of Iris Martinez and things went
11 well on the South Side.

12 So I share that with you only to
13 let you know that I've been involved with
14 redistricting and dealing with redistricting now
15 for 40 years. And the last time around in 2011,
16 I was not satisfied with the final map that was
17 approved by the General Assembly. I felt that
18 we could have done better for Latinos, but that
19 map was not challenged.

20 This time around, again, for the
21 record, I was in support of using the American
22 Community Survey numbers to draw a map. And
23 felt that the Dems, in particular, would make
24 sure that Latinos had as many favorable Latino

1 districts as possible with a population, a
2 voting age population that would allow Latinos
3 to elect candidates of their choice.

4 I have to say that once the map
5 became available, there was no real time to look
6 at the numbers, even though I had looked at the
7 numbers that the Latino Policy Forum had
8 produced, and then was able to quickly assess
9 that the Democratic-drawn map that was signed
10 into the law by Governor Pritzker had districts
11 that did not maximize the number of Latino
12 voting age population numbers in those
13 districts, and the map produced by the Latino
14 Policy Forum showed that was the case in a
15 number of districts; not all the districts were
16 Latino majority population, but in a number of
17 districts.

18 And so if I had been in the
19 General Assembly when this map was approved, I
20 would have voted no, until the numbers were
21 improved, until the numbers changed.

22 Well, the map was approved. The
23 numbers have not changed; but as I predicted
24 back when I agreed with the use of the American

1 Community Survey numbers, I knew that once the
2 census numbers became available, that the
3 General Assembly would need to come back and do
4 a lot of tweaking in order to make sure that the
5 census numbers were the ones that were finally
6 used to create a map that we'll have for the
7 next ten years.

8 So I am here today to say that I
9 want -- and urge you to improve the numbers of
10 the map that you approved, as I said some
11 districts are fine, but a number of districts
12 are not, a number of districts could be better,
13 better percentages, and, of course, my goal is
14 to see us maximize the opportunities, the
15 number of opportunities we have to afford
16 Latinos an opportunity to elect candidates of
17 their choice.

18 So we have to create, we need to
19 modify these numbers. I think the federal
20 court, the judge has already indicated that you
21 ought to work on it, said talk with the -- and
22 deal with the minority population this time
23 around, so I'm sure you're going to take that
24 advice and proceed to make the modifications

1 necessary so that the final map that is put
2 forth is one that will protect the interests of
3 Latinos throughout the entire state. And it is
4 the population that has grown the most, and so I
5 think it's only right that we be looking at
6 those numbers and see where the modifications
7 need to be made.

8 So Mr. Chairman, thank you for
9 the opportunity, Madam Chair. And I look
10 forward to a process that will yield maps that
11 are fair to Latinos in the State of Illinois.

12 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you. And
13 we'll move forward on my list here. I have
14 Latino Policy Forum represented by Roberto
15 Valdez, Jr. Please unmute yourself.

16 MR. ROBERTO VALDEZ, JR.: Good
17 afternoon, Chair Aquino. Good afternoon, Chair
18 Hernandez, members of the Senate and House
19 Redistricting Committee. My name is Roberto
20 Valdez. I am with the Latino Policy Forum.

21 First, I would like to thank
22 Chair Aquino and Chair Hernandez and all the
23 members of the Senate and House Committees for
24 taking the time to hear from us, from the Forum

1 and other advocates today in response to
2 potential adjustments to the legislative
3 boundaries.

4 As you know, the Forum is a
5 statewide, nonprofit advocacy and policy
6 organization. Part of the Forum's work to
7 strengthen leadership includes ensuring there's
8 a fair redistricting process that provides
9 opportunities for the Latino community to elect
10 the candidates of their choice.

11 Part of this work also includes
12 ensuring there are cohesive Latino communities
13 of interest in the state legislature's
14 map-making process, promoting equitable Latino
15 representation in the map-making proceedings,
16 and advocating for a map that is reflective of
17 the demographics of Illinois' Latino population.

18 As you all know, the Forum
19 provided oral and written testimony in multiple
20 hearings from March through May of this year.
21 Unfortunately, some of the requests the Forum
22 provided were not included when the legislative
23 maps were released and ultimately passed and
24 signed into law.

1 This includes maps that were
2 drawn not to optimize the best opportunity for
3 Latinos to elect candidates of their choice, and
4 a map that was drawn without the strongest
5 concentrations of Latino populations as
6 possible.

7 The drawing of the maps,
8 therefore, in our opinion, contradicted the
9 principles set forth for and by this committee;
10 those principles of fairness, of diversity, and
11 of equity.

12 Moreover, when the legislative
13 maps were released in May, no racial or
14 demographic composition of districts were made
15 available. This prevented us, the Forum, and
16 others from providing valuable feedback and
17 input on the maps.

18 We said this in May, and I will
19 repeat it, without any -- with zero data
20 available, zero analysis can be conducted.
21 However, three months later, here we are, with
22 an opportunity to amend what was done back then
23 and include the suggestions of community
24 organizations and advocates.

1 Again, our asks are
2 straightforward and simple. We ask for
3 legislative maps that truly reflect the
4 diversity of our state, the Forum asks for
5 districts that provide the best opportunity for
6 Latinos to elect candidates of their choice, the
7 Forum asks for districts that optimize the
8 concentration of Latinos. We ask for a
9 reasonable timeline that enables community
10 input, and then finally, and I think this is the
11 most important, we ask for overall transparency
12 of the process.

13 We're joining other advocates
14 today in asking for more time to provide an
15 efficient analysis of the 2020 census numbers,
16 and to present a map to this Committee and to
17 the legislature that can be considered when
18 making these adjustments.

19 And then I will end by really
20 emphasizing that we do not have to rush this
21 process. It was maybe understood why it was
22 done in May. Now we are in August. We have the
23 census numbers, and we have no reason to rush
24 this process.

1 So I really urge this committee,
2 both House and Senate, as well as other
3 legislators who did pass the maps in May, to not
4 rush the process and really give us advocates an
5 opportunity to provide you, you know, with the
6 information that you need to make these
7 decisions and ultimately draw maps that are
8 equitable and fair.

9 With that, the Forum strongly
10 appreciates the support of this committee during
11 the 2021 remapping process, and we look forward
12 to your continued work. Thank you so much for
13 your consideration.

14 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you, Roberto.

15 Before I open up the floor, I
16 have a question for you: Does the Latino Policy
17 Forum plan to submit adjustments to the
18 committee as to new maps based on the new census
19 numbers? Do you all plan to submit adjusted
20 maps with those new numbers?

21 MR. ROBERTO VALDEZ: Yes, sir, yes,
22 Chairman. We do plan on providing a map similar
23 to the one that we provided using ACS numbers,
24 but as you can imagine, with only three weeks

1 since the census numbers were produced, it does
2 take some time to analyze and really not only
3 produce the map but get input from community
4 members. I mean, you are very aware of our
5 Acuerdo network, which is over 100
6 community-based organizations; of course, you
7 know, it's almost impossible it speak to all
8 these organizations, but we would love to
9 present something to them to try to give them a
10 voice in making this decision.

11 So that was a longwinded answer,
12 Chairman Aquino; but yes, we do plan to submit
13 those.

14 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you -- (audio
15 distortion).

16 The new census number data
17 information can be found on our website
18 mentioned previously and we will certainly --
19 happening in the next few days.

20 Any other questions for
21 Mr. Valdez?

22 And just a reminder for those
23 that are doing this virtually, please use the
24 raise-your-hand function, but -- Minority

1 Spokesperson Barickman, please.

2 SENATOR BARICKMAN: Thanks, Chair
3 Aquino.

4 I appreciate your testimony to
5 this forum. I am curious if you could be more
6 specific in regards to the time for which you
7 are requesting be given so that you can obtain
8 the committee -- perform your analysis, obtain
9 your committee -- committee's input and proceed
10 with this committee. What specific timeline do
11 you need accommodated?

12 MR. ROBERTO VALDEZ: Thank you for
13 your question.

14 It would be ideal to have a
15 minimum of 30 days, again, not only to conduct
16 the analysis, produce a map, but also try to
17 conduct groups -- discussion groups with our
18 community-based organizations.

19 Ideally, 30 days. We know that
20 that's maybe a stretch, but I would answer the
21 question by saying 30 days.

22 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Okay. Thank you.

23 I see Representative Bourne's
24 hand held virtually. Senator Bourne, feel free

1 to ask a question.

2 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: Thank you,
3 Mr. Chairman. Senator Barickman asked most of
4 my questions.

5 But just to clarify, so that's
6 30 days before you would be able to submit a map
7 to this Committee for -- that your organization
8 would say is your ideal map, and then how many
9 days -- I know we talked about this before, but
10 are you still with the two weeks to analyze a
11 potential legislative map, so these could be two
12 separate things, right, a 30-day window, present
13 the legislative map, and then two weeks
14 afterwards to analyze it?

15 MR. ROBERTO VALDEZ: That sounds about
16 right, Representative, just because at that
17 point we would already have our map, and we
18 would be able to compare and look at where the
19 gaps are or -- you know, yeah, so it would be
20 two weeks.

21 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: Okay. That's
22 really helpful.

23 The other thing I wanted to ask
24 about is you asked for transparency in the

1 process. Obviously, we want this process to be
2 open and transparent; something that I think the
3 public deserves.

4 Is this anything -- what are your
5 ideas to make sure this is transparent, not only
6 to the groups that you work with, but certainly,
7 those of us who are in the political space it's
8 easier to say the transparency bar is lower
9 because we kind of know the access -- the way,
10 the bar entry, right. What are your ideas for
11 transparency? I just want to make sure that we
12 are aware of, you know, the best practices.

13 My guess is a hearing at
14 10:00 a.m. on a Sunday announced a few days
15 beforehand does not satisfy your transparency
16 request.

17 MR. ROBERTO VALDEZ: I would answer
18 your question, Representative, by saying
19 under -- having a concrete timeline,
20 understanding when we can expect a draft,
21 understanding that we will be given two weeks
22 once that draft is produced, understanding that
23 data will accompany the map, and just having a
24 concrete game plan, I think, that would suffice

1 our definition of transparency.

2 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: That seems
3 super basic. I appreciate that. Thank you.
4 That's all I have, Mr. Chairman.

5 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you.

6 And Representative Spain.

7 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Thank you,
8 Mr. Chairman.

9 Mr. Valdez, thank you so much for
10 your testimony today. As you have reviewed the
11 map that was adopted by the General Assembly and
12 signed by the Governor in late May or maybe
13 June, what is your assessment of the number of
14 legislative districts that would exhibit a
15 preference for Latinx candidates, and then based
16 on your understanding -- and I share your
17 frustration that we didn't have the right data
18 shared with us at a district level back in the
19 spring; but if you had that now, do you have a
20 target that you are shooting for based on your
21 analysis of the population in Illinois of how
22 many potential districts could be available
23 through the construct of a better map?

24 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Pardon me,

1 Representative Spain.

2 Clerk, can you please add Leader
3 Hoffman to the roll.

4 MR. ROBERTO VALDEZ: Sure. I mean, I
5 wouldn't want to point to a direct number
6 without really looking at census numbers
7 completely.

