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STATE OF ILLINOIS
JOINT HEARING
SENATE AND HOUSE REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE
PEORIA, ILLINOIS

Saturday, August 28, 2021
10:03 a.m.

Via Zoom videoconference

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PRESENT: (via In-person/Zoom videoconference)

ILLINOIS SENATE REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE:

SENATOR ELGIE R. SIMS, JR., SUB-VICE-CHAIR
SENATOR SCOTT M. BENNETT, MEMBER
SENATOR CHRISTINA 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

ILLINOIS HOUSE REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE:

REPRESENTATIVE LISA HERNANDEZ, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE KELLY M. BURKE, MEMBER
REPRESENTATIVE TIM BUTLER, REPUBLICAN SPOKESPERSON
REPRESENTATIVE AVERY BOURNE, MEMBER
REPRESENTATIVE JAY HOFFMAN, LEADER
REPRESENTATIVE MARK LUFT, MEMBER
REPRESENTATIVE RYAN SPAIN, MEMBER

WITNESSES:

AARON AMSTOFFS (phonetic) (Citizen)
MARILYN LELAND (phonetic) (Citizen)
TIM RIGGENBACH (Citizen)
SHERRY BRANCH (Secretary, Peoria NAACP)
MIKE MATEJKA (Citizen)
FRANK CALABRESE (GIS Redistricting Consultant)
AMI GANDI (Chicago Lawyers Committee for Civil
Rights, UCCRO)
RYAN TOLLEY, Brad McMillan (CHANGE Illinois)

ALSO PRESENT:

SENATE/HOUSE STAFF
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

1 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: This is -- the meeting
2 of the Senate Redistricting Committee is called to
3 order.

4 Clerk, please take the roll.

5 THE CLERK: Senator Plummer.

6 MEMBER PLUMMER: Present.

7 THE CLERK: Senator McConchie.

8 MEMBER McCONCHIE: (No response.)

9 THE CLERK: Senator McClure.

10 MEMBER McCLURE: Present.

11 THE CLERK: Spokesperson Barickman.

12 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON BARICKMAN:
13 Present.

14 THE CLERK: Senator Murphy.

15 MEMBER MURPHY: Here.

16 THE CLERK: Senator Jones.

17 MEMBER JONES: (No response.)

18 THE CLERK: Senator Hunter.

19 MEMBER HUNTER: Present.

20 THE CLERK: Senator Cunningham.

21 MEMBER CUNNINGHAM: Here.

22 THE CLERK: Senator Castro.

23 MEMBER CASTRO: (No response.)

24 THE CLERK: Senator Bennett.

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MEMBER BENNETT: Here.

THE CLERK: Vice-Chair Sims.

VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Present.

THE CLERK: Chair Aquino.

CHAIR AQUINO: (No response.)

THE CLERK: Mr. Vice-Chairman -- quorum.

VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you.

There being quorum present the following entities are seeking leave to photograph and video today's proceeding BlueRoomStream.

Is there leave?

Leave is granted.

Senator Hunter for a motion, Senator Hunter?

MEMBER HUNTER: I move that this hearing be transcribed by the court reporter so that the Committee can have a full transcript of the hearing, Mr. Vice-Chair, Mr. Chair.

VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you, Senator Hunter.

Senator Hunter moves to allow a court reporter to transcribe today's hearing.

Is there leave?

Leave being granted.

1 The court reporter will be allowed to
2 transcribe the hearing.

3 I now turn to Leader Hoffman -- or
4 Vice Chairman Tarver or Leader Hoffman, who is
5 going to lead for the House?

6 Clerk, please add Senator Castro to
7 the role.

8 LEADER HOFFMAN: Thank you, Senator, I
9 believe that I am today. The House
10 Redistricting -- as you know, this is a joint
11 hearing between the House Redistricting Committee
12 and the Senate Redistricting Committee.

13 The clerk shall call the House role.

14 THE CLERK: Representative Hernandez.

15 MEMBER HERNANDEZ: (No response.)

16 THE CLERK: Representative Tarver.

17 MEMBER TARVER: (No response.)

18 THE CLERK: Representative Butler.

19 MEMBER BUTLER: Present in Peoria.

20 THE CLERK: Representative Bourne.

21 MEMBER BOURNE: Here.

22 THE CLERK: Representative Burke.

23 MEMBER BURKE: (No response.)

24 THE CLERK: Representative Gordon-Booth.

1 MEMBER GORDON-BOOTH: (No response.)
2 THE CLERK: Representative Hoffman.
3 MEMBER HOFFMAN: Present.
4 THE CLERK: Representative Mah.
5 MEMBER MAH: (No response.)
6 THE CLERK: Representative Severin.
7 MEMBER SEVERIN: (No response.)
8 THE CLERK: Representative Spain.
9 MEMBER SPAIN: Spain is here.
10 THE CLERK: We have four members present.
11 LEADER HOFFMAN: I would just like to
12 make a note, Mr. Clerk, that we do have a letter
13 from Leader Durkin replacing Representative
14 Severin with Representative Luft and
15 Representative Luft is present.
16 Correct, Representative Luft.
17 MEMBER LUFT: Yes, sir.
18 LEADER HOFFMAN: Please add him to the
19 roll.
20 Senator, would you like to proceed
21 with the initial opening statement or would you
22 like us?
23 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Go ahead, please,
24 Leader.

1 LEADER HOFFMAN: Good morning everyone.
2 And I'm happy to co-chair this Redistricting
3 Committee that is being held in Peoria. Thank you
4 to everyone who is taking time to participate in
5 today's hearing.

6 Earlier this year the House and
7 Senate Redistricting Committees held approximately
8 50 public hearings to gather input on
9 redistricting in Illinois. Based on that input
10 from the public and the best population data that
11 was available to to the General Assembly at that
12 time, in May the General Assembly passed a
13 legislative redistricting plan that was signed
14 into law by the governor known as Public Act
15 102-0010. That was done on June 4th to comply
16 with the Illinois constitution's June 30th
17 deadline.

18 At the time the House democrats
19 indicated we would review the 2020 census data
20 when it was released this fall and we would
21 determine if changes needed to be made to the map.

22 On August 12th, 2021, approximately
23 five months later than normal, the United States
24 Census Bureau released the 2020 census population

1 data in or to Illinois as well as to the other
2 states.

3 Now that we have the census data,
4 we're fulfilling our commitment to review the
5 data, seek additional input from the public and
6 amend the redistricting plan to incorporate the
7 latest census data as needed.

8 The House Democrats remain committed
9 to providing the public with various ways to make
10 their voices heard to ensure a fair map that
11 reflects the broad racial and geographic
12 diversity of Illinois.

13 The House Redistricting Committee is
14 again offering virtual and hybrid hearings which
15 give everyone the opportunity to participate in
16 person or from the comfort of their own homes.

17 Our staff notified those individuals
18 of groups who submitted testimony in the spring --
19 in the spring hearings and invited them again to
20 provide their thoughts and recommendations in
21 these hearings.

22 In addition the map making portal has
23 been updated and the census data, and again made
24 available for the public, to submit proposed

1 maps and communities of interest for
2 consideration.

3 In addition to the public, Chair
4 Hernandez along with Chair Aquino sent letters to
5 republicans inviting them to testify, provide
6 recommended changes and to submit proposed maps to
7 the Committees. I would like to reiterate that
8 invitation today.

9 We look forward to gathering feedback
10 as we consider changes to the legislative plan.
11 We invite those interested to submit written
12 testimony by emailing the House Redistricting
13 Committee at districting committee --
14 redistrictingcommittee@hgs.ilga.Gov.

15 Everyone is also invited to use the
16 map-making portal that can be found on the House
17 democratics website which is at
18 ilhousedems.com/redistricting. That's
19 ilhousedems.com/redistricting.

20 I want to thank everyone once again
21 for their time and participation in this process.

22 Senator Sims.

23 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you, Leader
24 Hoffman. This is -- as you mentioned, this is a

1 joint hearing of the House and Senate
2 Redistricting Committees and this is another
3 opportunity for us to come together and
4 demonstrate the ability for witnesses to come and
5 testify.

6 Let me first thank our hosts at the
7 Peoria Riverfront Museum as well as the witnesses
8 who are testifying in person. Thank you for
9 taking part of your Saturday to come and testify
10 on this most important topic.

11 And I'm going -- I don't want to
12 belabor the point and I think Leader Hoffman made
13 some very good points outlining the steps that
14 we've already taken and the steps we're taking
15 currently.

16 So I want to jump right into
17 testimony because I want make sure we give our
18 witnesses the opportunity to present and talk
19 about the issues they came here to talk about with
20 us. Before --

21 REPUBLICAN SPOKESPERSON BUTLER: Senator
22 Sims, I would like to have Leader Spain since
23 we're in his community give an opening statement
24 as well.

1 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Leader Butler, can I
2 finish my comment, please?

3 REPUBLICAN SPOKESPERSON BUTLER: Sure.

4 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: I want to make sure we
5 are able to get into testimony and get into
6 comments. I will reiterate for members of this
7 committee the process that we follow.

8 Since we are following the remote
9 guidelines that we've had before, please -- and
10 you seek recognition, use the raise-your-hand
11 function in the chat so we can make sure we
12 recognize individuals who are seeking to testify.

13 So with that I want to make sure we
14 stick to our agenda.

15 And, Representative Spain, we're
16 certainly going to make sure we give you the
17 opportunity to address the public since we are in
18 your community so let's move to that.

19 Representative Spain.

20 MEMBER SPAIN: Thank you, Senator Sims.

21 Just working with staff maybe we'll
22 take the volume down here at the beginning and --
23 I have a microphone for those that are joining
24 remotely.

1 Well, thank you all for being here.
2 We have several people in the audience here in the
3 Peoria Riverfront Museum. I know several of them
4 are witnesses that will present important
5 testimony. Thank you for giving up part of your
6 Saturday.

7 I just arrived from a soccer game. I
8 know others are off to baseball games and WE
9 appreciate everyone taking time on this weekend in
10 short notice to join us here today.

11 I think it's important to stop and
12 discuss why we are here today. And we're here
13 today to fix a problem. We are here today to fix
14 a mess that was created by the majority parties
15 efforts to pursue a redistricting goal that was
16 not in collaboration, that was not
17 bipartisan, that was not intending to meaningfully
18 engage the people of the state of Illinois so that
19 we could develop the best possible government to
20 tackle the important challenges facing the Peoria
21 community and the state of Illinois.

22 It didn't have to be this way. We
23 didn't have to be here on Saturday morning at the
24 beautiful Riverfront Museum in Peoria at

1 10:00 a.m. We had ample opportunities to do
2 something different this time around. And, boy, I
3 wish we should have. I wish we did.

4 We had 600,000 people sign petitions
5 in the state of Illinois urging that we would
6 develop an independent map making process so we
7 could take decisions like this out of the hands of
8 politicians and empower an independent commission
9 and ultimately the voters to design and deliver
10 the best possible government that could be
11 accountable to the people.

12 We didn't do that. That effort
13 failed. We pursued other opportunities that I had
14 hoped would engender bipartisan cooperation,
15 opportunities for the legislature to actually
16 amend the constitution on our own. Those efforts
17 were declined and rebuffed repeatedly by the
18 majority party.