8 But to address the question
9 around the map that was passed, and focusing on
10 the Latino majority districts, we found with our
11 analysis that 10 of the 14 House districts were
12 essentially diluted; Latino concentration could
13 have been stronger as Mr. del Valle mentioned
14 that that for us was not acceptable. We did
15 feel that the maps on the districts short --
16 Latinos were shortchanged by the maps that were
17 passed, and so -- and it is -- it was
18 frustrating trying to find the data; you know,
19 to my knowledge, there's different datasets
20 floated around and it was difficult to find the
21 correct dataset to really point to.

22 So again, I'll reemphasize just
23 having that transparency I think would be --
24 would make my life a lot easier versus having to

1 look for stuff around.

2 I don't know if I answered your
3 question.

4 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: No, you did,
5 and I appreciate that. Again, I share your
6 frustration about getting to the data, and so as
7 we have more data now from actually receiving
8 the census, either Chair Aquino or Chair
9 Hernandez, both of them, as part of our next
10 step, will we be making an effort to increase
11 the Latino makeup of some of these districts to
12 better favor the Latino-preferred candidates?

13 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: (Audio
14 distortion) -- make sure that the map is
15 reflective of the great diversity of this state,
16 and that's what we hope that these adjustments
17 will be answered and try to do, is to reflect
18 our great diversity.

19 SENATOR BARICKMAN: I think we've
20 heard from two witnesses here who said in their
21 opinion the map does not reflect the great
22 diversity of our great state. So how will we go
23 about making these changes to be in better
24 alignment with the diversity and strength of

1 diversity in the State of Illinois?

2 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: The purpose of these
3 conversations that we are having over the next
4 few days is to have the discussion, not only
5 here in the City of Chicago but throughout the
6 entire state to offer an opportunity for folks
7 that have provided some feedback prior and also
8 does provide feedback now to make certain
9 adjustments to those maps.

10 SENATOR BARICKMAN: One more question,
11 Mr. Chair. We talked about the request for
12 review, the appropriate timing to -- both
13 understand the census data, react to a proposed
14 map, we saw that the State of Colorado offered
15 months to do so. We've had again testimony
16 today calling for additional time, at least two
17 weeks, that would be allowed for a map to be
18 presented and feedback then would be collected.

19 One question I have, though, I
20 assume that all of these hearings are very
21 sincere, and very desired to receive feedback
22 from community advocates.

23 And my question is, how long does
24 the majority and the majority part of the staff

1 and members need to receive this feedback to
2 make meaningful use of it?

3 In other words, you heard
4 advocates say, let's take two weeks, have a map
5 presented, and then we will give you feedback.
6 I assume you want to take that feedback and use
7 it to make improvements to the map that has been
8 presented. How much time do you need to do
9 that?

10 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Representative
11 Spain, the census data has been released about
12 three weeks now, and so what I would say is that
13 part of the data and what is taken into account
14 is not only the physical data but also from the
15 stories that have been shared since the spring
16 and also what we are going to be collecting over
17 the next few days of input.

18 What I can tell you is that right
19 now, and it's been with, you know, the Speaker
20 of the House and the Senate present have
21 scheduled a special session that is scheduled
22 for next Tuesday, I guess, specifically,
23 scheduled for the purposes of taking up
24 adjustments to the legislative maps. We are

1 working throughout the next few days to see if
2 we can get to the adjustments necessary to show
3 that the -- the great diversity of our great
4 state with adjustments to the maps. That's what
5 we have in front of us right now. That's the
6 only information that I have, so with that said,
7 that's what's publicly been out there.

8 SENATOR BARICKMAN: The problem with
9 the timeline is that we have had witnesses ask
10 for two weeks. We are here on a Thursday, a
11 vote is scheduled of next week on Tuesday on a
12 map that we have not seen that is apparently
13 already under development for the Democratic --
14 of Democratic incumbents.

15 Witnesses are presenting
16 information, and my question is, how much time
17 will be needed for that information presented to
18 be fully applied to a map of which none of the
19 witnesses are privy to seeing at this point?

20 We literally have a hearing
21 scheduled on Sunday at 10:00 a.m., and 48 or 50
22 hours later, we're due in Springfield. So
23 you'll forgive me for feeling that this process
24 is more than a little bit disingenuous.

1 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you.
2 Representative Butler.

3 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Thank you,
4 Mr. Chair. Just to follow up on the -- my
5 questioning. So the conversations that you
6 talked about taking place over these next four
7 days are great, but who is actually going to be
8 making the decisions on what's on the map --
9 making those decisions, or you're just going to
10 have conversation and then the maps are drawn
11 behind closed doors by the majority?

12 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thanks for your
13 comments. (Audio distortion) -- this year now,
14 but as we did in the spring, which was that we
15 had hundreds of hours of moments like these
16 where we got all together, after hearing from --
17 testimony from the public, which is what we're
18 hoping to accomplish today, and in the next few
19 days, to get feedback from community members of
20 what they would like to see in terms of
21 representation over the next ten years, and so
22 that's why we are having this open dialogue from
23 community members. That's why they are held
24 virtually so that it doesn't inhibit somebody's

1 ability to participate, even during a pandemic,
2 and that's also why we are having a number of
3 hearings, and as we have done in the past, and
4 what we're going to continue with this weekend,
5 not just in one location, but throughout the
6 entire state, so we can hear all voices and have
7 feedback from multiple points to help effect
8 what the end result of a map would be for the
9 State of Illinois.

10 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Can you give
11 us a time period of when Illinois will be able
12 to see the adjusted map?

13 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: I can't provide you
14 an answer to that.

15 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: The
16 legislation that passed, HB2777, contains 1200
17 pages, I believe, that was introduced not long
18 before we had to vote on it in committee in the
19 middle of the night the question when it was
20 introduced, with no time for the advocates to
21 review this legislation.

22 And I would just refer you to
23 when you talk about hearing from the community
24 and the great effort you took this spring, and

1 the great effort you're undertaking this
2 weekend, and I hate to get ahead of ourselves,
3 Mr. Jay Young from Common Cause has been before
4 this committee before and has written testimony
5 submitted today that says, once again,
6 witnessing the process that is highly unlikely
7 to see much in the sense of true community
8 engagement. That's what we are, out of the
9 forest, here over the next four days with a map
10 that you won't tell us when you're going to roll
11 it out, but I assume it's going to be sometime
12 late on Monday or early Tuesday morning.

13 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Mr. Chair --
14 Chair Aquino, I just want to pretty much -- I'm
15 in support of what you have relayed. It's right
16 now currently accumulating the data. Prior, we
17 had to meet a deadline, we met the deadline, we
18 collected the data, we are looking simply to
19 intake all the feedback.

20 This is extremely helpful. And I
21 do have a question for you, Roberto, in terms of
22 the percentage of threshold, the Latino
23 percentage threshold, what are you -- what is
24 that? What are you looking for that threshold

1 number to be?

2 MR. ROBERTO VALDEZ: Well, I think --
3 thank you, Chair Hernandez, for the question.

4 I think our Latino community in
5 the State of Illinois is very, obviously,
6 diverse in itself, and I say that because, for
7 example, the voting age population in the north
8 side where you see a heavier concentration of
9 Puerto Rican, the Puerto Rican community, and
10 because of their status, then that percentage
11 really can hold -- the percentage can be lower,
12 55 to 60 percent voting age population.

13 But then in the -- and I know I'm
14 preaching to the choir here, the southwest side
15 of Chicago where you do have a -- maybe a larger
16 undocumented population, the threshold needs to
17 be a little higher, so there isn't one set
18 number that I can give you, but it would be
19 fair to say around 60 percent voting age
20 population.

21 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: I just needed
22 some help there. So thank you.

23 MR. ROBERTO VALDEZ: Thank you, Chair.

24 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you, Madam

1 Chair. Seeing no further hands being raised in
2 person and virtually, we will move on. So thank
3 you for your info and the Latino Policy Forum.

4 We'll be moving next with our
5 good friends at the Illinois Muslim Civic
6 Coalition, Dr. Dilara Sayeed, Safaa Zarzour,
7 Reema Kamran, and Ahmed Ali Taha.

8 Dr. Sayeed, there should be a
9 button in front of you, when it's red, it
10 indicates that it's on, so feel free to begin
11 your testimony.

12 DR. DILARA SAYEED: Good afternoon,
13 Chairman. Good afternoon, Senators, Senator
14 Representatives. Thank you for holding a
15 meeting and listening to the communities and the
16 activists, and to honor, as this is said over
17 and over again, the great diversity of our
18 state.

19 We would like to begin with just
20 an introduction of ourselves. My name is
21 Dr. Dilara Sayeed, and my colleague, Reema
22 Kamran have been -- are cofounders of the
23 coalition, and we are also joined via Zoom by a
24 leader from Champaign, Illinois, and a leader

1 from southwest Cook County, Illinois.

2 The Illinois Muslim Civic
3 Coalition works in 10 different counties across
4 the state. Again, you've heard our testimony
5 before, sharing the diversity of the state
6 includes a great diversity of race, faith,
7 geography, political ideology, and all other
8 backgrounds.

9 We've been working with you all
10 in sharing not only the data that we have access
11 to, but also the people that we've been working
12 with, our allies, the Latino Policy Forum, at
13 UCCRO, at Common Cause, CHANGE Illinois, and all
14 of the local community organizations.

15 There are 150 different partners
16 and allies across the state. And I think today
17 what you're going to get is a synopsis of some
18 of the data that we presented before, but mostly
19 also new census data and how that has
20 acknowledged some of the things that we've been
21 saying all along over the last six months.

22 If you remember on June 30, we
23 had a -- do you have the presentation in front
24 of you? On June 30 we released a statement, and

1 we asked you to please reconsider the maps once
2 census data was available. We asked you to
3 incorporate all data available, because census
4 data alone, ACS data alone, any data alone does
5 not, again, identify and honor the great
6 diversity of our state, and we are to make very
7 monumental decisions of redistricting, a
8 once-in-a-decade decision.

9 We also shared stories of
10 ourselves. The photo that you see include the
11 triplets that looked like young boys before and
12 just this week those triplets went to U of I
13 Champaign and started their education. Another
14 generation of our family in the state. That
15 also includes my little one, named Aya, at the
16 center of that photo. And it includes photos of
17 Illinois Muslims all across the state.

18 One of the first things we'd like
19 to show you, courtesy of the Chicago Lawyers
20 Committee on Civil Rights and our friend Ami
21 Gandhi and others on their team, population
22 change according to the 2020 census. What we
23 would like you to note the late changes that you
24 will see and the increase in the Latinx

1 community, in the Asian communities, and in
2 communities where residents identify as
3 multiracial. This is a significant change.

4 We'd also like you to acknowledge
5 and understand that we have seen a small
6 population decrease by the African-American
7 communities. The Black population in and of
8 itself has not changed a whole lot if you
9 include African immigrants, African-American,
10 and all communities that may identify as Black.

11 And Middle Easterners still count
12 as white, so we didn't do good by them in the
13 2020 census. We will tune that in 2030, and the
14 data we'll provide will also help you
15 understand -- the data we provide will also help
16 you understand that there's other data besides
17 the census that can help us understand the Arab
18 and the Middle Eastern residents and where they
19 are and how they live.

20 Basically, all of this data shows
21 that more equitable representation is necessary.
22 Strong data will continue to be released by the
23 census, but to know the next level of
24 demographics based on ethnicity has not been

1 released and will be released soon. We urge you
2 to wait for that. If you choose not to wait for
3 that, we urge you to continue to use community
4 organizations like ours to provide you with more
5 information so that you can be as accurate as
6 possible.

7 Those who identify as Muslim are
8 at an intersection. We are of all different
9 races, all different backgrounds, but
10 predominantly in Illinois African-American,
11 Asian, Middle Eastern, Latinx, African
12 immigrants, and White.

13 Our ask today is again, as we
14 have asked before, do not push to 2030 to
15 provide representation to communities who have
16 zero or minimal representation right now. This
17 does not honor the great diversity of the State
18 of Illinois.

19 I our second ask is to recognize
20 that Arab communities right now in the census
21 are identified as White. Inaccurate. And it
22 does impact the data.

23 And our ask number three, ensure
24 2021 maps reflect the diversity of race,

1 ethnicity, and faiths across Illinois.

2 I think Roberto of the Latino
3 Policy Forum said it excellently, to hear all of
4 us, community activists that have worked
5 together supporting each other. None of us want
6 one of our communities to win while all of our
7 communities collectively lose. We work
8 together. We built a unity map. We worked
9 together in supporting each other through this
10 process.

11 We would like to talk to you
12 about one such county where there's been a great
13 change and so that you can hear from one of our
14 partners in that county. Champaign County
15 population change has been significant. The
16 Asian community has increased in Champaign of
17 73 percent.

18 The African-American and Black
19 populations have increased from 25 percent. The
20 Latinx population has increased by 51 percent.
21 Champaign deserves to have representation that
22 is equitable to those populations.

23 I would like to introduce
24 Dr. Ahmed Taha of Champaign to talk about the

1 Champaign County. We also would like to
2 address -- direct you to the next set of maps of
3 the six county maps that we created that allow
4 for influence districts from our community.
5 Influence districts where our communities can
6 come together, communities of color and
7 communities of certain issues and vote, and have
8 representation.

9 Dr. Taha?

10 DR. AHMED TAHA: Thank you so much,
11 Dr. Dilara, for inviting me to share my thoughts
12 on Champaign County a little bit as part of the
13 Illinois commission.

14 My name is Ahmed Taha. I have
15 been living in Champaign County for the last
16 16 years coming from Chicago. And I'm part of
17 the community, in the Muslim community in
18 Champaign, so this give me a good perception
19 about the fabric of the community. And our
20 community is mainly student -- a college town,
21 but has been in the last years growing as
22 businesses as well as professionals, so we have
23 most of our Muslim community either first
24 generation or second generation families. We

1 have a lot of converts from African-American
2 background, from African background, and from
3 the White American, from the Latino background,
4 and we have the children of the immigrant
5 Muslims, and we have a lot of international
6 students from over 50 countries all over the
7 world coming to you, U of I is one of the
8 prestigious teaching and research universities,
9 and this makes our community a very diverse
10 community.

11 Diverse from the age; children,
12 grade schools, college students, and adults and
13 diverse as ethnicity; adults, the Asians, and
14 Africans and African Americans, White, and
15 Latinos and the big spectrum of diversity, and
16 as one in diversity, education and the class.
17 And because of the -- we are a college town, we
18 have a big -- the largest -- from university
19 professors and researchers, and graduate
20 students, and in addition to businessmen in
21 addition to employees, and going all the way to
22 the factory workers and the -- we have a number
23 of the Muslim community, local Muslim community,
24 in Champaign, Urbana and Champaign, it's around

1 3,000 -- over 3,000 Muslim residents with more
2 than 2,000 of the Muslim students at U of I from
3 all of these countries, and this means actually
4 the change from the 2021 census reports, the big
5 growth -- a considerable growth in the
6 population of Asians, Black, Latinos,
7 multiracials by a big number, that there's three
8 digits, that deserves relevant state
9 representation in our rather diverse community.
10 Thank you so much for inviting me for testimony.

11 DR. DILARA SAYEED: Thank you,
12 Dr. Taha.

13 Senator Barickman, I believe this
14 is your area, and you understand we are looking
15 for a growth in Illinois' numbers. The best
16 universities are right here, and that's a
17 gateway to growth, because when people come
18 here, they go to school, and in this case they
19 are coming from 50 different countries across
20 the world. You get the best and the brightest
21 in Illinois schools, and you want to keep them.
22 So we should be increasing that gateway, making
23 them feel that they belong here, that this is
24 home and they are represented.

1 We say the same thing about
2 McLean Illinois. You know that Bloomington and
3 Normal Illinois is the first place that my
4 father-in-law came in the 1950s and '60s, with a
5 better job at ISU. And 60 years later there are
6 four generations of our family.

7 Today that county is seeing a
8 rejuvenation with the Rivian company that has
9 come here and people who are coming from all
10 over the country to work here and from all over
11 the world to work here; another chance for us to
12 bring in the best and the brightest in the state
13 of Illinois. Many of these best and the
14 brightest are people of color. Many of them
15 come from the backgrounds that identify as
16 Muslim, South Asian, Middle Eastern, Arab,
17 Latinx, African immigrant, and African
18 Americans.

19 This is not redistricting for
20 those people who just live here. We are
21 redistricting for the next decade of our state.
22 It's just smart to understand who is in the
23 state now, who else we want in the state, and
24 how we can make sure that we get the best and

1 the brightest and honor the great diversity of
2 Illinois.

3 Another county that has seen
4 incredible growth; but unfortunately, because
5 again, the Arab American community is counted as
6 white, you wouldn't notice that they were here
7 on any census track, is southwest Cook. And I
8 would like to introduce Safaa Zarzour is both a
9 lawyer, a community activist, a community
10 leader, and one of -- the president of several
11 large organization across our community. Safaa.

12 MR. SAFAA ZARZOUR: Yes, thank you
13 Dr. Sayeed for the invitation to address the
14 committee, and thank you for the committee to
15 allow me my testimony. I'm grateful for that.

16 As was mentioned, my name is
17 Safaa Zarzour. I am a long-time resident of
18 southwest Cook. I lived in the Bridgeview,
19 Chicago Ridge area for the last 30 years. I am
20 the superintendent of Universal School located
21 in Bridgeview, one of the largest Islamic
22 schools in the nation. I'm also an attorney. I
23 specialize in municipal and non-profit law, so
24 I'm involved in quite a few non-profit

1 organizations. I happen to be the president of
2 the Islamic Society of North America, one of the
3 largest Islamic organizations in the nation.
4 I'm also a board member of the Illinois Muslim
5 Coalition.

6 As Dr. Sayeed mentioned several
7 times in her testimony that the Arab population
8 is currently counted as white in the census.
9 But in reality what happens is that the Arab
10 population is distinctly viewed and treated as a
11 minority. So what happens, then, is that it's
12 really almost like a tragic situation where you
13 have all the disadvantages of being a minority
14 but none of the remedies that the law has
15 afforded minorities to create equity. As a
16 result, there's a very large and growing
17 population of Arabs and Middle Easterners and
18 North Africans in the southwest of Cook County
19 that really goes unrepresented. And what we are
20 saying is that, though as Dr. Sayeed had
21 mentioned, there is great efforts to try to make
22 sure that in the 2030 census that Middle
23 Easterners and North Africans would be
24 identified as a distinct group, but until then

1 we have enough tools and enough ways to be able
2 to identify this population so it can have
3 representation. Because the fact is today,
4 there's next to zero, in fact, on the state
5 level, I believe there's zero representation of
6 Arab American and Eastern populations. And very
7 very, very minimal on the local level. I,
8 myself, have served on the park district as well
9 as the School District 229 in my locality, but I
10 am totally the exception.

11 We are looking for a fairer
12 representation for the Arab population. And it
13 is so we can bring the best out of this
14 community in serving the larger society, in
15 serving all of us, and there's a lot of talent,
16 there's a lot of potential there that remains
17 untapped because of the lack of representation.

18 The map that has been presented
19 is one that I encourage the legislators to
20 consider; and again, the fact that in particular
21 the Arab and Middle Eastern population is not
22 identified distinctly does not at all mean that
23 we cannot and do not have ways to enable the
24 community to have representations in the new

1 redistricting and that's what we are asking. I
2 thank you for your time.

3 Dr. Dilara SAYEED: Thank you, Safaa.

4 The last piece of the green map
5 that you will see on the screen that we wanted
6 to share with you, much of what we talked about
7 today in the data that we showed is reflected in
8 the unity map that we created with the Latinx
9 communities, African-American communities, Asian
10 communities and Jewish communities. We are
11 collaborators on this. It is the best of what
12 our communities can do together, when we
13 collaborate and work together.

14 This map will be up updated and
15 UCCRO will be submitting a new map. We just
16 needed a little bit more time to make sure that
17 our map correctly reflected the information that
18 we were able to glean from the census
19 information that was revealed.

20 Again, we stress that the
21 second-level census data; for example, I was
22 able to put Asian, but there was a subcategory
23 on the census that allowed me to put Hindi,
24 which is my ethnic background. That data has

1 not been revealed yet. Those who identify as
2 White had an opportunity to then put their
3 ethnicity, that they were Jordanian, that had
4 only the choice of White, they could still put
5 their ethnicity. If they were Irish and White,
6 they could put that ethnicity. That data has
7 not been revealed, and we urge you, again, to
8 access that data for more accurate census and
9 redistricting.

10 The last set of maps on the
11 presentation that you've been provided have
12 other datasets that you can use; one, is a list
13 of all houses of worship and community centers
14 that identify as Muslim regardless of different
15 backgrounds.

16 Another one, a Google maps of
17 restaurants, butcher shops, and organizations
18 and restaurants -- organizations and businesses
19 that have certain tag words that we think you
20 should know about.

21 And all in all, we believe that
22 this information, along with our unity map,
23 along with our individual influence districts
24 map should help you listen, hear, and see

1 communities that are an integral part of our
2 state and communities that should have
3 representation. Thank you for your time. We
4 are available if you have any questions.

5 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you. I don't
6 see any hands up virtually. (Audio distortion.)
7 Representative Butler.

8 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Thank you,
9 Mr. Chairman. I just have to say, again, say
10 thank you to the Illinois Muslims Civic
11 Coalition, and it's so nice to see Dr. Sayeed
12 right here in person instead of over Zoom, as we
13 saw you last spring, and your organization -- I
14 mean, has done such a tremendous job throughout
15 the state. And telling this -- these committees
16 what you want, and it's just -- it's been so
17 impressive to see it across the state and the
18 data that you bring forward is great. And I
19 just -- do you feel through this process that
20 your views were reflected -- your thoughts were
21 reflected in the maps that were passed in May?

22 DR. DILARA SAYEED: We do not.
23 Otherwise, my testimony would have been about
24 six minutes shorter.

1 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Thank you.

2 DR. DILARA SAYEED: But we do find it
3 encouraging in the number of you that reached
4 out in the last three months to get briefings
5 from our team to gain a deeper understanding of
6 our communities. And hope is always something
7 that activists have to have in their hearts, in
8 their minds, and on their feet.

9 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Well, again,
10 I'm so impressed with what you all have done in
11 it.

12 As you laid out in your testimony
13 today and throughout the spring, the people that
14 you are advocating for are across the entire
15 state of Illinois, in my community and
16 everyone's community here. And again, I
17 appreciate your testimony, and hopefully, as we
18 move forward in whatever the process will be,
19 that it will be reflected and becomes law under
20 the new maps.