19 I know because I personally sponsored
20 three different versions of a constitutional
21 amendment to do just that, to avoid this process
22 that we're in here today. And even when those
23 deadlines were blown through, we had additional
24 opportunities to work together to develop in

1 legislation a different process of cooperation.
2 Each and every one of those options were rejected
3 unfortunately by the majority party and it shows
4 you why we're here today.

5 And we're here now to fix, as I said,
6 a real mess. The redistricting plan that was
7 adopted by the democratic legislature and signed
8 by the governor is unworkable and
9 unconstitutional. It is so far off from the
10 reality that we need and what the law requires
11 that we're here back to try and do it over again

12 Let me give you an example because
13 this is a resolution that was passed in the
14 Illinois House, House Resolution 359. And in it
15 it gives a detailed description of every one of
16 our 118 House districts. And you can look at
17 examples where the district is described, the
18 characteristics of it and the population.

19 One district is described as having
20 grown by 1,000 people over the last 10 years from
21 the 2010 census till now in 2020. The
22 reality, when we finally received the census
23 data, that district had lost 16,000 people.

24 We got it so wrong that we are back

1 to the drawing board. And this is what we warned.
2 We said don't pursue an arbitrary deadline of
3 rushing through a legislative mapping process
4 using American Community Survey data. It will be
5 flawed and it will be problematic. And here we
6 are now redoing this work.

7 And I hope that the testimony that's
8 given today will be heard by the majority people.
9 We need to listen to the people of the state of
10 Illinois who are asking for a different way.

11 Now, we have seen time and time again
12 through the spring that the maps that were
13 developed were done in secret, developed behind
14 closed doors. And my understanding is that those
15 doors remain closed as maps are being developed
16 right now.

17 I hope that the testimony today can
18 be carried behind those closed doors so that the
19 people that are in charge of the decisions and
20 drawing the maps will have an interest in the
21 testimony and presentations received from citizens
22 who deserve to have a voice in what their
23 government looks like.

24 Now, I'll tell you, here in

1 Peoria, this map is a fundamental change for our
2 community. And it's interesting that we're
3 sitting here in the Peoria Riverfront Museum, a
4 monument to bipartisan collaboration in our region
5 and the maps as proposed are completely
6 antithetical to that type of cooperation.

7 The democrats in charge of this map
8 making process decide let's blow up Peoria. Let's
9 take Peoria and split our community over multiple
10 media markets and other multiple metropolitan
11 statistical areas.

12 Peoria is a special place. We have
13 the largest wholly-contained metropolitan area in
14 the state of Illinois outside of Chicago. It's
15 Chicago and then next is Peoria. We have about a
16 half million people here with unique needs in
17 coordination that are of a benefit to our
18 community. It makes no sense to me why we would
19 want to flush things like that away for partisan
20 political purposes.

21 There's some other unique
22 characteristics that I think are important as
23 well. Peoria is a special place, a very diverse
24 place as a region. In downstate Illinois Peoria

1 holds the highest concentration of Asian Americans
2 and Indian Americans. And almost universally they
3 have had a district of influence, to be able to
4 share their opinions and have an impact on the
5 direction of the state of Illinois.

6 The proposed map from the democrats
7 cracks that community into three different pieces
8 and dilutes the opportunity for communities of
9 interest to have a voice in important issues for
10 their government.

11 So I hope that we are listening. I
12 hope that there is an earnest interest in doing
13 things differently. A vote has been called in
14 Springfield 72 hours from now to vote on a map
15 that I haven't seen and I suspect you haven't
16 seen.

17 I hope that people are listening and
18 this testimony today will be carried behind the
19 closed doors to the people making decisions that
20 will affect the future of the state of Illinois.

21 Thank you.

22 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator Plummer, I see
23 your hand raised, but I'm going to go to Senator
24 Barickman as the republican spokesman to see if he

1 has comments.

2 MINORITY SPOKESPERSON BARICKMAN: Thank
3 you, Mr. Chair. I'd like to defer to Senator
4 Plummer if I could.

5 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Absolutely.

6 MEMBER PLUMMER: Thank you, Chair.

7 Well, I just want to first thank the
8 witnesses, the Illinoisians that took time this
9 Saturday to share their thoughts and share their
10 concerns about the process we're going through
11 here. This is not necessary.

12 My colleague Leader Spain hit on many
13 points that I think people need to stop and think
14 about.

15 During the spring session the members
16 of our caucus and numerous advocacy groups
17 repeatedly urged our friends on the other side of
18 the aisle to wait during the spring until real
19 data was released. Obviously those requests were
20 refused and we rushed through a highly partisan
21 map that carried no transparency, that took no
22 input from the various diverse groups.

23 And when I say diverse, I mean
24 geographically diverse, politically diverse,

1 groups across Illinois from across the political
2 spectrum that shared their concerns to make sure
3 their voices would be heard.

4 The process that you followed in the
5 spring was designed to deliver an extremely
6 partisan map that was focused on political gains
7 for just the democrat party. Well, we got that
8 map and that map's been deemed unconstitutional.
9 Clearly and blatantly it didn't follow the rules
10 that we were supposed to follow. So here we are
11 in August, almost September, and we're restarting
12 the Illinois map making Kabuki Theater.

13 First, I would like at some point
14 during this meeting for the chair persons to
15 highlight a few points.

16 I heard in the spring quite often,
17 and I've heard it again in the last couple of
18 committee hearings that we've had this week, that
19 all of these groups, again across the political
20 spectrum, would like time to review maps before
21 they're voted on.

22 I don't understand, and I know a lot
23 of folks share my concerns, that the democrats
24 have already drawn maps. They're sitting, ready,

1 waiting to be filed and voted on Tuesday and no
2 one has seen the maps.

3 I don't know how these groups,
4 diligent concerned Illinoisians that just want
5 their voices heard, I don't understand how they
6 can comment on maps that they haven't seen. I
7 don't know how they can review maps they haven't
8 seen. And here we are pretending like we listen
9 to their voices when the reality is they're not
10 even going to have a chance to review the maps.

11 So I would like the chair person, I
12 would like my friends on the other side of the
13 aisle, to make a commitment to the groups here, to
14 the witnesses and to the Illinoisians that are
15 sharing their time this Saturday, that there will
16 be at least a two week period of time, once maps
17 are unveiled, to collect real input from
18 Illinoisians.

19 I would also like someone -- because
20 there tends to be a tremendous amount of confusion
21 from a lot of the organizations and frankly myself
22 included -- on what the exact process is for
23 submitting maps and what those map portals look
24 like.

1 So if someone on the other side of
2 the aisle could clearly explain that process in a
3 way to make sure that we don't have to have
4 graduate degrees to submit a map, that average
5 Illinoisians can submit a map, make sure their
6 voice is heard, could you explain the portal,
7 could you explain the process and could you
8 guarantee those maps will be reviewed before
9 Tuesday.

10 And then of course the most important
11 question that I think stands today is why are we
12 having these meetings. You know, we were told all
13 through the spring we had these constitutional
14 deadlines and we had to rush this map through.
15 And we rushed a map through. It was
16 unconstitutional. We've been told that. And now
17 here we are again.

18 The constitution is extraordinarily
19 clear what happens if we don't follow the rules
20 previously. What happens if we don't submit a map
21 is that the map making process goes into the hands
22 of a bipartisan redistricting commission. The
23 constitution says that's where this map belongs
24 today.

1 So we were rushing through a map in
2 the spring because we supposedly cared about the
3 constitution. And now here we are in August and
4 we're throwing the constitution aside and we're
5 pushing again to ram a partisan map through in a
6 non-transparent process.

7 And it's an insult to the people of
8 Illinois. It's an insult to all these
9 organizations that have taken the time to gather
10 their input, to share their thoughts and to try to
11 build maps.

12 So I would just ask -- there's still
13 time. We don't have to do it this way. There's
14 no reason why we have to do it this way. I would
15 ask the other side to change course. Let's put
16 this into the hands of a bipartisan redistricting
17 commission. Let's remove Senator Plummer and
18 Representative Tim Butler and Representative Jay
19 Hoffman and Senator Elgie Sims. Let's remove the
20 politicians from the process and let's let the
21 people of Illinois decide what course of action
22 they want to have, what map they want, what map
23 the voters want, the people want; not what map the
24 politicians want.

1 We can do that. That's what the
2 constitution says we should be doing and so here's
3 an opportunity to start that process. I encourage
4 the other side to press pause. Let the people be
5 part of the process. Let the politicians take a
6 step back. And if you really cared about the
7 constitution in the spring, well, now let's follow
8 the constitution in August and let's put this in
9 the hands of a bipartisan redistricting
10 commission.

11 Thank you.

12 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Let me address a couple
13 of those points clearly and for the record. First
14 and foremost, you know, it's amazing to me that my
15 friends on the other side of the aisle like to
16 revise history. It's amazing to me that my
17 friends on the other side of the aisle like to
18 make it act as if they were not invited and
19 encouraged to participate in this process.

20 It's no different than any other
21 legislative measure that our friends on the other
22 side of the aisle refuse to participate in.

23 So this process has been open. The
24 portal has been out there for months. The portal

1 has been out there with the ability to have
2 individuals participate and utilize that portal
3 for months.

4 But also let me point to Article 4,
5 Section 3 and my colleague just mentioned that the
6 map has been ruled unconstitutional. First of
7 all, that is not the case. I know you have very
8 many talents, Senator, but I don't know that
9 reading the future is one of them. But the fact
10 is the constitution in Article 4, Section 3
11 clearly delineates the schedule by which we are to
12 pass a map.

13 The majority parties, as you
14 mentioned, we followed our constitutional
15 obligation. We asked over and over and over again
16 that our friends on the other side of the aisle
17 participate. They chose not to do that.
18 Now, that was fine. We passed a map by our
19 constitutional deadline. This is no different
20 than what we have done in the past.

21 We are making sure that -- and we
22 have said over and over again this process we want
23 to be participatory, we want it to be transparent,
24 we want a map that reflects the great diversity of

1 our state.

2 And previous comments from the chairs
3 of this committee, the chair in the House, the
4 chair in the Senate, they have talked about the
5 fact that we were utilizing the best data
6 available at the time. That's what we did.
7 Now, we are now coming back to address any changes
8 that are there.

9 Now, in terms of submitting maps we
10 have a mapping portal that's on our website and
11 anyone can go there. Just like in the spring
12 we'll take the maps that come from outside the
13 portal. We await everyone's map especially our
14 republican friends.

15 But this notion that we're trying to
16 push through a bipartisan commission, what we --
17 and my friends on the other side of the aisle also
18 like to talk about all the time is what the public
19 wants and what the public has also said to us is
20 the best way to pass a map is not to turn it over
21 to the flip of a coin or the pulling of a name out
22 of the hat, which is essentially what our
23 republican friends are asking for.

24 So we are moving forward. That's why

1 we're having these meetings, we're having these
2 conversations. We want to listen to all
3 communities of interest. We want to hear all the
4 constituents who want to come and participate in
5 this process including our friends on the other
6 side of the aisle.

7 So if they are willing to
8 participate, we are willing to work with them and
9 listen.

10 With that, I'm going to continue with
11 our agenda and move on. We have a presentation
12 from the senate democratic staff.

13 STAFFER RANDAZZO: Can everyone see the
14 slide show?

15 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Yes.