21 DR. DILARA SAYEED: We agree. We
22 don't think it's just the right thing to do. We
23 think it's the smart thing to do for Illinois.
24 And we encourage any of you that haven't had a

1 briefing from us to reach out. We'd be happy to
2 get to know you better and be briefed.

3 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you.
4 Representative Demmer. Demonstrate misdemeanor.

5 REPRESENTATIVE DEMMER: Thank you,
6 Mr. Chair. And this is directed to either of
7 the two co-chairs.

8 We heard in this presentation a
9 request to incorporate other types of data
10 beyond the census data. And so my question for
11 you is, as you are drawing these new maps that
12 we'll be voting on on Tuesday, what data sources
13 are you using? Anybody?

14 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Sorry. Dr. Sayeed,
15 the data that you had mentioned earlier, would
16 be available in March of 2022; is that correct?

17 DR. DILARA SAYEED: (Inaudible) -- in
18 the next month.

19 We, again, encourage you to use
20 as much access to different datasets as
21 possible, but our understanding is late
22 September more census data will be released and
23 we will continue to release our data.

24 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Representative

1 Demmer, you wanted to ask a question?

2 REPRESENTATIVE DEMMER: Yes, what
3 datasets, and either to you, Mr. Chair, or to
4 Chairwoman Hernandez, what datasets are you
5 using to draw the maps that we'll vote on on
6 Tuesday?

7 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: The census data that
8 has been provided that we -- the current data --
9 the most accurate data that we have available to
10 us.

11 REPRESENTATIVE DEMMER: Only the
12 census data or is there other data that you're
13 incorporating?

14 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Datas that are
15 available -- you know, all datas that are
16 available that are most accurate that we have
17 available.

18 REPRESENTATIVE DEMMER: That doesn't
19 really answer the question at all.

20 I'm asking about, specifically,
21 what data are you using? Is it exclusively
22 census data, or are there other data sources?

23 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Just census.

24 REPRESENTATIVE DEMMER: But what other

1 indicators are you using? What data sources are
2 you using in their entirety?

3 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: We don't have an
4 answer for you on that one right now.

5 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: And Leader
6 Demmer, I would just say the same. All I know,
7 currently, is with new census -- with the census
8 data now coming in, that is what's being looked
9 on -- at. But in addition, it's the
10 testimonies -- we get to hear out the public,
11 and the testimony right now this is helpful. I
12 mean, this, again, would be looked at and
13 potentially be incorporated as well.

14 So all I know, currently, is
15 census data is being looked at and obviously,
16 the hearings is also what we are looking at to
17 try to finalize the map.

18 REPRESENTATIVE DEMMER: And who is
19 actually drawing this new map that we are going
20 to vote on on Tuesday?

21 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: The experts --
22 that's --

23 REPRESENTATIVE DEMMER: Who are they?

24 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: The experts who

1 has been working on the maps as far as I'm --
2 that I know of.

3 REPRESENTATIVE DEMMER: Could you tell
4 us who those experts are?

5 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: No.

6 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: (Audio distortion)
7 Hernandez -- we're not part of that. We don't
8 have an answer because we don't know.

9 REPRESENTATIVE DEMMER: You don't know
10 who's drawing the maps that you will --

11 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: We don't have names
12 to provide to you at the moment. We do not have
13 a name to provide to you, Representative Demmer.

14 REPRESENTATIVE DEMMER: As Chairwoman
15 Hernandez indicated, these are the same people
16 that have been working on it for a longer period
17 of time. Surely, you know their names, if
18 they've been working on it for a long period of
19 time.

20 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Then
21 that means that you know them, Tom --
22 Representative Demmer. Please don't --

23 REPRESENTATIVE DEMMER: I don't. Your
24 maps have been drawn in secret.

1 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: I don't have
2 that information with me. I can get it. Okay.
3 So we can try to get that for you, but I don't
4 have it with me.

5 REPRESENTATIVE DEMMER: Thank you.
6 And I think this just illustrates part of the
7 frustration that I'm sure many of the witnesses
8 feel today, which is they are presenting
9 information to legislators who will presumably
10 be the sponsors of these legislative maps, yet
11 those same legislators are indicating they don't
12 know who's drawing the maps. So how in the
13 world testimony that's given today to you ends
14 up in the hands of someone who you don't even
15 know who's drawing those maps, I think just
16 defies any kind of understanding by people who
17 have testified in the spring hearings, or again
18 at today's hearing, or the fellow legislators on
19 this committee.

20 This lack of transparency is
21 astounding. The refusal to identify data
22 sources, the refusal to identify who is making
23 decisions about what data and how that data is
24 incorporated into these legislative maps is

1 astounding. How in the world should anybody
2 testifying here today feel that their voice will
3 be heard if you don't even know who is drawing
4 the maps that they are trying to influence?

5 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Seeing no further
6 hands up -- (audio distortion). I would like to
7 thank the Illinois Muslim Civic Coalition for
8 their testimony today and for their continued
9 help into process this entire year.

10 Another group that we have here
11 today is the United Congress of Community and
12 Religious Organizations, also known as UCCRO.
13 We have Mr. Robin Hood who has signed up to
14 provide testimony.

15 There's a button in front of you.
16 Once it turns red turns, you can feel free to
17 give your testimony.

18 REVEREND ROBIN HOOD: Thank you for
19 allowing us this opportunity to fight for a fair
20 map in the state of Illinois. Again, for the
21 record, my name is Reverend Robin Hood. And I
22 am organized with United Congress of Community
23 and Religious Organization.

24 I come here today because not

1 only we are a multi-ethnic, racial, and
2 religious organization, but we also are part of
3 the broader coalition, as you remember earlier
4 in the spring, we were hoping that we can get
5 together and get a fair map that would help in
6 particularly people of color across the state,
7 so that we can have a fair map that everybody
8 can be happy about.

9 Well, that didn't happen then,
10 and we do understand there was some pressing
11 things that was going on as it relates to timing
12 and waiting on census data; well, we got part of
13 the census data now.

14 I'm here today to say we need
15 time to review whatever map that comes out.
16 Give us time, and I believe we need more than
17 two weeks. I believe we need at least 30 days
18 to review a map that can make every part of this
19 state, and particularly, in the places where
20 there are people of color, to have a say-so on
21 how this map, because we're talking about ten
22 years of people like that could possibly lose
23 resources, that can possibly lose opportunity to
24 vote for a legislator of their choice.

1 So at this time, I'm going to ask
2 Chicago's Lawyer's Committee, Ami Gandhi, to
3 come in. She's on the line. She's going to
4 speak from this point.

5 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you.

6 Mr. Hood, if we could have Ami
7 Gandhi provide testimony a little later. I
8 apologize. We have a separate group of our own,
9 and I only ask that because I was reached out by
10 Rabbi Shlomo Soroka if he can provide testimony
11 sooner because he has an engagement to get to.

12 So if you don't mind, I can go to
13 the Rabbi first and then we go right to
14 Ms. Gandhi, if that's okay. All right.

15 Rabbi Soroka, if you don't mind
16 unmuting yourself and providing the testimony.
17 Thank you.

18 RABBI SHLOMO SOROKA: Thank you,
19 Chairman Aquino and Chairman Hernandez and also
20 chairpersons and those members that are with us
21 today, and I appreciate this opportunity.

22 On behalf of the Orthodox Jewish
23 community, I already have testified before both
24 Senate and House redistricting committees at

1 prior hearings asking that we be consolidated in
2 a single district to ensure this community of
3 interest has a strong political voice.

4 I also shared our concerns that
5 our neighborhood would be further divided
6 resulting in diluting our voice that essentially
7 render us politically irrelevant.

8 After the preliminary maps were
9 released in May, it appeared that our worst
10 fears would be realized. The following
11 additional hearings that I testified at, some
12 adjustments were made to accommodate our needs
13 and for that we are deeply grateful.

14 The new maps, however, still
15 siphon off thousands of our community members
16 from the 16th House District where most of us
17 currently reside.

18 Today, I would like to propose a
19 reasonable solution that addresses both our
20 issue and the need for adjustments to be made
21 based on our new census data.

22 The most significant and
23 impactful difference between the 2011 adopted
24 maps and the enacted maps of 2021 is changes to

1 the line that divides the 15th and 16th House
2 Districts. The new line which runs straight
3 down Lincoln Avenue completely cuts off
4 approximately 500 households or 3,000-plus
5 constituents from the rest of the community.

6 Were the prior lines to be
7 restored, hundreds of families would still
8 remain in the 15th House District, but at least
9 we'd be held harmless under the new maps.

10 It's my understanding based on
11 the new census data that the newly drawn 15th
12 House Districts exceeds the maximum population
13 by approximately 1.1 percent; and therefore, we
14 concede an area that contains approximately
15 1.1 percent of its residents to a neighboring
16 district.

17 If the old line, which ran south
18 down Drake Avenue was to be restored, it appears
19 that it would both remedy the population
20 deviation and hold my community harmless in this
21 process.

22 Of lesser significance but still
23 noteworthy, is a change on the northeastern
24 border between Evanston and the City of Chicago.

1 There's a small geographic area of the City that
2 was formally part of the 16th House District and
3 8th Senate District which is now part of the
4 18th House District, which is Evanston, and the
5 9th Senate District under the 2021 enacted maps.

6 As I mentioned earlier, these
7 lines were already adjusted in response to a
8 request of our community and for that we are
9 thankful. That being said, the proposal we
10 shared was not fully adopted. It would be
11 helpful if that district line could be moved
12 over just one block to the east and to keep the
13 populations of each district the same, the
14 southern border of the 18th House District and
15 9th Senate District which protrudes into the
16 City can be moved slightly south, and I think it
17 would solve everybody's issues.

18 To clearly illustrate what we are
19 requesting, I have submitted maps that
20 illustrate the changes that we are seeking,
21 including a map of the entire 16th House
22 District. These maps are based on current
23 census data and were created with the help of
24 mapmaker and friend Frank Calabrese.

1 I'm going to share a screen for a
2 moment so you can see what I'm talking about.

3 So over here is a map of where we
4 would like to see the lines drawn between the
5 15th and 16th House Districts. On the top
6 right-hand corner is Lincoln Avenue where the
7 new lines under the 2021 maps, that's currently
8 where the border is, but the area that's purple
9 is heavily populated with members of our
10 community, hundreds of families, and we would
11 like that ideally to be included in the 16th
12 House District.

13 There is a -- I can also show you
14 a map of what the district would look like --
15 the entire 16th House District would look like
16 if we got -- and so this would be -- this is the
17 entire 16th House District that I submitted; but
18 again, it's only a slight adjustment to account
19 for the new census data that would also -- not
20 only would it satisfy new requirements of being
21 within the range of acceptability, but also
22 would ensure that our community would be held
23 harmless.

24 And lastly, I will share one

1 more -- one more map, which is the Evanston
2 border which I was referring to, and that's here
3 where currently the district line under the
4 proposed maps run down Washington Avenue, which
5 is right over here. We would like to see it on
6 Rockwell, and then it can go a little further
7 south and include the part, and that would also
8 again satisfy the population requirements as
9 well as be a little more accommodating to the
10 community.