16 STAFFER RANDAZZO: So since we're
17 covering a number of potential counties, I'm now
18 going to go county by county. This will be up on
19 the ILGA website later on today.

20 But this is just a run through of the
21 population changes from 2010 to 2020 in the
22 various parts of the state. Census numbers here
23 are for more northern Illinois: Lee, Dekalb,
24 Ogle, Carroll, Boone, Winnebago, Stephenson, Jo

1 Daviess and Whiteside counties.

2 All of these numbers, including the
3 maps that are slipped out and put into this
4 presentation, come from the Census Bureau's
5 demographic maps that there's a link on the senate
6 democratic redistricting website, on the front
7 page to click on, to take you to those maps. And
8 from there you can look at only population
9 changes, also you can see population densities,
10 racial demographics, housing, et cetera.

11 The next group of counties will be
12 western Illinois hugging the Mississippi River:
13 Rock Island, Henry, Mercer, Knox,
14 Warren, Henderson, Hancock, McDonough and Fulton.
15 All these counties saw a population loss.

16 This would be kind of north central
17 Illinois which would be the areas above Peoria
18 County east: Bureau, LaSalle, Kankakee, Iroquois,
19 Ford, Livingston, Putnam, Marshall and Stark.
20 Again, all of these counties lost population from
21 2010 to 2020.

22 Next would be what I call north and
23 east central Illinois. This is includes Peoria
24 where the committee has stationed today's folks to

1 testify, which did lose 2.5 percent of the
2 population according to the Census Bureau, also
3 includes Woodford County, McLean County, which had
4 a slight up tick of .8 percent, Tazewell County,
5 Champaign County, which had a gain of 2.4 percent,
6 Vermilion, Piatt, DeWitt, Logan and Mason which
7 had population losses.

8 This next map is the area to the
9 south west of Peoria and Saginaw County over which
10 includes Adams County, Skyler County, Brown County
11 Cass County, Menard, Sangamon, Macon, Christian,
12 Montgomery, Scott and Pike. All of these counties
13 also lost population according to the Census
14 Bureau between 2010 and 2020.

15 This would be our last group of maps.
16 This is what we call south central Illinois. This
17 is the area below Sangamon County to the east and
18 the west. Calhoun, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin,
19 Montgomery, Shelby, Moultrie, Douglas, Edgar,
20 Coles, Clark and Cumberland. They all lost
21 population. Effingham County gained population of
22 1.2 percent. And then to round off Jasper and
23 Crawford County lost population from 2010 to 2020
24 according to the Census Bureau.

1 These are the populations based on
2 the 2011 enacted senate districts compared with
3 the 2020 census populations, Districts 34, 35, 36,
4 37, 40, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55
5 are all under populated. And Senate District 38
6 currently represented by Senator Rezin so this
7 is -- (undiscernible mumbling) -- east did have a
8 population dip.

9 And then for the House districts,
10 there's a lot of them here. I'll only go through
11 the ones that lost populations. You can see it is
12 the vast majority of them. The one that have a
13 population growth from the 2010 to 2020 census
14 were 73, 75, 88, 99 and 108.

15 Again, this will be up on the senate
16 redistricting committee testimony website later on
17 today. And as Senator Sims said earlier about the
18 portal, there will be addresses for the House and
19 Senate Redistricting website, also the email
20 addresses for both of the Committees and a place
21 where a map can start to be created.

22 Thank you.

23 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you,
24 Mr. Randazzo.

1 We have several witness who are
2 seeking to testify. Several who are --

3 MEMBER SPAIN: Mr. Chairman, I have
4 question for staff.

5 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Absolutely. Go ahead,
6 Representative.

7 MEMBER SPAIN: Thank you.

8 Giovanni, thank you for the
9 presentation. I want to just see if you can pull
10 back -- I represent the 73rd District and, as you
11 showed, that was one of the few districts on your
12 list that have grown in population. So I'm
13 incredibly proud to have worked hard to facilitate
14 economic development and population growth in my
15 district.

16 But can you go back in your slides.
17 You had a lot of information that was really good.
18 Rock Island County was on one of your earlier
19 slides. That's the Quad Cities area. I just want
20 to check the population there.

21 STAFFER RANDAZZO: That is Representative
22 Stone. It is in the top left-hand corner.

23 MEMBER SPAIN: So Rock Island County down
24 1.9 percent. Okay. Thank you.

1 And I ask that question because under
2 the Democratic's -- Democrat's map the 73rd
3 District now includes Rock Island County in the
4 Quad Cities area. So just trying to familiarize
5 myself with an entirely different region of the
6 state that has no connection to where we are here
7 in Peoria.

8 Thank you.

9 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you,
10 Representative.

11 As I mentioned -- let me see if there
12 are any other questions.

13 Seeing none -- and Representative
14 Spain, your hand is still up. Thank you.

15 I'm going to move to -- we have
16 several witnesses who are in person. I'd like to
17 move to them first starting with Aaron Amstoffs,
18 if I pronounced that correctly. Do we have
19 Mr. Amstoffs with us?

20 **THE WITNESS: There you are.**

21 THE COURT: There he is.

22 **THE WITNESS: Yes, you did pronounce it**
23 **right, thank you.**

24 THE COURT: Well, please proceed with

1 your testimony, sir.

2 THE WITNESS: Sure. As you've alluded
3 to, you're trying to follow, democratic party, and
4 I'm sure if a bipartisan commission is
5 commissioned, they would also try to follow the
6 constitution.

7 Section 3, Article 1 says districts
8 shall be compact, contiguous and substantially
9 equal in population. I had a chance before this
10 to review the maps as proposed, the May 27th, 2021
11 proposal. I don't know what's going on behind
12 closed doors or that might get proposed, but if I
13 just look at those three elements,
14 compact, contiguous and substantially equal in
15 population, compact if I look at simply the area
16 around us and central Illinois, they are not
17 compact.

18 For example, Bartonville has been
19 paired would Bloomington Normal along a corridor
20 along 74. Bartonville and Bloomington Normal have
21 very, very little in common and are not forming a
22 compact district. A couple of other examples is
23 you've got Moline going straight south to
24 Galesburg going straight south to Macomb cutting

1 into what's around here called Forgottonia. That
2 is not a compact district.

3 And one that's especially egregious
4 is you've got Decatur running a string line along
5 a county highway over to Springfield and you've
6 got a wrap-around district that's rural that spans
7 around Springfield, drops south, barely is
8 contiguous to a district south of Decatur.

9 I would argue that those do not
10 follow the spirit of the law in being either
11 compact, barely contiguous and so even as we talk
12 about population, which of course is important and
13 we want to have districts of equal population, the
14 first two categories that are in the constitution,
15 I would argue, are not being met by the proposed
16 map that was drawn prior to census data.

17 So you had plenty of time in that
18 time frame to work on those first two criteria,
19 compact and contiguous.

20 As far as substantially equal in
21 population, the Supreme Court has ruled within
22 maximum population on the big side to the low side
23 10 percent so you've got plus or minus 5 percent.
24 I know that other people have done the math and

1 said right now based on current census data the
2 map as drawn or percentage in May would be plus or
3 minus 15 percent, so a 30 percent spread between
4 the maximum population and minimum population.

5 That clearly is way out which is
6 actually why we are here today because it is way
7 out and therefore by constitutional muster we've
8 got to redraw these things.

9 As already been alluded to Section B
10 of Article 4, Section 3 clearly says that if
11 there's no approved map by June 30th, a bipartisan
12 commission will be appointed. That doesn't mean
13 anyone loses. A bipartisan map is anticipated to
14 be a good thing in our constitution. We shouldn't
15 view that as a negative fall back. That's an
16 ideal situation. No more -- eight people, no more
17 that four from one party. And it even has
18 provisions if those people can't agree what
19 happens next. And one -- two additional people
20 get added, no more than one from each party. And
21 it's all spelled out.

22 We're not making things up. The
23 constitution clearly spells out how this would
24 play out. And from a citizen stand point I would

1 be fully excited to see our constitution followed
2 in the letter of the law here.

3 The last thing I would want to
4 address in my short time here at the stand is that
5 you've brought up multiple times that people have
6 the opportunity to submit maps, people should draw
7 the maps and I actually chaste against that.

8 No one is smart enough to have all
9 that census data in front of them and be able to
10 figure out what a fair map is. We are now well
11 into the 21st century with very strong computers.
12 You could draw easily -- someone could easily put
13 together a computer algorithm to say a compactness
14 score, a contiguousness score and a substantially
15 equal population score and through a very clever
16 computer algorithm propose a number of valid maps
17 that would meet those criteria.

18 And then we could actually have real
19 things that we could debate: Here's one that
20 weighs compactness heavier. Here's one that
21 weighs equal populations heavier. Here's one that
22 sticks within existing county boundaries or other
23 legislative districts stronger which would
24 obviously be a nice feature if our local

1 legislative districts were overlaid on top of
2 state level legislative districts.

3 I would be hesitant to say any human
4 is smart enough to handle all that data. And here
5 well into the 21st century I'd much prefer to see
6 a couple of computer options and be able to
7 discuss those meaningfully and maybe tweak about
8 the boundaries.

9 That's my comment.

10 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you so much.

11 Representative Butler.

12 MEMBER BUTLER: Thank you.

13 If the witness would stay there for a
14 second...

15 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

16 Thank you. Give me your name again,
17 sorry.

18 **THE WITNESS: Aaron Amstoffs.**

19 MEMBER BUTLER: Aaron, thank you so much
20 for your testimony. And I had to chuckle at your
21 description of some of those districts because the
22 one that you described it goes -- the string bean
23 that goes over to -- from Springfield to Decatur
24 is the district that I was drawn and currently the

1 district that I represent -- goes from the north
2 end of Springfield all the way up here to the
3 Peoria metro area to the Tremont and Pekin area.

4 And it's a district that I love to
5 represent especially since I'm a Peoria native.
6 So I feel like I know the district pretty well and
7 I know the people pretty well. And unfortunately
8 this is what happens on redistricting.

9 And I look at the map now, the
10 current district that I have, parts of that
11 district have three districts between here and the
12 Peoria area that I currently represent. And the
13 people in Tremont that I've hopefully adequately
14 represented for the last six years will now be
15 thrown into a completely different direction.

16 I think you really summed it up very
17 well, and I think you underscored the frustration
18 that a lot of us have. Yes, we do have very
19 powerful computer, yes, you do have algorithms,
20 and you're seeing them in these maps that were
21 passed in May come through very well. That's why
22 these are sliced and diced the way they were.

23 The democrats admitted, during debate
24 on this legislation from the spring, that they

1 used political data, election data to draw these
2 maps. It's on the record from the spring. And
3 the reason they used political data is to pack
4 republicans together in districts or to split
5 republicans such as they've done from the south
6 side of Peoria and Bartonville over to Bloomington
7 Normal or as they've done for the past decade from
8 Springfield over to Decatur or as you see coming
9 out of the city of Chicago, these districts that
10 go miles and miles and miles north and south yet
11 are just a handful of blocks wide, that go from
12 the Gold Coast down out of the south side of
13 Chicago.

14 And they're done for partisan
15 political reasons. I couldn't agree with you more
16 with your testimony today. And just to -- you
17 mentioned the redistricting provisions of the
18 constitution and the legislative article. And the
19 word that is used in the legislative article for
20 redistricting is maps should be effective, not
21 enacted, effective June 30th. And if they are not
22 effective June 30th, it goes to the eight member
23 bipartisan commission that has four members of the
24 public appointed to it.