11 So I just want to -- the maps I
12 submitted -- I want to be clear about something.
13 The maps that I submitted back in May remain the
14 ideal map for our community. But if only minor
15 adjustments will be made, I firmly believe that
16 adopting these maps is a reasonable and fair
17 expectation if this body truly believes in
18 pluralism and cares to accommodate our
19 communities of interest.

20 To reiterate something that I
21 said before this body on prior occasions, we are
22 not asking a district to be drawn to elect an
23 Orthodox Jew. Our goal is simply to be
24 recognized as a community of interest and remain

1 a significant constituency, albeit a minority in
2 the district, so we continue to have effective
3 representation.

4 Over the last ten years our
5 community has significantly grown, as the new
6 census data will show, and we take our social
7 responsibility very seriously, and the
8 public-private partnerships we've developed have
9 proven beneficial to countless Illinoisans from
10 all ethnic, racial, and religious backgrounds.

11 But our growth and the success of
12 these partnerships were only possible because we
13 have been politically engaged and have had a
14 voice in state government. To allow that voice
15 to be diminished would not only hurt us, but
16 would hurt the interest of the state.

17 To protect our voice in the
18 diverse communities that we live in the great
19 State of Illinois, I respectfully ask you to
20 adopt these proposals.

21 I'm happy to take any questions
22 at this point. And again, thank you for this
23 opportunity.

24 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: (Audio distortion.)

1 Are there any questions for Rabbi Soroka? I do
2 not see any hands here present in the room or
3 virtually.

4 Rabbi Soroka, thank you for
5 joining us this afternoon.

6 We will go back, and Ms. Gandhi,
7 if you can unmute yourself and begin your
8 testimony. Go ahead.

9 MS. AMI GANDHI: Thank you for the
10 opportunity to speak. I'm Ami Gandhi with
11 Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights. I
12 lead our organization's voting rights work in
13 Illinois and Indiana, and Chicago Lawyers'
14 Committee as a non-profit, non-partisan legal
15 organization has a history of representing Black
16 community organizations in redistricting
17 advocacy and litigation under the Federal Voting
18 Rights Act and the Constitution.

19 We are very concerned about the
20 General Assembly's rushed and exclusionary
21 process in adopting the maps earlier this year
22 and potentially revising the maps now.

23 Once again, holding hearings
24 before releasing a proposed or draft map imposes

1 significant challenges to Black and Brown
2 communities who are trying to work together
3 toward win-win outcomes.

4 In community forums and during a
5 press conference just today, United Congress of
6 Community and Religious Organizations, Latino
7 Policy Forum and others have pointed to the need
8 for at least 30 days to provide input on
9 proposed state districts before they are
10 finalized and enacted. In order to ensure
11 compliance with state and federal voting rights
12 laws and the abilities of communities of color
13 to elect the candidates of their choice, these
14 bedrock legal requirements provide an important
15 safeguard to ensure a bare minimum of fair
16 representation, and especially if the General
17 Assembly is to live up to its public commitment
18 to ensure that the people of Illinois have fair
19 and equal representation, it must do more than
20 just claim that it has complied with the law.

21 The district maps enacted on
22 June 4 failed to meet basic constitutional
23 requirements. You all have heard about that
24 with the pending court case and some of the

1 conversation today, there are multiple districts
2 that contain either too many or too few
3 residents, and most concerningly, several of the
4 districts that are over -- that are the most
5 overpopulated or in other words that dilute
6 individual resident's representational power and
7 influence, are actually districts in which Black
8 community members constitute a majority or mere
9 majority.

10 Black communities and other
11 communities of color have long been marginalized
12 and excluded from our political process for far
13 too long and face further marginalization
14 through these redistricting events that have
15 happened in Illinois this year.

16 I know you all are familiar with
17 the requirements of the Federal Voting Rights
18 Act as well, requiring that district lines be
19 drawn in a way that does not dilute the vote of
20 Black and other communities of color, and it's
21 not enough in 2021 and in places like
22 communities like Chicago Cook County and
23 Illinois to point to electoral successes by
24 incumbents of color as necessarily being

1 evidence that voters of color are able to elect
2 the representatives of their choice.

3 In addition, the Illinois Voting
4 Rights Act of 2011, the state law, explicitly
5 requires the General Assembly to go beyond what
6 is required by federal law to create district
7 maps that afford communities of color
8 representational power and influence, and the
9 enacted maps patently fail to do this.

10 We are hearing time and time
11 again, even in today's hearing, communities of
12 colors themselves and ourselves are saying loud
13 and clear that we are uncomfortable with this
14 redistricting process with this huge rush, with
15 this lack of transparency, and people do not
16 feel reassured that their rights are being
17 respected.

18 We are concerned that the map
19 enacted earlier this year went farther than it
20 needed to in weakening majority -- minority
21 districts and did not go far enough in
22 maximizing majority and minority districts.

23 When the legislature adjusts the
24 population numbers in each district, now that

1 you have the census data, we urge you all to
2 more robustly protect minority voting rights
3 than what was done in May. We are deeply
4 concerned about that from a voting rights and
5 civil rights perspective.

6 I know that there was some
7 intention stated to hear community input in
8 these series of hearings scheduled on short
9 notice, but it's unreasonable to expect
10 communities of color to give input about
11 specific district lines and neighborhoods in a
12 vacuum without having proposed maps to react to.

13 And without this basic
14 information that we all are hungry for, we don't
15 know if communities of color will be able to
16 elect candidates of their choice in accordance
17 with legal requirements.

18 We know that Illinois is capable
19 of doing better to protect voting rights of
20 people of color, and Illinois must do better.
21 Thank you for your consideration.

22 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: (Audio distortion.)

23 I just want to go back to
24 Mr. Robin Hood. If you have anything to add to

1 your testimony before taking questions.

2 Mr. Robin Hood: I think it will be
3 wise and beneficial for the whole state to think
4 about the 30 days' wait to respond. I was
5 thinking about some of the reading that I did
6 over the last couple of weeks and the disgust
7 that people are feeling about this process being
8 left out. So I think it would be wise for us to
9 work together on these maps so that we can make
10 it fair for everybody in these communities of
11 color. Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you again for
13 allowing (audio distortion).

14 Do we have questions from the
15 communities members? Seeing no hands virtually
16 and seeing no hands in person. I thank you all
17 for your testimony.

18 We are going to be moving on to
19 Ms. Jean SmilingCoyote. Grab a seat anywhere
20 you like. Ms. SmilingCoyote, there is a button
21 in front of you that will indicate right here
22 that the light is on when it's red, just pull it
23 towards you and begin your testimony.

24 MS. JEAN SMILINGCOYOTE: I want

1 redistricting to be led by a person with at
2 least an M.A. in Geography, Mapmaking --
3 Cartography is entirely under the aegis of
4 Geography. People with enough education in this
5 discipline can take all the required factors
6 into account, and create district maps which
7 satisfy the legal requirements of contiguity,
8 compactness, and certain provisions in the
9 Voting Rights Act.

10 Neither bipartisan, non-partisan,
11 nor independent commissions guarantee their
12 leadership by someone with at least an M.A. in
13 Geography. I have been saying this for years
14 and it's been ignored by both legislative bodies
15 and mass media.

16 Until legislative bodies require
17 redistricting to be led by people with at least
18 an M.A. in Geography, testimony from communities
19 of interest and pertinent boundaries is rarely
20 anything but a request to gerrymander the map.
21 It's too early to get into these mappable data
22 elements, though they are important to consider.

23 I am attaching my previous
24 testimony along with some online comments I've

1 made about redistricting.

2 It is way past time for both
3 these legislative bodies and mass media to
4 openly discuss my call for redistricting
5 leadership by someone with at least an M.A. in
6 Geography.

7 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you for your
8 testimony. Seeing no hands -- yes,
9 Representative Spain.

10 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Thank you very
11 much, Mr. Chairman.

12 First of all, to the witness,
13 thank you for your testimony. And I'm glad to
14 hear this request. I'm just telling you, it's a
15 very appropriate one; and as I look at the maps
16 that were adopted, just using my own legislative
17 districting, I do not have an M.A. in Geography,
18 so I may not be meeting the credential, but I
19 look at these maps and I'm thinking in my many
20 examples of why a community Toulon, which is in
21 my current legislative district, 1200 people in
22 Toulon, is being divided into one-third and
23 two-thirds without regard to any sort of
24 geographic basis.

1 MS. JEAN SMILINGCOYOTE: Do you mind
2 if I take a look?

3 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Yeah, please
4 do. I don't know if you have a Master's Degree
5 in Geography -- just a B.A. I'm just a poli sci
6 guy myself.

7 So this is a little community,
8 1200 people that has been sliced and diced, and
9 without really regard to any major roads or
10 schools or any other local monuments, so it's a
11 good question, and I think we need some
12 expertise in geography to hold communities of
13 interests together or explain from a geographic
14 perspective, perhaps, beyond what you or I are
15 able to see here, what are the reasons for
16 splitting communities apart from one another.

17 And I believe Mr. Chairman and
18 Madam Chair, where it would be useful when we
19 come in on Tuesday next week to vote on maps if
20 we can understand from each district what are
21 some of the communities of interest, municipal
22 boundaries, or other of these features that have
23 been split apart and for what reason they have
24 been split apart, because sometimes whether you

1 have a Master's Degree in Geography or not, it's
2 not readily apparent.

3 MS. JEAN SMILINGCOYOTE: Can I comment
4 on Toulon?

5 Okay. I would speculate that the
6 reason that was split had mostly to do with
7 population, you know, getting -- you know, one
8 person, one vote. But as a general rule I would
9 say that jurisdictional boundaries, even if it's
10 not an incorporated community, should be
11 recognized and respected as much as possible as
12 a community of interest, and that looks like a
13 small town there.

14 This is probably the same
15 situation as -- I think there's a town called
16 Westbridge that's divided between Alberta and
17 Saskatchewan, Canada. I would say Toulon should
18 be in one district.

19 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: And I would
20 assume that you're correct, Ms. SmilingCoyote,
21 and I would have hoped that efforts for
22 population distribution may have been the basis
23 for some of these decisions, but one of the
24 things that I've been referring back to also is

1 HR359, a resolution that was introduced and
2 passed by Chair Roman Hernandez and each
3 district is given reference within this
4 resolution, and there are unique characteristics
5 of each resolution, but in my reading
6 population, we seem to have missed the mark.
7 I'll give you an example, and it may be my
8 favorite one, on page 60 of the resolution,
9 Representative District E3 gained more than one
10 thousand people, and as result, the proposed
11 district looks like this, this, and that.

12 When we actually received the
13 census, we were surprised to learn that
14 Representative District E3 did not gain one
15 thousand more people. In fact, it lost 16,000
16 people from 2010 to 2020.

17 So population seems to be a
18 little bit off, and I think that's why we've
19 asked the question time and time again, what is
20 the data that will be used as for purposes of
21 Democrats drawing the map?

22 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you.
23 Representative Butler.

24 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Thank you,

1 Mr. Chairman.

2 And I'm always amazed by
3 Representative Spain and the things that he
4 brings up. And one of the things that he
5 brought up, I think, earlier this year, if I'm
6 not mistaken on the House Bill 2777, that
7 there's 52 counties -- 51, 52 counties in
8 Illinois out of about 102 that are cracked apart
9 under this map.

10 So I give you the example of
11 Menard County, Illinois, which is in my current
12 district, where many of the communities in
13 Menard County, Athens and Petersburg, now run
14 all the way up to the Quad Cities, they're
15 basically suburbs of Springfield, but now they
16 are represented in seven districts and all of
17 Quad Cities.

18 And yet in the community of Saint
19 Joe's, which straddles the Menard -- excuse me,
20 the Mason broken county line, we continue to the
21 mark of that county line, splitting right down
22 the middle of the community that is currently
23 under the current map, which was drawn by the
24 Democrats ten years ago, we split a community of

1 600 people between two legislative districts,
2 because we respected the county line there, but
3 we don't respect county lines in most other
4 places.

5 And I looked at the district that
6 I'm drawn into. It looks like a crab. It looks
7 like a stone crab when you look at it.

8 MS. JEAN SMILINGCOYOTE: I can comment
9 on that.

10 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Please. Go
11 ahead.

12 MS. JEAN SMILINGCOYOTE: I would say
13 the general rule counties should be respected
14 against communities of interest, partly
15 because -- mostly because when they were drawn,
16 lines were drawn so they that would be compact
17 and contiguous.

18 And the same thing with community
19 areas in Chicago. But now you want to respect
20 the fact that counties should be, you know, kept
21 together as a community of interest -- coming up
22 with these maps, when you're looking at smaller
23 communities of interest, they probably should be
24 allowed to take precedence over a larger

1 community of interest. So that if you have a
2 town that for whatever reason, and they're all
3 good reasons, happens to be divided between two
4 counties now, you will put the town as a
5 community of interest above the counties that
6 it's in, as a community of interest for trying
7 to keep it in a single district.

8 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: I agree with
9 you, and especially for those of us in areas of
10 the state outside of the Chicago metropolitan
11 area. Much of our lives revolve around county
12 business. It really does.

13 MS. JEAN SMILINGCOYOTE: Yeah.

14 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: And many
15 people will refer to themselves in what county
16 they live in.

17 You're exactly right. Counties
18 are communities of interest, and yet we have
19 seen this time and again, the majority splits
20 these counties for partisan political advantage.
21 And it's done for one reason and one reason
22 only, and it's unfortunate when people -- now
23 they've drawn into districts that are completely
24 flung across the state and not respect the

1 current political boundaries that we have in the
2 State of Illinois that people are familiar with.

3 So I appreciate your testimony
4 today, and I do not have a M.A. or a B.A. in
5 Geography. I am a political science major, like
6 Representative Spain, but I enjoy geography. So
7 thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you so much
9 for your testimony.

10 We have Jay Young representing
11 Common Cause Illinois. Unmute yourself and give
12 us your testimony. Thank you.

13 MR. JAY YOUNG: Thanks so much, Chair
14 Aquino and Chair Hernandez. Good afternoon and
15 good afternoon to all the members of this
16 committee.

17 Thank you once again for the
18 opportunity to submit testimony on the Illinois
19 redistricting process.

20 As noted, my name is Jay Young.
21 I'm the executive director of Common Cause
22 Illinois. And I've been before the Senate and
23 House Committees a number of times so far this
24 year, but just to be clear, my organization has

1 been involved in this redistricting process for
2 quite some time, including our comprehensive
3 efforts to maximize the census 2020
4 participation in Illinois, to repeated
5 appearances before these joint bodies.

6 And of course, I would be remiss
7 if I did not also recognize the thousands of
8 actions that have been taken by our members and
9 supporters across the state to advance the cause
10 of a fair process and a fair map.

11 So back on March 17, which I
12 believe was the first hearing that the Senate
13 Redistricting Committee held, I appeared then
14 and was out on a bit of an island with my
15 testimony in urging the General Assembly not to
16 draw any legislative districts using data from
17 the American Community Survey, because we knew
18 it would produce malapportioned districts.

19 We urged also at that time the
20 General Assembly to move the March 2022 primary
21 date to allow the maps based on the delayed
22 census data to be vetted by the public,
23 including a lot of the organizations we've heard
24 from today.

1 And frankly, we begged the State
2 to leverage the army of trusted messengers that
3 it had just built through the census outreach
4 process, particularly in our Black and Brown
5 communities to ensure that those folks had the
6 time and opportunity to fully participate in
7 this process.

8 Today, we return because the
9 districts were, in fact, malapportioned, because
10 the rescheduled primary affords us the luxury of
11 some time and because we are, once again,
12 witnessing a process that's unlikely to see much
13 in the sense of true community engagement.

14 Since the very beginning of this
15 process, we've been guided by one principle.
16 Our state government should be representative of
17 and reflective of the people that it serves.
18 And while it might well be true that over the
19 last decade our state's legislative district
20 maps have produced an admirably diverse pool of
21 legislators, I'm proud to live here in Illinois.
22 We can't confuse that system that allows
23 politicians to keep their thumbs on the scales
24 with democracy.

1 Democracy isn't found behind a
2 locked door or in a hearing with little notice.
3 It's found in the streets. It's found on the
4 doorsteps. As an organization, Common Cause
5 fundamentally believes that a politician-created
6 map can never truly be a fair map because the
7 process itself relegates the public to passive
8 participants, but I can read a calendar. At
9 that point, we are not renewing a call for an
10 independent commission to draw the new maps, nor
11 we are arguing that the malapportionment of a
12 few districts somehow triggers the so-called
13 bipartisan commission that's described in the
14 state's constitution.

15 Instead, we are asking you to
16 make what's left of this process as transparent
17 and as inclusive as possible.

18 We ask that you set aside any
19 predetermined plans, that you listen to the
20 handful of community groups and members who are
21 likely to participate in these hearings over the
22 next few days and value their discussions of
23 their own communities over your own self
24 interests.

1 And once again, we ask that you
2 engage those organizations that know their own
3 neighborhoods and know how to get people to
4 value and participate in a representative
5 democracy.

6 Well, we have the utmost respect
7 for the work of these communities and its
8 members, but let the record be clear, public
9 participation in the creation of this map, of
10 these maps, and I'm including the Supreme Court
11 map in that as well, it's been perfunctory at
12 best. It's not that communities and
13 organizations across these states haven't wanted
14 a seat at this table, it's that this process has
15 been so opaque, they often didn't know they
16 could even pull up a chair. I can't tell you
17 the number of meetings that I've been in where
18 people still want to talk about how we can best
19 maximize census participation when the maps are
20 already drawn. People don't know.

21 The witnesses that are appearing
22 before you today have been invited here to offer
23 testimony on maps we haven't seen, changes or
24 tweaks to the maps that haven't been publicized.

1 We don't know if all of the districts will be
2 redrawn to account for the undercounts,
3 particularly, as we heard about with respect to
4 the Latinx community that stemmed from the use
5 of the ACS. We don't know if the community
6 members will have time to analyze the changes to
7 their districts before the map is approved, as
8 we've heard from several groups here today. We
9 don't know if there's going to be another round
10 of hearings that will allow you to learn from
11 this insight. We don't know anything about the
12 congressional map.

13 It's our sincere hope that these
14 questions will be answered today and over the
15 next several days. We hope that information is
16 going to be wildly publicized through all the
17 outlets at the state's disposal. Y'all have a
18 lot more resources than us non-profits.

19 If you decide to provide an
20 opportunity for public comment on the actual
21 maps, those hearings must be publicized and
22 noticed well in advance. Please listen to
23 UCCRO. Please listen to the Muslim Civic
24 Coalition. Listen to the Lawyers' Committee.

1 Listen to the Latino Policy Forum, and the
2 MALDEF plans. Those groups are working every
3 single day with your constituents, and they can
4 speak to how their communities should be
5 reflected in the new maps.

6 Finally, you need to understand
7 that the groups that my friends that have come
8 before you today and our other partners were
9 only a fraction of the community voices,
10 community voices that must be included in as
11 favorable of a map that we can get in this
12 process.

13 Look, I'm proud to say that over
14 the last several years Common Cause Illinois
15 chaired the Just Democracy Coalition, and I
16 helped to provide some leadership in the state's
17 non-partisan census coalition. I ran the policy
18 table. And I'm sure a lot of the folks who
19 appear before you today rolled their eyes when I
20 start talking about census, nerd junk. But in
21 those capacities, I was able to partner with,
22 train, and help facilitate programming and
23 outreach for community groups that know their
24 communities.

1 I saw firsthand how incredibly
2 valuable their knowledge of those local
3 communities are. I know how well they organize,
4 how well they engage. It's why we had the set
5 of best census response in the nation. Those
6 groups, the ones you funded are fountains of
7 knowledge. And that knowledge would greatly
8 inform the drawing of maps in our state. It
9 would help shape districts that conform them to
10 those communities' needs to those communities'
11 interest.

12 At a minimum, just go back to the
13 regional intermediaries, get them to help you
14 target organizations that have the best handle
15 in their respective communities.

16 I want to break for a moment from
17 my prepared remarks and just express a lot of
18 appreciation for the presentation that you heard
19 from the NCSL; because if I didn't have to spend
20 so much time talking about over those 50-odd
21 hearings about why the ACS shouldn't have been
22 used, which you would have heard me talk about
23 was why differential privacy is going to pose a
24 potential threat to representation of

1 hard-to-count communities.

2 There was some part of that
3 discussion in the NCSL presentation. I implore
4 you to go back to that presentation and learn
5 more. There's a lot at the national level, a
6 lot of concern that how this census data will
7 play out, will really overemphasize the
8 undercount of certain hard-to-count communities.
9 For example, I recall reading months ago a paper
10 by Dr. Bill O'Hare talking about a many-fold
11 undercount that was going to be caused in kids
12 under the age of five; one of Illinois' biggest
13 HTC populations, that was caused just by the
14 inclusion of the use of differential privacy.

15 We heard earlier in the staff
16 presentation about how the number of folks who
17 responded White. They checked the box White on
18 there. I want to clarify a bit of that, because
19 that is part of a national trend.

20 This census allowed people to
21 provide different ways of describing their own
22 ethnicity. We heard from the Muslim Civic
23 Coalition that everybody who checked the White
24 box or who thinks is White box may not be -- may

1 not have the same community of interest. Talk
2 to them. Listen to them. They can help you
3 understand their communities. Don't rely --
4 look, the census data is the best available
5 data; much better, much more appropriate than
6 the ACS, but we know it's going to be flawed.
7 We know when we finally get the undercount data
8 that this was a terrible, terrible time to hold
9 a census, and we expect that the undercount is
10 going to look much worse than we think it
11 already is. That's why I'm saying, talk to the
12 people that know their neighborhoods. Don't
13 rely on the fact that so far we elected over the
14 last decade a pretty diverse-looking House and
15 Senate.

16 Our communities are changing, and
17 you need to talk to the people who know what
18 that change looks like.

19 In closing, I hope this entire
20 process serves as a much-needed call to action
21 to fundamentally transform the redistricting
22 process in Illinois.

23 On behalf of my organization, and
24 the members and supporters, 30,000-strong across

1 the state, as well as all of the resources I can
2 bring to bear from my national organization, and
3 a million and a half members, we look forward to
4 working with the members of this committee, with
5 my friends, the community groups you heard from
6 here and others to reform the process so that
7 future maps are generated out of a process that
8 is fair, that is open, and accessible to all.

9 Once again, I thank you for the
10 opportunity to testify today, and I look forward
11 to answering any questions you might have.