1 That's where we should be at today.
2 The reason we sit here today on a beautiful warm
3 August morning on the river front in Peoria and
4 the reason I'll be at Aurora at 10:00 tomorrow and
5 the reason I was in Collinsville at 10:00 a.m.
6 yesterday was because these maps are not
7 effective.

8 So the democrats are trying jam
9 through politically drawn maps when we should be
10 in front of the commission. That's where we
11 should be at.

12 So I want to thank you for your
13 testimony. You're very astute. Thank you for
14 studying these. And I would say to the senate
15 staff that presented that great information, I
16 would ask that you make that information, both the
17 House and Senate democrats, since they
18 continuously refer to their web portals, to put
19 that exact same information in those -- the format
20 that you just presented to us available to the
21 public so the public can see that to make it
22 easier as we just heard from the witness, to make
23 it easier to draw maps as you said you want to do.

24 And the reason that's the first time

1 we've seen that data in that format at these
2 hearings is because we did not have that data in
3 the spring to know that counties had lost
4 population because we used data that was
5 incomplete called the American Community Survey
6 data and that's why these map are not effective.

7 So I thank you for your testimony.

8 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the
9 time.

10 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you,
11 Representative.

12 And, Mr. Amstoffs, let me also point
13 out to you as you point out the process as
14 delineated in our state's constitution, I point
15 you back to the fact that it is not a
16 bipartisan -- only a bipartisan commission. The
17 individual that is appointed there for members of
18 the public who are appointed and is an example of
19 whom the appointments are being -- one of the
20 appointments that have been made recently is a
21 former republican elected official.

22 So it isn't that you're going to pick
23 regular people who are going to -- our friends on
24 the other side of the aisle while they are trying

1 to push for this name to be pulled out of the hat,
2 have demonstrated that's what they're really
3 trying to do, is politicize this process.

4 And by going after -- by including
5 the name of a former republican elected official,
6 a member of the General Assembly, that shows you
7 that they are saying one thing but doing something
8 very different.

9 So we -- what we have done, we have
10 followed our constitutional requirement and our
11 constitutional responsibility which is to meet
12 that deadline. What we have done now, we have
13 have a law has -- a map that was signed into law
14 so we have an enacted map using the best data that
15 was available at the time. And now we are coming
16 back based on -- which is what -- what the Chairs
17 have clearly indicated that they have always --
18 that was the plan if there were -- if there's data
19 that shows that the final census numbers came out,
20 we would come back and make adjustments and that's
21 what's happening right now.

22 I appreciate your testimony,
23 Mr. Amstoffs. Thank you for being here this
24 afternoon.

1 Next we're going to move to -- I
2 guess we also have Marilyn Leland who is in person
3 as well in Peoria at the hearing. So I would like
4 to call her to the microphone to provide
5 testimony.

6 Ms. Leland, please proceed when
7 you're ready.

8 **THE WITNESS:** My name is Marilyn Leland
9 from East Peoria, Illinois and I'm happy to be
10 here today. I have studied the maps as well, the
11 ones that are posted online. And it is very easy
12 to see that central Illinois is not drawn to be
13 compact. I've also read that a significant number
14 of proposed new districts have incumbents pitted
15 against each other particularly if they are
16 republicans. I don't know the home addresses of
17 all the current senators and representatives in
18 our area so I don't know if this is the case.

19 I do know that where I live in east
20 Peoria has been redrawn in the past specifically
21 to accommodate the homes of my elected
22 representatives and senators. I certainly hope
23 that this is not the consideration going forward.

24 Thank you.

1 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you, Ms. Leland.

2 Questions?

3 Seeing none.

4 We appreciate your testimony this
5 morning. Appreciate you spending the time with
6 us. Thank you so much.

7 Next I see on my list we have Ted
8 Riggerbach who is in person as well.

9 Mr. Riggerbach, if you're ready...

10 THE WITNESS: Good morning. Can you hear
11 me okay.

12 I'm Tim Riggerbach and it's my
13 privilege to represent the people of the third
14 district of the city of Peoria on the city
15 council. I'm here independently this morning
16 though as an individual, but I'm always
17 representing the interest of my constituents.

18 I do just want to be clear though
19 that I'm not here representing the city of Peoria.
20 And just to be totally transparent, the city
21 council has had no discussions whatsoever and
22 taken no action in support or opposition to the
23 maps.

24 Peoria right now is very fortunate

1 with our line-up of representatives. And a lot of
2 folks refer to them as the dream team with three
3 of our members in leadership, Jehan
4 Gordon-Booth, Dave Koehler our own Ryan Spain
5 right with us this morning -- thank you,
6 Mr. Representative -- and our newest member, Win
7 Stoller.

8 The attention we receive from them is
9 unparalleled and the support that they offer to
10 the city of Peoria as well as to the organizations
11 within our city are impressive to say the least.
12 And no one doubts their commitment and their
13 passion and, yes, even their love for our city.

14 So with that you're probably
15 wondering what am I doing here. Well, if you look
16 at what's being proposed, there's a number of
17 things that have caused me to be here. In my job
18 as a councilman or my day job at Merrill Lynch,
19 talking about succession planning is something
20 that's very important to me. And we might be
21 happy with the line-up today, but what's going to
22 happen when someone gets a new job or somebody
23 retires or moves to a new position.

24 Without Dave Koehler on the

1 ballot, will the voters in Bloomington be inclined
2 to be passionate about the interests of the folks
3 in the East Bluff, the South Side, the North
4 Valley. Even Peoria airport would be
5 represented -- could potentially be represented by
6 somebody in Bloomington.

7 Representative Spain, his commitment
8 to our city is so clear and obvious, but he's
9 going to just have a sliver of the city and will
10 those outlying residents have the same affinity to
11 our concerns, to things like the museum here that
12 the city residents have.

13 It looks to me that under the maps
14 proposed it could be very possible that Peoria's
15 dream team could be reduced to a solo
16 representative, a solo voice at some time in the
17 future.

18 I was involved with drawing the
19 district council maps for Peoria 10 years ago.
20 And I know first hand the challenges of keeping
21 the personalities out of the equation. And you
22 know what, in the 10 years since we drew those
23 maps there's only one council member that has
24 stayed the same. So it's very clear that the

1 personalities come and go but those maps, those
2 lines that are drawn are going to be here for 10
3 years.

4 I'm old enough to remember that first
5 map drawn after the 1980 cut back amendment.
6 That's when we went from the cumulative voting
7 districts to the single member districts that we
8 have today. And even then with that extremely
9 partisan map Peoria had two representatives in
10 Springfield and in every map drawn since
11 then, that has been a consistent force.

12 Well, I don't have the capacity to
13 draw a map and I find it a little ironic, as
14 Mr. Amstoffs said, that app on the website is a
15 little bit ludicrous because the complexity of the
16 matter at hand is something that I want the
17 professionals, the independent voices to be taking
18 care of.

19 But to close I would just
20 respectfully ask that you reconsider the maps as
21 presented and voted on in May and restore Peoria
22 in particular to the representation that we
23 historically have had and that I feel we deserve.

24 Let me repeat how fortunate I

1 consider us with our current representation. But
2 let's be honest, we owe it to our kids, our
3 grandkids, to have the succession plan in place.
4 And that plan I believe requires a map that will
5 protect Peoria's interest to be heard regardless
6 of who our representatives are.

7 Thank you very much and we appreciate
8 the two of you being here in person and the rest
9 of you online. So thank you for the opportunity
10 to talk.

11 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you, Councilman
12 Riggerbach.

13 Questions from the committee?
14 Representative Spain.

15 MEMBER SPAIN: Thank very
16 much, Mr. Chairman.

17 And, Councilman Riggerbach, thank you
18 for being here today. We appreciate your
19 leadership for many years to the city of Peoria
20 and also before that as a county board member here
21 in Peoria County.

22 I have a couple of questions for you.
23 First, you mentioned that there's one councilman
24 who has stayed the same throughout the current map

1 on the city council. I can't remember it. I've
2 been off the city council for a few years. Which
3 council member is that?

4 **THE WITNESS: Ironically it's the one**
5 **sitting in front of you.**

6 MEMBER SPAIN: Very good. I thought that
7 was the case and we're very glad that's the case.

8 You mentioned something on the
9 airport that I think is pretty interesting. And
10 so in this map the democrats have created a new
11 district, an opportunity district I would call.
12 It's District Number 91. It's goes from
13 Bartonville, as we heard earlier today, and then
14 emerges into Bloomington Normal.

15 But as you point out, the Peoria
16 airport that we're so -- we've all worked so hard
17 to make sure can be successful, continue to grow
18 and be of service and have flights and be a
19 quality of life and business amenity for our
20 community is included in that 91st District that
21 will be represented by a population center in
22 Bloomington Normal.

23 The -- are you familiar -- are there
24 tax dollars that are used to help fund the Peoria

1 Airport?

2 **THE WITNESS: Yes. There's a very**
3 **specific greater Peoria Airport Authority that**
4 **collects taxes from the residents of Peoria**
5 **County.**

6 MEMBER SPAIN: From Peoria County?

7 **THE WITNESS: Yes.**

8 MEMBER SPAIN: Now, I'm reading in the
9 democrat's resolution here about Representative
10 District 91. I always like learning about the
11 districts that have been described here. And this
12 new district of District 91 maintains the
13 communities of interests among college students,
14 faculty and staff by keeping Illinois State
15 University and Illinois Wesleyan University
16 together and united within a single representative
17 district.

18 Do you know, do those universities
19 pay property taxes?

20 **THE WITNESS: I don't believe so.**

21 MEMBER SPAIN: They do not.

22 And in fact would any of the tax
23 entities that have payable property taxes anywhere
24 in McLean County offer taxes that would be used to

1 benefit the Peoria International Airport?

2 **THE WITNESS: No.**

3 MEMBER SPAIN: Thank you, Councilman.

4 I think we pointed out just in this
5 one example the glaring disconnects that have been
6 created only for the purposes of partisan
7 political advantage through this map.

8 And every time we hear my friends on
9 the other side of the aisle talk in this committee
10 about, boy, we really do want to work together,
11 send us your ideas, we really want to incorporate
12 everything that you may recommend, it's examples
13 like this that take us back and remind us how
14 hollow those overtures are because the maps that
15 have been drawn are drawn for only one reason, to
16 advantage democratic majorities in the Illinois
17 General Assembly.

18 Thank you.

19 **THE WITNESS: If I may just follow up on**
20 **that comment you made, Mr. Representative, about**
21 **Illinois State and Illinois Wesleyan. I am the**
22 **proud father of three graduates of Bradley**
23 **University and I would venture to say that the**
24 **people in Bartonville and throughout the Peoria**

1 area in general would have more affinity and more
2 in common with the Bradley brave organization than
3 Illinois Wesleyan or Illinois State University so
4 if we're looking for common interests, that
5 desperately fails the test.

6 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Be very careful,
7 Council Member. You have an alum of Illinois
8 State University. Be very, very careful.

9 Thank you. I appreciate that. Thank
10 you, Council Member. I think we've got some other
11 questions for you.

12 But to the point that was just made,
13 I was checking the portal, I still have yet to see
14 the republican map be posted.