12 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you, Mr. Young
13 of Common Cause Illinois. Looking around in the
14 room here of our committee members, any
15 questions? No raised hands here in person, none
16 that I see virtually. Thank you, again.

17 Now we have Abigail C. Nichols
18 to provide testimony, who is here with us, so
19 I'll let her come up -- that first chair there.
20 There's a button right in front that will -- if
21 you press that button, the mic should turn red,
22 and that'll indicate that it is on. There you
23 go. You can begin whenever you feel.

24 MS. ABIGAIL C. NICHOLS: Good

1 afternoon. And thank you for this opportunity
2 to appear. I have learned -- my name is
3 Abigail. I'm a resident of Streeterville.

4 I'm a 50-year member of Common
5 Cause and I was really pleased with Mr. Young's
6 testimony.

7 My own activities are mostly with
8 the League of Women Voters and I've been
9 learning -- I've lived in Illinois two years.
10 I've been learning about the structure of state
11 government through the League of Women Voters of
12 Illinois and the League of Women Voters of
13 Chicago, but I'm here as an individual.

14 I certainly support the idea of
15 the independent commission, and I would love a
16 pledge to get that passed immediately in the
17 next session.

18 There's so many things in
19 Illinois that are not happening. I've been
20 working for CEJA, I worked on the fair tax, and
21 I've been talking to people about redistricting;
22 any chance I get; everywhere I go, bridge games,
23 league meetings, elevators in my building. It's
24 hard to get people interested. They are feeling

1 discouraged. The stress of government under
2 undermines our democracy. We're part of a big
3 state that has to work together. I cannot
4 believe that all politics is local. We have a
5 president, President Joe Biden, who is working
6 so hard to make us feel part of one country that
7 can work together and hold together. And I
8 think we play our part in whatever we're doing
9 in government. So I hope that we'll all work
10 together, not just for the good of Illinois but
11 for the good of our country.

12 I've heard so much today -- I
13 come with a set of principles to compact these
14 great communities of interest. But the
15 testimony is wonderful for what I get to learn
16 about my state and what the communities of
17 interest are.

18 I identify with Streeterville,
19 but when I look at Assembly District 26, State
20 Senate District 13 and U.S. Congressional
21 District Number 7, I don't know what that means
22 as a community of interest.

23 I know you are pulled many ways,
24 and I thank you for your service in government

1 as elected officials. I wish you well. You
2 have my written testimony which says more, but
3 following Mr. Young, he expressed my emotional
4 reaction to this whole process. Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you,
6 Ms. Nichols. Any questions from the Committee?

7 Seeing no hands here present, and
8 seeing no hands virtually, I thank you for your
9 testimony and for being here today.

10 I believe we have one last
11 witness, a Mr. Frank Calabrese. Mr. Calabrese,
12 you reached out earlier. I just want to make
13 sure that this hearing, just a reminder, is on
14 the General Assembly legislative maps and its
15 testimony based on the census. If you are here
16 to discuss that, then absolutely. Please press
17 that button and it will turn your mic red and
18 feel free to begin your testimony.

19 MR. FRANK CALABRESE: (Audio
20 distortion) -- Today -- three maps -- the Board
21 of Review map is out of whack. I am working
22 under GIF specs but with Chicago Latino caucus
23 they have some concern with that.

24 I also have a presentation I

1 submitted written about the subcircuits of the
2 seat by presentation -- approaching to the Cook
3 County Board of Review, because that was passed
4 under the same guise of legislative maps -- if
5 you don't mind.

6 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: (Audio
7 distortion) -- legislative maps but there will
8 be an opportunity -- (audio distortion.)

9 MR. FRANK CALABRESE: So I'm going to
10 screen share. I'm just going to be jumping to
11 the presentation. So I'm going to be jumping to
12 the Cook County Board of Review, which is
13 Chicago Latino caucus had concerns. When it was
14 drawn in May, it was in 43 percent Latino, and
15 in Cook County it made we aware that Latinos are
16 now the largest minority that, how the three
17 districts are divided, it's under the Black
18 majority group, a White majority district, and
19 then there's a Latino plurality district. But
20 as you are probably well aware, Latino voting
21 rates are much lower than other racial groups.

22 And so the Congress is interested
23 in making some minor changes to the Cook County
24 Board of Review which would substantially

1 increase the possibility of electing a Latino
2 member, and it should -- and then as I kind of
3 indicated on this map, and I also emailed the
4 shade file to the Committee, it's really around
5 edges. On the north side there is a lot of
6 White suburban communities that are added to the
7 1st District, which we believe would be much
8 better suited in the 2nd District also including
9 areas like around O'Hare Airport as being the
10 south end of Des Plaines and Franklin Park,
11 their district share is largely outside the
12 district, and Humboldt Park is excluded from the
13 1st District Board of Review. Also, there are a
14 lot of Latino areas on the northwest side of
15 Chicago map, which I've indicated on this map
16 that we would like to include.

17 On the southwest side there are
18 some areas that are excluded, including
19 Marquette Park area, kind of the west end of the
20 18th Ward, and to even the population we'd be
21 asking that (inaudible) township in the 19th
22 Ward be excluded from the First Board of Review
23 District.

24 I have also submitted in writing

1 a presentation concerning about the Cook County
2 subcircuits, which for the first time will be
3 redistricted in 30 years. I encourage the
4 members to look at that. Any questions?

5 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you,
6 Mr. Calabrese. So you said -- the Latino caucus
7 in the City; fair enough?

8 MR. FRANK CALABRESE: Correct.

9 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: And they had many
10 suggestions to -- changes to the legislative
11 maps.

12 MR. FRANK CALABRESE: Not essentially.
13 I am working -- so individual Latino house
14 members have contacted me about minor changes,
15 but I have heard some opinion on the map, but
16 I'm not really going to share about. I'm here
17 to talk about the Cook County Board of Review
18 and making sure that Latino representation is on
19 the hearing before the Board, which you are
20 probably well aware that property tax rates for
21 (inaudible) people of Cook County.

22 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Thank you. (Audio
23 distortion.)

24 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Thank you,

1 Mr. Chairman, Mr. Calabrese (audio distortion).
2 I'm glad you came forward with this today. I
3 know we're here on the 2020 census and the
4 General Assembly redistricting map. But I'm
5 looking at the debate -- the transcript of the
6 debate for -- on this Board of Review, and I had
7 asked Chair Hernandez about the Board of
8 Review -- I think it's three districts. Three
9 districts divided equally by population. Chair
10 Hernandez said 1.7 million each.

11 So what -- I'm sorry, what was
12 the final numbers on the three districts?

13 MR. FRANK CALABRESE: So the final
14 numbers -- so there's a -- the deviation is not
15 as high as in some House districts. The
16 deviation was, I believe, within 40,000 each
17 way -- I'd have to check my notes again, but --
18 (audio distortion) -- (simultaneous crosstalk).

19 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Again,
20 Mr. Chair, I want to follow up on something you
21 said as well as I think Mr. Calabrese about,
22 basically, he said that he'll have the
23 opportunity to talk about this going forward, I
24 assume the Cook County -- I don't know if it's

1 the Board of Review. I don't know if it's the
2 Supreme Court maps that you are suggesting, or
3 if it's the congressional maps, I know during
4 the debate on this bill, we asked questions
5 about these maps, the non-legislative maps,
6 because we basically heard nothing on those
7 during the hearings that we had in the spring,
8 and so I guess what is the intention of the
9 majority when it comes to any of these other
10 maps that have redistricted or may be
11 redistricted. What's the schedule?

12 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: What
13 Representative -- what I was referring to was
14 the subcircuit maps that Mr. Calabrese had
15 indicated earlier, and so as we said earlier in
16 the day, when asked, the special session that
17 was being called for next Tuesday by the Speaker
18 and President is on the General Assembly maps
19 that as I knew until -- so what I'm saying is
20 that when we get to those other maps, including
21 the subcircuit maps, which I imagine would be --
22 I don't know when that's going to be, but there
23 are going to be hearings on that. And when we
24 do have those hearings, Mr. Calabrese and others

1 are going to be invited to absolutely make
2 comment during those hearings.

3 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Okay. So
4 maybe they're going to be on subcircuits or
5 maybe Supreme Court maps or congressional maps
6 coming down the pipe.

7 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: I think just time
8 and also to your -- you know, your side of the
9 aisle to certainly provide even a map of your
10 own by that point to any of those maps in the
11 future.

12 Mr. Calabrese has put together a
13 map himself. I'm sure that you all will might
14 be able to do something very similar with their
15 groups as well. So I don't know when those
16 dates are going to be, but there aren't going to
17 be -- we're tracking as we have done with this
18 process, have you both in the hearing process.
19 There are going to be hearings, I would imagine,
20 at later dates for those maps.

21 REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER: Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: Minority
23 Spokesperson Barickman.

24 SENATOR BARICKMAN: Thank you,

1 Mr. Chairman.

2 I want to pick up on the comment
3 that you made earlier here in regards to the
4 legislative maps. Your comment was that certain
5 house Democratic members -- I'm not sure if
6 they're Latino-Latina members or not, but
7 members have requested that you help with the
8 legislative maps.

9 Can you explain that to the
10 Committee what that work is?

11 MR. FRANK CALABRESE: It's very minor
12 adjustments around borders and stuff -- just
13 stuff like that; but in terms of Chicago City
14 Council -- caucuses, their official stance on
15 state maps.

16 SENATOR BARICKMAN: But two weeks
17 you're not here presenting what those proposed
18 changes are, so --

19 MR. FRANK CALABRESE: Correct.

20 SENATOR BARICKMAN: So where did you
21 take those requests from the House Democratic
22 caucus members and where did you convey those
23 requests for changes?

24 MR. FRANK CALABRESE: I am not

1 involved in any way with the redistricting with
2 the House Democrats. People of individual
3 capacities call me and I did populations on this
4 block and that block, stuff like that.

5 SENATOR BARICKMAN: You said that
6 people were requesting that you help with, what
7 does that entail?

8 MR. FRANK CALABRESE: Researching the
9 demographics and population in certain
10 neighborhoods.

11 SENATOR BARICKMAN: And where do you
12 provide -- who is the beneficiary of the
13 research that you are providing?

14 MR. FRANK CALABRESE: Anyone that had
15 called me and asks specific questions.

16 SENATOR BARICKMAN: So I'll just ask
17 you here. I mean, have we received those
18 datasets and things that have been requested of
19 you by the House Democrats so that we can and
20 the witnesses can see that? I mean, I --

21 MR. FRANK CALABRESE: I provided --
22 Rich Miller hired me to generalize the House
23 District and that was provided on his website,
24 and that's -- that's -- I assume the caucus

1 subscribes to Capitolfax and can see that.

2 The deviations in your district,
3 I believe, are very insignificant. There are
4 significant deviations around Chicago downtown
5 area and not in the Aurora area, but just
6 specifically to the 83rd District.

7 SENATOR BARICKMAN: I've heard of
8 this -- the blog by Mr. Miller. But I'm highly
9 interested in the work that you're doing for
10 individual members of the House of
11 Representatives, the Democrats who have asked
12 for tweaks and modifications to the existing
13 district. I'm just trying to understand -- I
14 mean, if the result of that work isn't being
15 provided to the Committee, it suggests -- are we
16 left to conclude that you provide that work --
17 you give it to the Member and then the Member --
18 and this is the suspicion that I think exists
19 with the many witnesses here, that the
20 individual lawmakers are the ones who are
21 actually redrawing these maps, and it sounds
22 from your testimony that they have asked for
23 your help for their efforts to do just that.
24 Did I -- is there a lack of understanding of

1 what's occurring there?