15 So Representative Butler, I think you
16 have a question.

17 MEMBER BUTLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18 And Councilman Riggerbach, thank you
19 for being here today and thank you for your
20 service to my hometown of Peoria. I appreciate
21 that.

22 I just want to underscore a point you
23 made about the splitting especially of these down
24 state communities.

1 I live in Springfield now. I've
2 lived in Springfield for over 20 years. When the
3 current maps were drawn, my community was divided
4 among six legislatures, three senate districts,
5 three house districts. And at the time after the
6 2011 maps and the 2012 election, not a single
7 member of the legislature lived in the city of
8 Springfield.

9 Now it's changed since then because
10 the vagaries, as you said, things change and
11 appointments get made especially and things like
12 that. But these are valid concerns that this
13 community of Peoria, which has been so adequately
14 represented by people like Spain, people like
15 Representative Gordon-Booth, Senator Koehler, who
16 we're all friends and you're correct they do a
17 good job. But the history of people like George
18 Chadid (phonetic) and Dave Legen (phonetic) and
19 Senator Bloom (phonetic) and so many, so many
20 great people who have come from Peoria, that can
21 get thrown out the window because of these maps.
22 And all you have to do is point to my community
23 now of Springfield to see that that can happen.

24 And I would hate to see that

1 especially in some of these down state communities
2 where their representation really goes by the
3 boards and gets tremendously diluted because of
4 partisanly-drawn maps.

5 So thank you for being here today and
6 thank you for your service to the city of Peoria.

7 **THE WITNESS: Thank you.**

8 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you,
9 Representative.

10 And again thank you, Council Member
11 Riggerbach for your testimony. We appreciate it.
12 And thank you for your service to the people of
13 Peoria, the city of Peoria and beyond.

14 **THE WITNESS: Now I'm off to a baseball
15 game. Thank you.**

16 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you. Understood.

17 Next we have Sherry Cannon who was
18 seeking to testify.

19 Ms. Cannon --

20 **THE WITNESS: Yes, thank you.**

21 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: -- your testimony.
22 Thank you.

23 **THE WITNESS: Thank you.**

24 **Good morning, Legislatures. And**

1 thank you for the opportunity for me to give
2 testimony today. I'm the secretary of the Peoria
3 branch of the NAACP. I run a nonprofit. I serve
4 on several boards. And today I really want to
5 reiterate -- and I know there's constitutional
6 rules and guidelines on how districts need to be
7 and what makes up different district.

8 My concern is that the people of
9 Peoria that -- in particular African Americans --
10 have a fair and committed representation in
11 Springfield. And I just want to read some stats
12 that I had reviewed.

13 In January of 2019 an article in the
14 Peoria Journal Star stated: Just as the 24/7 wall
15 street.com website singled out Peoria in 2016 as
16 the worst city for African Americans to live,
17 Governing Magazine, a Washington DC based
18 publication that was once part of the
19 congressional quarterly, focused on Peoria
20 following a six month investigation of black/white
21 segregation in down state Illinois. The magazine
22 said our review of federal data found the Peoria
23 metro area has the most segregated schools of any
24 area nationally regardless of size.

1 In addition, Governing stated that
2 Peoria area had the sixth highest level of
3 segregation measured between blacks and whites of
4 any metro area in the country based upon U.S.
5 Census data. Peoria also has one of the highest
6 black poverty rates in the state according to the
7 report. The national poverty rate is 25.2. And
8 Peoria poverty rate for its African American
9 citizens is 28.2 percent.

10 The black unemployment rate in
11 Illinois tops unemployment rates in all other
12 states and according to Ralph Martire, the
13 executive director of the Center for Tax and
14 Budget Accountability, a bipartisan 501(c)(3)
15 think tank, no matter how you slice the data in
16 Illinois you will see racially disparate outcomes
17 that can't be explained other than a
18 discriminatory capacity labor market.

19 Thanks to elected officials like
20 Representative Leader Jehan Gordon-Booth and
21 Senator Dave Koehler great strides of criminal
22 justice reform is being made throughout
23 Illinois. But in every courtroom in Peoria County
24 the defendants or respondents is 2.4 times more

1 likely to be African American than white even
2 though the county's demographics are 72 percent
3 white and 19 percent African American.

4 In 2014, according to the Illinois
5 Criminal Justice Information Authority, 68.5
6 percent of all people sent to prison from Peoria
7 County were black. I do not believe we are more
8 criminally inclined than the other ethnicity, but
9 I do believe our communities are definitely
10 overplaced while being underserved.

11 Another recent Journal Star Article
12 cited that according to the Illinois State Police
13 in 2018 and the first three months of 2019, Peoria
14 County was second only to Cook County in juvenile
15 facing criminal charges. We know once a young
16 person becomes involved in the criminal justice
17 system, it becomes direct route from school to
18 prison pipeline.

19 Black families in Peoria County have
20 their children removed from their homes at a much
21 higher rate than any other county in the state.
22 And this action is initiated by the State's
23 Attorney's Office. According to the Center for
24 Adoption Studies at Illinois State University in

1 the fiscal year of 2015, 63 percent of all
2 children in foster care in Peoria County were
3 black and in 2018 the rate rose to 69 percent.
4 The damage done to these children is often
5 permanent.

6 All around the state of Illinois the
7 State's Attorneys are working to give people
8 second chances through the expungement system. We
9 had some road blocks in Peoria, but the Illinois
10 state legislatures had to pass a law prohibiting
11 State Attorneys from withholding expungements
12 because of a person's inability to pay those fees
13 and fines.

14 According to the July, 2018 US
15 Sentencing Commission of Central District of
16 Illinois enhanced sentencing for drug trafficking
17 offenders had a higher percentage than any other
18 federal district court. The most recent years'
19 data available in 2016 and in that year Central
20 District sought enhanced percent penalties for 75
21 percent of the eligible drug trafficking
22 offenders. The average rate among all other
23 federal districts is 12.3 percent.

24 The common denominator in all above

1 statistics, that these are policies that are being
2 made be elected officials. These politicians are
3 predominantly white male and their policies
4 adversely affect people that look like me.

5 Our district maps must be drawn in a
6 way that all people have an opportunity to
7 be represented by like-minded individuals who
8 share my ethnicity, culture and community
9 concerns.

10 So as I listen and you give testimony
11 and I hear the political pieces of it and what I
12 say as an African American woman is that we need a
13 map drawn where people like me, people of color,
14 will be able to vote for people that look like
15 them and will represent their interest.

16 And it doesn't absolutely -- because
17 I think Senator Dave Koehler does a phenomenal job
18 representing not only the city of Peoria but
19 representing the African American community here.
20 Senator Majority Leader Jehan Gordon-Booth has
21 been phenomenal. She has made sure inclusion and
22 diversity is at the top of her policy agendas.

23 So the point here as a black woman
24 I'm saying what we've had in the past has not been

1 a piece of cake. All I want is that we will have
2 a right to vote for people that is going to be
3 able to include people that look like me. Thank
4 you.

5 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Ms. Cannon, thank you
6 for your testimony. And thank you for your
7 service.

8 All of the items and issues that you
9 raised are issues that I know that from the
10 legislatures that you mentioned, Senator Leader
11 Koehler and Leader Gordon-Booth, it is near and
12 dear to their heart and issues that they have
13 worked on tirelessly along with the other members
14 of the delegation from Peoria.

15 And that's really what's -- what this
16 is all -- these hearings and discussions are all
17 about, hearing the concerns from communities of
18 interest, hearing the concerns that individuals
19 like you want to express. And I appreciate your
20 thoughts and you coming to present that very
21 detailed testimony to us today.

22 Thank you so much.

23 **THE WITNESS: Thank you.**

24 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Seeing no further

1 questions I'm going to go to our next witness.

2 Mike Matejka, I hope I did not
3 butcher your name, sir.

4 THE WITNESS: Well, my name is always
5 interesting --

6 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: You went back on mute.

7 THE WITNESS: There we go. Thank you.
8 And Matejka is how I say it. Matejka would be the
9 proper way in the old country, but I get a lot of
10 different name pronunciations.

11 But I really appreciate the
12 opportunity, Senators and Representatives, to be
13 with you today. I live in Normal and with the
14 proposed map I must say that I'm very pleased to
15 see that Bloomington and Normal is not split into
16 two state representatives and two senate
17 districts.

18 We're one community and I think we
19 deserve representation from one individual in the
20 Senate and one individual in the House who can
21 speak for our community in a unified way.

22 It creates no end of confusion, as
23 someone who helps people register to vote and find
24 their voting places, when you have to draw a line

1 down the middle of the community and say, well, if
2 you live on this side of the street, this is your
3 state representative, if you live on that side of
4 the street, that is your state representative.
5 And adding to the confusion a congressional map
6 that splits us into two districts also which does
7 not parallel state representative map so for a
8 voter to figure who their representative is, who
9 they're voting for, it can be a very confusing
10 process.

11 And particularly as someone who
12 encourages young people to get involved when I
13 look at Illinois State University or Illinois
14 Wesleyan -- and this is truer with the
15 congressional map -- if they go four blocks from
16 campus, they're in a different district.

17 And, again, having people be clear
18 about what district they're in, having single
19 representation, I'm very pleased to see that the
20 new proposed map, at least as I see it on the
21 website, looks at Bloomington Normal as a
22 comprehensive, cohesive community.

23 And, again, thank you for giving up
24 your Saturdays and making this arm available to

1 **share input. Thank you.**

2 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Mr. Matejka, thank you.
3 Again, as I mentioned earlier, I'm an alum of
4 Illinois State University so I have a great
5 affinity for that community, still having a number
6 of friends who still reside there. So I know the
7 beauty and depth of that community and its
8 connections.

9 Representative Butler, I see you have
10 a question.

11 MEMBER BUTLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

12 And, Mike, good to see you again.
13 And I know well how to say Matejka so I've known
14 you for a long time and I appreciate you being
15 here today.

16 Mike, I just got to correct you a
17 little bit. Bloomington Normal is split into
18 three House districts and three Senate districts
19 in the maps that were drawn in May including what
20 looks to me the CIRA the Central Illinois Regional
21 Airport, that was drawn into a district that would
22 be potentially represented by a state rep who
23 lives in Morton. That's who got drawn into that
24 district.

1 And so, again, I think what we've got
2 here -- I agree with you 100 percent that trying
3 to keep communities together so that they get
4 representatives is the right way to go. And I
5 think you know what you see here with the 91st
6 District is what they did to Springfield and
7 Decatur 10 years ago and they're just replicating
8 that to try to get more partisan advantage in the
9 map. That's what it's done.

10 And I'm glad you mentioned the
11 congressional map because we spent zero time in
12 these 50-some hearings talking about the
13 congressional maps. And we sit here in Peoria, a
14 city that has been divided under the congressional
15 map, and I sit next to my friend, Ryan Spain, who
16 is represented by Congressman LaHood yet we sit in
17 Representative Cheri Bustos's district in downtown
18 Peoria. And as I look around here in central
19 Illinois, Representative Luft I see here, Mayor
20 Luft of Pekin is represented by Congressman
21 Bustos.

22 I live in Springfield and abut
23 Representative Luft's legislative district. I
24 represent a part of the city of Pekin yet

1 Representative Davis which I think -- Mike, are
2 you in Representative Davis's district in
3 Bloomington Normal or Representative LaHood's?

4 **THE WITNESS: I am by three blocks in**
5 **Representative LaHood's district.**

6 MEMBER BUTLER: By three blocks, very
7 good, okay.

8 I know when Congressman Davis first
9 ran in 2012 against Dr. Gill, Dr. Gill actually
10 didn't even live in the 13th Congressional
11 District. He lived in the 18th Congressional
12 District. She got still ran for election in the
13 18th -- or excuse me the 13th District which is
14 allowed under federal law.

15 And as I look around the screen here
16 on the Zoom, I see Representative Bourne who lives
17 in Morrisonville. She's represented by
18 Congressman Davis. And the atrocity that is the
19 13th Congressional District, that spans from
20 Champaign up the Bloomington Normal to Decatur to
21 Springfield down into Metro East, is one of the
22 most gerrymandered political districts in the
23 country.

24 And what we've seen proposed

1 potentially is an even more gerrymandered map when
2 it comes to the congressional map especially for
3 the 13th. And the democrats have not made any
4 bones about the reasons for doing this. They want
5 to reduce the republicans in the US House of
6 Representatives from Illinois from the current 5
7 of 18 to 3 of 17 because we lose a seat.

8 And, Mike, you know because you know
9 my prior employment with Ray LaHood, that Illinois
10 has long, long, long had a proud tradition of
11 bipartisanship on the congressional level and a
12 delegation that has reflected that. And
13 unfortunately, that is no longer the case in the
14 state of Illinois because of the way that these
15 maps are drawn.

16 And it's unfortunate that this
17 committee refuses to take up any discussion about
18 the congressional map. I don't know why we
19 aren't. We don't have the same constitutional
20 restrictions that we have for the legislative
21 maps. We haven't done the congressional maps,
22 haven't even talked about them, yet we've done the
23 Supreme Court -- we redistricted the Supreme Court
24 maps with no discussion in these committees. We

1 redistricted the Cook County Board of Review
2 really with no discussion in these committees yet
3 one of the most important things that we're tasked
4 with doing in this, the 102nd General Assembly, is
5 yet to happen.

6 So Mike, I'm just -- I'm glad you
7 opened the door on that. I appreciate it. I
8 thank you for your testimony. I count you as a
9 friend. We probably don't align politically on a
10 lot of things, but you're a great guy and I
11 appreciate you being here today. And I look
12 forward to see what happens with these maps as we
13 move forward.

14 **THE WITNESS:** Thank you, Representative,
15 and always good to see you.

16 And, Senator Sims, my wife, my
17 daughter and I all went to Illinois State
18 University so we're a solid ISU family. And,
19 again, to reiterate --

20 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: As did mine.

21 **THE WITNESS:** -- as far as the
22 legislative maps, having the majority of
23 Bloomington and Normal in one district is going to
24 do -- create less confusion for voters and create

1 more opportunity to have a unified voice in
2 Springfield.

3 And, again, thank you very much for
4 this opportunity.

5 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Mr. Matejka, thank you
6 so much for that.

7 And as I mentioned, I'm -- my wife
8 and I are both Illinois State students. I'm
9 trying to get my daughters to become Illinois
10 State alums as well, so that's my hope.

11 Let me address something that was
12 just mentioned by my colleague from the House.
13 The purpose of these hearings is to talk about the
14 legislative maps. We have a special session call
15 that's to address the legislative maps. That is
16 not -- we have not begun the discussions of the
17 congressional maps. And that will happen in due
18 course. But that's not the subject of these
19 hearings. That's not the subject that the
20 witnesses are here to testify. But I appreciate
21 the point.

22 We have been joined by Chairwoman
23 Lisa Hernandez from the House Redistricting
24 Committee. Welcome, Chairwoman.

1 CHAIR HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Senator.

2 I ask that I be added to the roll
3 call, please.

4 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you.

5 Clerk, please add Chairwoman
6 Hernandez.

7 MEMBER McCONCHIE: And this is Dan
8 McConchie. Please add me to the role. Thank you.

9 THE COURT: Thank you. Thank you, Leader
10 McConchie.

11 Clerk, please add Leader McConchie as
12 well.

13 Next we have on our witness list
14 Frank Calabrese.

15 Frank, are you ready to testify?
16 Please proceed.

17 Frank, you're on mute.

18 THE WITNESS: Thank you so much.

19 I was in Chicago Wednesday talking
20 about the board of review which was passed in May
21 asking for revision. And there were a lot of
22 Latino advocacy groups that were -- they had a lot
23 of concerns about the map. Right now I'm working
24 with the city of Chicago redrawing the wards and

1 I've been looking at the census data for the past
2 few weeks.

3 And I probably have a better sense of
4 Latino population in Chicago and in Cook County
5 than probably anyone around because I've just been
6 looking at all the blocks.

7 And I just put together like a quick
8 recommendation how you can -- because there's a
9 lot of Latino groups concerned. And I know that
10 MALDEF is suing about Latino representation and
11 the map really does kind of fall short. And I
12 just made a real quick presentation. I know it's
13 getting late so I'll just go on with this and you
14 can enjoy your Saturday.

15 I'm going to screen share if that's
16 okay.

17 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Please.

18 THE WITNESS: Thank you so much.

19 All right. Does this work? Everyone
20 seeing it?

21 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Yes.

22 THE WITNESS: All right. Sounds good.

23 Okay. So this is -- there are 11
24 districts that are majority Latino according to

1 the map was passed in May and with current census
2 data and so -- which is decent, you know, Latinos
3 are -- I have to check the overall numbers, but
4 Latinos are probably like 26, 27, maybe 28 percent
5 of the state's population -- actually, that's a
6 little too high. Sorry. I'm thinking about Cook
7 County.

8 But Latinos are a very high
9 percentage of the state population, large minority
10 group. And so having 11 majority Latino districts
11 is probably a little low, but we'll just say
12 that's okay.

13 One of the issues is that -- the
14 incumbency issue and I think this is where a lot
15 of people Wednesday were getting at but just
16 didn't really say it. So half the majority Latino
17 districts that are drawn are not represented by a
18 Latino. So 5 out of 11 are represented by a
19 non-Latino.

20 And how politics in Illinois works is
21 that, you know, the political apparatuses they're
22 going to support the non-Latino even if it's a
23 Latino majority district. So what the majority
24 should focus on is drawing a Latino district that

1 doesn't have a non-Latino incumbent.

2 And so I put something together
3 really quick. This is the deviation of the state
4 of Illinois in terms of the -- by House district
5 of what was drawn in May and passed in May and the
6 current census. So if you see down state is --
7 has a lower deviation, you know, of smaller than
8 the mean with a large deviation, 114. And then
9 the 83rd is a large lower deviation.

10 But then there's a lot of population
11 in the downtown Chicago area. And this is excess
12 population which should be shifted.

13 So I'm going to zoom in real quick.
14 So the 5th District is about 16,000 over. And the
15 neighboring districts, these are all about 10,000
16 districts. So there's almost 50,000 people here
17 which is half a district which you can shift.

18 And what I think the majority should
19 do is shift the 24th District further into the
20 downtown area and this would make this district
21 which is now an opportunity district for Asian
22 Americans even further Asian and using the other
23 half -- so it's half Latino -- it's about half
24 Latino now, 30 percent Asian -- actually 28

1 percent Asian and then the remainder white and
2 black. By shifting it further downtown, it picks
3 up more Asians around UIC and the downtown area
4 and then it can allow for an additional Latino
5 district.

6 So what I did is I shifted the
7 closest open seat with no incumbent which is 45
8 which is kind of on the border of DuPage and Cook
9 and I then shift 24 further in the Loop. So by
10 shifting 24 further in the Loop all these -- all
11 the excess population is now solved. 24 increases
12 from a 28 percent to 35 percent Asian. The 6th
13 District which was a plurality black district
14 becomes majority black. And the district's also a
15 third Latino and so you can use these Latinos to
16 create a new Latino district. And then the
17 neighboring Latino districts are still 70 percent
18 Latino so it doesn't disrupt the neighboring
19 Latino district. So this is just a completely new
20 district which you use the excess population of
21 the downtown area.

22 And this is a close up, as you can
23 see, it consists of Pilsen, McKinley Park and Back
24 of the Yards. It's 74 percent Latino. And this

1 would be a completely new district with no
2 incumbents there so it effectively would create a
3 new district because currently how the map's drawn
4 no new Latinos are going to be elected. And I
5 think that's kind of the issue that a lot of
6 advocacy groups were talking about.

7 And I look at GIS data all day so I
8 was trying to put together a simple fix. I think
9 this could solve a lot of problems with the map in
10 terms of Latino representation.

11 And that's the end of my
12 presentation, so thank you so much. I know it's
13 getting late and I wanted to be quick.

14 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you,
15 Mr. Calabrese. Appreciate you adjusting from
16 yesterday, from your earlier testimony till today
17 so I appreciate that.

18 I see a question from Representative
19 Spain.

20 MEMBER SPAIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman

21 And, Mr. Calabrese, thanks for your
22 testimony. It's good to see you again.

23 I followed along pretty well to your
24 recommendations and, however, have you submitted

1 those recommendations on -- as a proposed map on
2 the democrat's map making portal?

3 **THE WITNESS: No, but I submitted a**
4 **picture of a map with an explanation. I assume**
5 **that would suffice. But I could do that portal as**
6 **well, I guess.**

7 **MEMBER SPAIN: It may be a good idea. I**
8 **would like to see maps submitted this way.**

9 **And I would say to Chair Sims, I**
10 **appreciate your offer to the republicans. It**
11 **would seem to be a good idea if maybe the**
12 **democrats would submit their map on the portal as**
13 **well so that the public would have a chance to see**
14 **what you're working on.**

15 **VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Representative, I**
16 **appreciate that. You have seen the map that is**
17 **before us. It's a map that was enacted.**

18 **Representative Butler, for a**
19 **question.**

20 **MEMBER BUTLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman**
21 **Mr. Calabrese, nice to see you again.**
22 **I'm just wondering if you can tell me, I know you**
23 **talked about a little bit of the racial make up in**
24 **the different districts. Can you let us know how**

1 many incumbents by party affiliation got drawn in
2 districts together?

3 **THE WITNESS:** So that is research I did
4 for Capitol Fax back in May and it's been a few
5 months. Initially I remember it was a very high
6 number and then it was probably then somewhere not
7 drawn in the same districts.

8 But I'm just -- it was probably -- I
9 mean, currently probably around like -- there's
10 probably seven districts, I would imagine, maybe
11 eight or nine; something like that. But I have to
12 check my notes.

13 **MEMBER BUTLER:** And those are House
14 districts, correct?

15 **THE WITNESS:** Well, yeah. And there's
16 one Senate district where two democrats are in the
17 same district.

18 **MEMBER BUTLER:** Then I think one Senate
19 district where two sitting republicans --

20 **THE WITNESS:** Yes, thanks for helping --

21 **MEMBER BUTLER:** And then in the House, of
22 those seven or eight districts that you mentioned,
23 were there -- how does that break down along the
24 partisan lines?

1 **THE WITNESS:** So in the House it's
2 exclusively republicans that were paired with the
3 exception of one republican and one democrat which
4 I believe is Mazzochi and Conroy.