2 MR. FRANK CALABRESE: I really don't
3 understand the question. But again, I --
4 individual members have asked about specific
5 neighbors and specific blocks, I can help them
6 how many people live in a specific area. I do
7 not have access to the inner workings of what's
8 happening in the Democratic process.

9 SENATOR BARICKMAN: Are you aware of
10 whether they are working on a map?

11 MR. FRANK CALABRESE: Well, they're
12 having a redistricting hearing. That's what I'm
13 hearing, and they're going to be putting a map
14 together.

15 SENATOR BARICKMAN: Are they already
16 putting a map together?

17 MR. FRANK CALABRESE: I do not have
18 access to that.

19 SENATOR BARICKMAN: Have you seen a
20 map?

21 MR. FRANK CALABRESE: No.

22 SENATOR BARICKMAN: Have you seen
23 pictures of a map?

24 MR. FRANK CALABRESE: No, I have not

1 seen a map. I'm just here to talk about --

2 SENATOR BARICKMAN: Have you heard
3 suggestions of how they are going to modify the
4 map that exists currently today?

5 MR. FRANK CALABRESE: No.

6 SENATOR BARICKMAN: So what is the
7 nature of the tweaks that you were asked to help
8 obtain data for?

9 MR. FRANK CALABRESE: People have
10 concerns about some borders and I answer
11 questions --

12 SENATOR BARICKMAN: That's a very
13 concerning statement. All right. I mean, the
14 witnesses that have appeared, and I'm looking at
15 some of them, their testimony, their request of
16 the Committee Chair, that they provide data and
17 lots of input, questions that Representative
18 Demmer raised earlier regarding what the purpose
19 of these committees are, which was the
20 solicitation of input from the public, which
21 neither of the Committee Chair nor the
22 Chairwoman has been able to testify here to tell
23 us what will come of the testimony and the maps
24 that are produced. Because apparently, no one

1 on this Committee knows who is drawing the maps.
2 And so I find your testimony unbelievably
3 interesting that individual members are
4 contacting you, have concerns that they have
5 about the borders of their district, and it
6 fuels the suspicion that the public has that
7 what is actually occurring are nothing more than
8 a kangaroo court and public hearings when, in
9 fact, Democratic lawmakers are drawing the
10 districts behind closed doors with the lack of
11 regard for the input that's being laid by the
12 public, and your testimony clearly demonstrates
13 that that's, in fact, what's happened.

14 Do you know what the Democrats
15 are doing in regards to maps?

16 MR. FRANK CALABRESE: No.

17 SENATOR BARICKMAN: Then how can you
18 disagree with it?

19 MR. FRANK CALABRESE: Because --

20 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: He keeps --

21 MR. FRANK CALABRESE: (Continuing.) --
22 believe me, I'm just proposing a map --

23 SENATOR BARICKMAN: Mr. Chair, I think
24 Representative Demmer earlier raised a very

1 important question that does deserve an answer,
2 which is if your, in your opinion, Madam Chair,
3 are unable to tell the public, the witnesses,
4 who is drawing these maps, then what is the
5 purpose of obtaining from the witnesses the
6 proposed maps that they have? Is it simply so
7 that those maps can be entered into the record
8 and then ignored, just like they were in the May
9 -- earlier this year?

10 Or is the intent to take those
11 proposals and hand them to the unknown people
12 who are actually drawing the maps, which
13 Representative Butler says he saw was occurring
14 today?

15 I'm not sure why all the -- you
16 know, crowd modified and -- you know, area to
17 just tell people what's going on, so is there an
18 answer to all of that or no?

19 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: (Audio distortion)
20 I'll try to answer.

21 We have since the beginning of
22 this year, in the spring, hundreds of hours of
23 testimony that have been provided, of over 50, I
24 believe, hearings that we took input.

1 We also have a -- multiple, two
2 different websites, one from the Democrats --
3 one from the House side and one from the Senate
4 side that would allow for anyone in the state,
5 anyone on our board to provide an actual map
6 that they -- or multiple maps, actually, that
7 they can provide and provide testimony that way
8 as well.

9 We are back here because we
10 passed a map that abided by our constitution,
11 very plainly. You all know it. It's June 30.
12 We got -- we need additional data of the census
13 because they -- it was much delayed because of
14 the past administration and a global pandemic
15 that we are currently still in, that delayed
16 some of that data. We got that now, and doing
17 some analysis of that. There has been some
18 suggestion that there should certainly be some
19 tweaks to the maps that were voted into law back
20 in May.

21 That's why there was a special
22 session, as we said, has been public, that we
23 are going to have on Tuesday -- to get that
24 input from community members.

1 Mr. Calabrese himself has stated
2 here today that he has -- he's made maps. He's
3 actually showing the map here that he made -- or
4 rather earlier, I think he showed some maps that
5 he designed himself and submitted to those
6 websites. He's done that for the General
7 Assembly maps and I think other maps as well.
8 Mr. Calabrese, if that's correct, and other
9 folks, including the Republican party can do the
10 same thing, take that data and -- you know,
11 there was some discussion earlier of why a
12 certain town in someone's district was put a
13 certain way; well, then, hey, why not provide a
14 map on your side to talk about the
15 representation that you all feel needs to be
16 reflected in the state.

17 I would say, as what we've been
18 saying for -- since the beginning of this year,
19 that we want to make sure that the outcome of
20 the maps that we have are showing the great
21 diversity throughout the entire State of
22 Illinois. That's why we've done these hearings
23 virtually, to make sure that everybody has
24 access to them; those that can come here in

1 person, great; those that cannot, that can do it
2 online, and represent coalitions and groups and
3 communities, they have that opportunity. That's
4 why we have gone throughout the entire state to
5 also host these hearings in different parts so
6 that we are getting all different types of
7 perspectives here.

8 So to answer who is drawing the
9 map, the State of Illinois, we are going to be
10 voting on maps that are going to be influenced
11 by those that have gotten involved and those
12 that provided testimony here today, that have
13 provided testimony in over 50 hearings and
14 hundreds of hours of testimony, and the data
15 points that we've received from the census.

16 SENATOR BARICKMAN: Let me ask the
17 question this way, Mr. Chairman.

18 For example, Rabbi Soroka
19 presented very compelling testimony, and
20 provided a map, just per your request. Who is
21 making the decision as to whether that proposal
22 is incorporated in your map?

23 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: The General Assembly
24 that's going to be voting on the map.

1 SENATOR BARICKMAN: So my question is,
2 that map that we all vote on, who is deciding
3 whether Rabbi Soroka's proposal is included or
4 not?

5 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: The General
6 Assembly.

7 SENATOR BARICKMAN: That answer
8 personally doesn't make sense in the legislative
9 process.

10 You're going to put forward
11 legislation, which is a map. And my question
12 is, for all of these proposals from the public,
13 including the Rabbi's, someone must be
14 responsible for determining whether or not to
15 include the proposals in the map the General
16 Assembly ultimately votes on. Who is making
17 that decision?

18 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: (Audio distortion.)

19 SENATOR BARICKMAN: Who will be the
20 sponsor of the bill that you say we're going to
21 vote on next week?

22 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: I do not know.

23 SENATOR BARICKMAN: When will we know
24 who the sponsor is?

1 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: I do not know.

2 SENATOR BARICKMAN: So we don't know
3 the sponsor of a bill that doesn't exist, but
4 there's a map being drawn in the back room?

5 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: I don't know what
6 map is in the back room and whatnot. I don't
7 know about any of it. I haven't seen a map
8 myself, and I'm not part of making a map.
9 Representative Spain.

10 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Thank you.

11 I think the reason that this is
12 such a continued topic of frustration it is to
13 return for our work together in Springfield,
14 many questions were asked, of why legislators,
15 members of this Committee, we asked during joint
16 hearings, House hearings, Senate hearings, from
17 the floor of both chambers, questions of the
18 sponsor; and as you have indicated, perhaps it's
19 the sponsor that is ultimately accountable for
20 which suggestions are incorporated in maps that
21 are presented and with a map.

22 I would say we -- I have an
23 expectation and a request, then, that sponsors
24 be prepared to earnestly answer questions that

1 are important questions when we arrive in
2 Springfield on Tuesday.

3 I'm looking at a transcript from
4 May 28, a member of House was asked questions
5 regarding one of the maps that was passed, tell
6 me what data was used in the development of your
7 map. Was this map drawn with ACS? Was this map
8 drawn with election information? Response of
9 the legislation said, "I have told you before
10 and for the benefit of all my colleagues, I did
11 not use the election information. I did not use
12 the ACS, because I did not draft the maps."

13 That's the sponsor of the map
14 saying that in this case he did not draft the
15 map.

16 So the question remains, and it's
17 a key issue for members of this committee and
18 members of the public to whom they are sharing
19 information, and to whom is making the ultimate
20 decisions about what feedback is incorporated
21 and what feedback is discarded. And so the
22 ability to collaborate and confer with one
23 another is infinitely hindered by the inability
24 by the majority to answer the question, who is

1 making these decisions? Because from my review
2 of all of the input that was given, the 50-plus
3 questions you mentioned, the input was
4 discarded.

5 And so the advocates and the
6 members are asking, where is this information
7 actually being provided so that it can be put to
8 meaningful use. That's a fair question.

9 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: The answer to the
10 question that was put first, which was if the
11 people that are going to be sponsoring the
12 bills will be prepared to answer questions, I
13 would imagine that they wouldn't.

14 Where the information is going is
15 to the General Assembly and to -- as I explained
16 earlier, there are a two separate websites, and
17 go to this Committee, that the majority party in
18 both House and Senate have set up so that we get
19 that point of input and it goes on the public
20 record. That's where that information is going.

21 Any further questions? Nothing.
22 Seeing no further -- thank you for your
23 testimony, Mr. Calabrese. We have no further
24 witnesses. I'm seeing no further questions.

1 I'll move on to now turning it back to Chair
2 Hernandez to adjourn the House Redistricting
3 Committee.

4 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you,
5 Chair Aquino.

6 So with there being no further
7 business, the Committee will stand at recess.
8 Thank you everybody for your time.

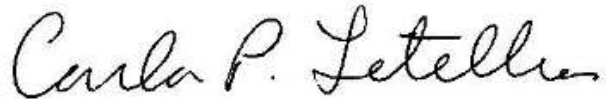
9 CHAIRMAN AQUINO: There being no
10 further business to come before the Committee,
11 this meeting of the Senate Redistricting
12 Committee stands adjourned. Thank you.

13 (Whereupon, at 4:15 p.m., the
14 joint House and Senate
15 Redistricting Committee meeting
16 concluded.)

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I, Carla P. Letellier, CSR, RPR, a
Certified Shorthand Reporter and Registered
Professional Reporter of the State of Illinois,
CSR No. 084-003315, do hereby certify that I
reported in shorthand the proceedings had in the
aforesaid matter, and that the foregoing is a
true, complete and correct transcript of the
proceedings had as appears from my stenographic
notes so taken to the best of my ability.



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