5 MEMBER BUTLER: Okay. So almost
6 exclusively republicans yet no democrats got drawn
7 in together?

8 **THE WITNESS:** Right, with the -- in the
9 Senate there were two democrats together.

10 MEMBER BUTLER: Okay. Thank you.

11 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you,
12 Representative.

13 And I've just been made aware that
14 information that Mr. Calabrese -- the information
15 that Mr. Calabrese was referencing has been shared
16 with republican staff and it will also be part of
17 the official record on the ILGA website. So that
18 information will be available.

19 Representative Butler, your hand is
20 still raised.

21 CHAIR HERNANDEZ: Senator Sims, I do have
22 a question for --

23 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Leader Hernandez,
24 please.

1 CHAIR HERNANDEZ: Mr. Calabrese, can you
2 tell me what happens to District 9?

3 THE WITNESS: So District 9 it's one of
4 those excessive population districts. I have to
5 reference the notes again, but I believe District
6 9 has to lose 10,000, but with deviation because,
7 again, you're allowed to move 5 percent either
8 direction especially for the purpose of enhancing
9 minority representation, you could probably take
10 15,000 people or more from District 9.

11 But District 9 I believe that is
12 Lakesia Collins district. That has the west Loop
13 which I can tell you from personal experience has
14 experienced tremendous growth over the past 10
15 years. So that is an overpopulated district so it
16 doesn't move that much.

17 And I did email my presentation in a
18 PDF form as for A record for the committees both
19 the House and the Senate.

20 But, again, the reason why I like
21 this option to create an actual Latino district is
22 because you already have too many people living
23 downtown, you already have half a House district,
24 it's like 50,000 people so you don't really have

1 to move the lines that much.

2 And again, just for the republicans
3 here, I made this presentation in the context of
4 the fact you know the democrats are drawing. So
5 this is in the context of not doing harm to the
6 democratic map.

7 So I hope that answers your question.

8 CHAIR HERNANDEZ: Thank you.

9 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you,
10 Mr. Calabrese.

11 Chair Hernandez, thank you for that
12 question.

13 I'm going to move on to our next
14 witness seeing no further questions. Next we have
15 Ami Gandhi representing the Chicago Lawyers
16 Committee for Civil Rights and the United Congress
17 of Community and Religious Organizations also
18 known as UCCRO.

19 Ms. Gandhi, please proceed.

20 THE WITNESS: Thank you so much for the
21 opportunity to speak.

22 I'm Ami Gandhi leading Chicago Lawyers
23 Committee for Civil Rights, Voting Rights Work in
24 Illinois and Indiana. And today I'm also speaking

1 super briefly, I hope, on behalf of United
2 Congress of Community and Religious Organizations.

3 You've heard from me and from
4 Reverend Robin Hood, Executive Director Rod Wilson
5 and other UCCRO coalition members in the past
6 about our grave concerns relating to the voting
7 rights of black community members and other voters
8 of color.

9 I am a poor substitute for Reverend
10 Robin Hood. The reason I'm speaking on behalf of
11 both of us today is because community leaders like
12 Reverend Hood and Rod Wilson are out there doing
13 the work. They are helping black community
14 members in north Lawndale with vaccination access
15 and the list goes on and on of the issues that
16 they are addressing directly in their communities
17 and in our communities.

18 I wanted to mention that we submitted
19 joint written testimony today that expands on the
20 points we made in previous hearings about our
21 concerns from a civil rights and voting rights
22 point of view. And very specifically we have
23 provided a number of specific recommendations
24 relating to geographic areas like the north

1 Lawndale area, specific districts like House
2 District 9, Senate District 5, House District 26
3 and House Districts 5 and 6.

4 We also are working on putting that
5 written testimony online but happy to make it
6 available to anyone who may want to take a look at
7 it. And my understanding is that it would be
8 added to the redistricting committee's website as
9 well so we appreciate the consideration.

10 And I also wanted to mention the
11 outstanding and unifying work that United Congress
12 of Community and Religious Organizations or as
13 they also are called UCCRO, the outstanding work
14 that they've been doing trying to negotiate
15 solutions and work on win/win opportunities for
16 black and brown communities.

17 UCCRO's coalition includes groups
18 such as Coalition for a Better Chinese American
19 Community, Communities United and lastly Chicago
20 HANA Center, Illinois Muslim Civil Coalition,
21 Inner City Muslim Action Network, Kenwood Oakland
22 Community Organization, KOCO, Latino Policy
23 Forum, Lugenia Burns Hope Center, Target Area
24 Development Corporation and a number of other

1 **grassroots organization.**

2 **Thank you so much for the opportunity**
3 **to submit additional specific recommendations as**
4 **you consider these important issues in redrawing**
5 **the maps.**

6 **VICE-CHAIR SIMS:** Thank you, Ms. Gandi.
7 Looking around for questions. I see none.

8 I appreciate your testimony and for
9 being here and for also providing the written
10 testimony to support and back up the testimony
11 that you provided to us here today.

12 Next I'm going to move on to our next
13 set of witnesses. I've got Ryan Tolley and Brad
14 McMillan representing CHANGE Illinois.

15 Either, Mr. Tolley or Mr. McMillan,
16 please take it away.

17 **THE WITNESS:** Thank you.

18 **My name is Brad McMillan and I serve**
19 **as co-chairman of CHANGE Illinois which has led**
20 **efforts to bring meaningful redistricting reform**
21 **to Illinois for over 12 years.**

22 **In his first executive order on**
23 **January 30th, 2009, Governor Pat Quinn who**
24 **replaced impeached Governor Rod Blagojevich for**

1 public corruption charges created the Illinois
2 Reform Commission to bring immediate and tangible
3 reforms to Illinois to address the, quote, crisis
4 of integrity, end of quote.

5 I served on the 15 member Illinois
6 Reform Commission and was chiefly responsible for
7 our recommendation to end gerrymandering and bring
8 meaningful redistricting reform to the state of
9 Illinois.

10 The Illinois General Assembly failed
11 to act in following the 2010 census. Speaker
12 Madigan led a behind closed doors process that led
13 to partisan and gerrymandered maps that all of us
14 have been living with in the state of Illinois for
15 the last 10 years.

16 In 2012 the election under the new
17 maps, 97 percent of Illinois House incumbents won
18 reelection and two-thirds did not face a
19 challenger. Subsequently the diverse CHANGE
20 Illinois coalition lead two significant
21 citizen petition drive efforts to put a
22 constitutional amendment on the ballot to bring
23 meaningful redistricting reform.

24 In 2014 the Us for Independent Maps

1 gathered the signatures of 346,759 Illinois
2 citizens exceeding the 298,000 required to get on
3 the ballot. Speaker Madigan's attorney filed suit
4 in Chicago and a circuit judge denied ballot
5 access.

6 In 2016 the Independent Map Amendment
7 gathered 563,974 citizens from Illinois citizens
8 in the Illinois State Board of Elections proved
9 putting the constitutional amendment on the
10 November, 2016 ballot. Again Speaker Madigan's
11 attorney filed suit and in August, 2016 the
12 Illinois Supreme Court in a 4/3 partisan split
13 decision denied Illinois citizens their right to
14 vote on the Independent Map Amendment.

15 Since the door's been closed
16 repeatedly by the courts on citizen petition
17 efforts to bring a constitutional amendment to
18 voters, CHANGE Illinois decided to pursue a
19 legislative constitutional amendment and advocated
20 for the Fair Map Amendment to the Illinois General
21 Assembly over the last four legislative sessions.

22 In the 2019 legislative
23 session, three-fifths of the Illinois senate
24 signed on as bipartisan co-sponsors of the Fair

1 Maps Amendment yet no vote was allowed in the full
2 chamber.

3 This finally brings us to today and
4 the redistricting process that has unfolded this
5 legislative session. Illinois is only one of
6 three states in America that did not wait to draw
7 maps until after the 2020 census data was
8 released.

9 The maps passed by the Illinois
10 General Assembly undercount the Illinois Latino
11 population by as much as 150,000 citizens. The
12 maps passed by the Illinois General Assembly have
13 districts that have a 30 percent population
14 deviation, far more than the 10 percent deviation
15 required by law. These maps again were drawn
16 behind closed doors with no real opportunity for
17 Illinois citizens to analyze the maps and give
18 meaningful feedback. In reality, the process this
19 year is worse than the process led by Speaker
20 Madigan 10 year ago.

21 Now the Illinois General Assembly is
22 being called back to session on August 31st
23 presumably to pass revised maps based on the 2020
24 census data. At a bare minimum the revised maps

1 should be released and Illinois citizens should be
2 given at least two weeks to analyze them and give
3 meaningful feedback before the revised maps are
4 passed into law. The public interest, not
5 political interest, should be the top priority.

6 I am deeply saddened that 12 years
7 after Governor Quinn signed his executive order
8 establishing an Illinois reform commission, there
9 remains an integrity crisis in the state of
10 Illinois.

11 CHANGE Illinois represents 40 very
12 diverse organizations in Illinois, minority
13 groups, Asian Americans, Latinos, NAACP. We also
14 represent the Illinois Farm Bureau, state chamber
15 of commerce, AARP. Over 2 million Illinois
16 citizens makeup our diverse coalition. Our polls
17 repeatedly show that 75 percent of Illinois
18 citizens want fair maps and a truly transparent
19 process.

20 So many good-hearted people just want
21 competitive elections and accountability in our
22 State government. The people of Illinois deserve
23 a much better redistricting process.

24 Thank you for you time.

1 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you Mr. McMillan.
2 Mr. Tolley.

3 THE WITNESS: Thank you, Chair Sims and
4 Hernandez and Committee members for providing our
5 organization with the opportunity to come in and
6 weigh in on the state legislative and
7 representative maps that have been signed into law
8 by Governor Pritzger and any potential changes to
9 those maps.

10 My name is Ryan Tolley. I serve as
11 the policy director for the CHANGE Illinois Action
12 Fund and CHANGE Illinois.

13 Just to reiterate some of the points
14 that were already raised and talk about a few more
15 in specific detail, I just wanted to raise a few
16 concerns many of which remain unchanged since we
17 last testified during the May redistricting
18 hearings and were shared by our colleagues,
19 friends and partners at hearings earlier this
20 week. We'd also like to provide a few suggestions
21 to the Committee as you consider making changes to
22 the legislative and representative maps.

23 Our organizations raised many
24 concerns about the redistricting process during

1 the spring, most notably about the lack of
2 meaningful public participation and transparency
3 as well as the use of American Community Survey
4 data without the 2020 census data.

5 During those hearings it was repeated
6 over and over again that the Constitution demanded
7 a map be finished by June 30th, 2021 despite many
8 objections from members of the public and advocacy
9 organizations about the use of ACS data and not
10 having enough time to provide meaningful input on
11 the map proposals released in late May.

12 Again we find ourselves in a similar
13 situation involved in hearings about changes to
14 the maps that are not available to the public with
15 the majority of participating community members
16 requesting more time to see, review, analyze and
17 provide feedback; only this time there are no
18 state laws requiring a map to be completed by
19 August 31st and there is no constitutional
20 deadline imposing a time line on those changes to
21 the maps.

22 We recommend that this Committee give
23 ample time for the public to review and provide
24 input on any new maps or proposed changes to

1 existing maps before a vote is taken. We
2 recommend that at a minimum the public is given
3 two weeks to review as was called for by and not
4 afforded to community members for the existing
5 maps that were signed into law.

6 Organizations who historically have
7 been involved in redistricting have said that the
8 current time line isn't nearly enough time for
9 them to provide meaningful feedback. If these
10 organizations need more time, it is unreasonable
11 to expect members of the public to be informed,
12 understand the changes to the maps and reschedule
13 their lives on such short notice to provide input
14 on new maps that will effect the communities they
15 live and work in in a matter of days, much less a
16 matter of hours if no time is provided for the
17 public to weigh in after changes of the maps are
18 drafted and made public.

19 In reality the process so far has
20 robbed every day voters of their ability to
21 participate in a way that lives up to the rhetoric
22 and ideals of an inclusive process. Our
23 organization continues to have many of the same
24 concerns about the lack of meaningful public

1 participation in these hearings.

2 As you repeatedly heard in the
3 hearings over the past few days, advocates and
4 community organizations don't feel as though they
5 had a voice in how maps were drafted in the
6 spring. Unless there's significant change in the
7 way their input is incorporated into the final
8 product from then to now, those feelings persist.

9 At a stakeholder meeting with the
10 Illinois redistricting collaborative, a coalition
11 of over 40 diverse organizations earlier this
12 week, we encouraged people to attend these
13 hearings. We were met with concerns from
14 organizations and individuals who participated in
15 one of the -- one or more of the 50 previous
16 redistricting hearings that their input would not
17 seriously be considered by this Committee based on
18 their experience with prior hearings.

19 In reviewing the two resolutions
20 accompanying the maps voted on by the General
21 Assembly, Senate Resolution 326 and House
22 Resolution 359, it is concerning to note that very
23 little public input is referenced in either.

24 The Senate resolution only mentions

1 five instances of testimony or public feedback
2 that guided map drawers' hands. The House
3 resolution only took public input and testimony in
4 account in 15 of the 118 districts. It is not
5 clear to me how we reconcile the rhetoric that the
6 public has had so many opportunities to
7 participate and that they are being listened to if
8 out of the hundreds of people that submitted input
9 and hundred of hours of hearing time, that Senate
10 and House members only felt that so few
11 testimonies were worth consideration for maps that
12 are currently law.

13 This fact further elevates our
14 concerns that the process this week and next that
15 so closely mirrors the rush process in the spring
16 will not provide a different result and that any
17 additional testimony received over the past few
18 days will be ignored.

19 The voices and concerns of those who
20 have already testified this year including our
21 friends and colleagues at the Illinois Muslim
22 Civic Coalition, UCCRO, Legal Women Voters
23 Illinois, Latino Policy Reform, Common Cause
24 Illinois, Individual -- (undiscernible mumbling)

1 -- Naperville, Better Government Association,
2 Coalition for Better Chinese American Community,
3 Blackroots Alliance, MALDEF, Chicago Lawyer's
4 Committees for Civil Rights and so many more
5 organizations need to be heard and reflected in
6 any changes to this map.

7 Many more individual community
8 members provided testimony that is also not
9 reflected in the current maps. I would strongly
10 urge Committee members and members of the General
11 Assembly to go back and review the testimony from
12 the spring and also the testimony you've heard
13 over these past few days that has largely seemed
14 ignored and draw maps that prioritize that
15 testimony over political or self interest.

16 Additionally, our concerns over the
17 use of American Community Survey data came to bear
18 after the 2020 census data was released. As
19 mentioned by Brad, we now know that population
20 deviation standards were not met.

21 And previously we asked these
22 Committees well in advance of constitutional
23 deadlines to appeal to the courts to seek relief
24 and use the 2020 census data, but we were met with

1 silence and apparent refusal from the General
2 Assembly to even consider seeking relief that has
3 now been provided to other states through their
4 courts. Instead, after passing maps, we were
5 issued assurances that these maps met legal and
6 population standards.

7 There's little doubts that these
8 districts will have to be fixed given they're
9 likely unconstitutional. But we would recommend
10 that the Committee does not do the bear minimum
11 and fix a few select districts. The 2020 census
12 data did not reveal that a few districts were
13 malapportioned. It shows that many of the
14 projections in the ACS data were inaccurate, some
15 of which are highlighted in presentations given by
16 staff earlier this week.

17 We strongly believe a thorough review
18 of the entire map is needed and again changes are
19 made prioritizing community members' testimony and
20 input that was largely ignored during the spring.

21 Once again it is the people of the
22 state and the communities across the state that
23 are left voiceless in the redistricting process.
24 The proceedings today and over the past year

1 reinforces the dire need to reform the
2 redistricting process.

3 We hope for the sake of future
4 generations of Illinoisians that members of this
5 committee choose to prioritize to listen to the
6 voices of community members moving forward. To
7 continue down the current path that fails to
8 include voices of communities confirms that the
9 process is broken. Redistricting should truly
10 focus on how to involve, prioritize and ultimately
11 lift up communities across Illinois for the decade
12 ahead.

13 Thank you and I am happy to answer
14 any questions.

15 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you, Mr. Tolley.

16 And thank you, Mr. McMillan, for your
17 testimony.

18 I see one question from
19 Representative Spain.

20 Representative.

21 MEMBER SPAIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

22 To Mr. Tolley and Mr. McMillan, thank
23 you both for your testimony and your advocacy on
24 behalf of CHANGE Illinois.

1 And, Mr. McMillan, you and I have had
2 the opportunity to know each other for quite a
3 long time.

4 And for those that are joining us
5 virtually Brad McMillan is an incredible expert on
6 the field that I would call principal leadership
7 and what it means to work together in a bipartisan
8 and collaborative way.

9 And knowing that, when I was first
10 elected to the legislature, I had a chance to sit
11 down with Brad and said -- he asked me what was
12 your most important priority. And to me it was
13 this issue and even at that time, six years ago,
14 how will we put an end to the partisan
15 gerrymandering that is so badly delivering for our
16 state of Illinois.

17 And so I was proud to work with
18 Mr. McMillan and others to develop a
19 constitutional amendment that I introduced in
20 every session of the legislature for many years in
21 serving in Springfield. We did that because it
22 was important. We thought we had reached the
23 point under new leadership in this state where we
24 could deliver the changes needed to fix the

1 process that we're in right now.

2 And I remember a difficult
3 conversation that, Brad, you had with me because
4 you came forward and said, you know, Ryan you've
5 carried this amendment year after year, you've
6 worked non stop at it but we need to go a
7 different direction. And you suggested that we
8 engage a democratic member of the House to
9 initiate that leave and I would support that
10 member.

11 And while it was maybe difficult to
12 give up being the primary sponsor for that
13 legislation, I was willing and almost eager to do
14 it because that was what would be necessary to
15 deliver the change here or so we hoped. And as
16 you testified, we certainly didn't get there.

17 But I just want to thank you. We've
18 been in this work together for so many years and
19 I'm so proud of that even as we're both so
20 frustrated and disappointed with where we stand
21 here today.

22 Question for you, though, because you
23 mentioned the situation in Illinois and that
24 Illinois is only one of three states to have

1 embarked on the redistricting process at this
2 time. What are those other states, do you know?

3 THE WITNESS: Yeah, Representative Spain,
4 it's Colorado and Oklahoma. But they're even
5 different than Illinois in that their legislatures
6 realized that their maps that they were passing
7 were preliminary because the 2020 census data had
8 not been released. So neither Colorado or
9 Oklahoma considered their maps final.

10 Illinois is the only state that
11 passed final maps without any consideration of the
12 2020 census data.

13 MEMBER SPAIN: One thing that we learned
14 in our first hearing on Thursday this week in
15 Chicago -- because we had an excellent
16 presentation from NCSL, and this was very
17 surprising to me, they had listed those three
18 states and they gave a special designation to
19 Colorado and I asked about it.

20 First, what's the structure for how
21 they even make maps in Colorado. Well, they use a
22 bipartisan independent commission, which obviously
23 so many of us wish we were doing in Illinois. But
24 they did something else that I thought it was

1 absolutely incredible in light of where we are in
2 the state of Illinois. In late June they passed
3 draft maps and then have gone about giving months
4 of opportunity for the people of Colorado to
5 review those maps, collect data, make
6 recommendations that will be earnestly considered.

7 And we sit here, it is now 72 hours
8 from now that we will be convening in Springfield
9 to vote on maps that none of us have seen -- at
10 least I haven't seen, my colleagues here on my
11 side of the aisle have not seen. And it just --
12 it is such a divergent philosophy between these
13 few states, caring about public input, doing it in
14 earnest, in a meaningful and engaged way and
15 giving ample opportunity for people to weigh in on
16 what their government should look like which
17 shouldn't be an item of controversy, but for some
18 reason it is here in the state of Illinois.

19 One other thing I'll just mention
20 from that NCSL presentation -- and, again, thank
21 you so much, Mr. McMillan and to CHANGE Illinois.
22 We asked are there any states that you're aware
23 of, now that the census data has been revealed,
24 are there any states in the country planning to

1 pass maps prior to on or before August 31st which
2 again is next Tuesday. And the representative
3 from the National Conference of State Legislature
4 said absolutely not; the answer is no.

5 Thank you.

6 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you,
7 Representative.

8 Chairwoman Hernandez.

9 CHAIR HERNANDEZ: Yes. So, Ryan, can you
10 tell me are you submitting a map or any proposal
11 changes to the map? Have you or are you going to?

12 **THE WITNESS: No, we have not. As I**
13 **wrote my testimony, our recommendation to this**
14 **Committee is to listen to those organizations that**
15 **have proposed specific changes. Not only that,**
16 **but to provide them with ample opportunity to make**
17 **suggestions if a new map proposal is made.**

18 One of the things I found really
19 enlightening about today's hearing is we heard
20 from a lot of individuals on things they did and
21 didn't like about the map that was passed into
22 law. But if we get a new map on Tuesday and
23 they're not afforded to see that map and come back
24 and recommend changes, it takes that opportunity

1 for them to really have a voice in the process.
2 They're talking about a map that may not exist in
3 a few days.

4 CHAIRWOMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay.

5 Clerk, can you please add
6 Representative Burke to the roll, please.

7 And then I just felt that I like to
8 bring clarity, you know, we met our constitutional
9 June 30th deadline and it was always intended that
10 we would go back and look at the census data so I
11 just want to make that very clear once again.

12 Thank you.

13 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you, Madam Chair,
14 for reiterating that.

15 And as I have said to the Committee
16 throughout this hearing, and witnesses have
17 brought that point up, that you have been a
18 consistent voice in saying that including
19 throughout these hearings. Prior to the passage
20 and the enactment of the map and then throughout
21 these hearings, that has been your -- both your
22 public and stated positions so I appreciate you
23 reiterating that.

24 Seeing no further questions for our

1 guests from CHANGE Illinois, I thank you for your
2 testimony here today.

3 Seeing no other questions or hands, I
4 am going to turn the chair back over to Chair
5 Hernandez for any final thoughts or -- and to
6 close the House Committee.

7 Chair Hernandez.

8 CHAIR HERNANDEZ: Well, once again I want
9 to thank everyone for their testimony. This is
10 certainly something that we're taking very
11 seriously. And I have to say, you know, this is a
12 first time where the public has had an even better
13 opportunity to be included based on the online
14 participation.

15 So with that I want to thank
16 everyone.

17 And with no further business, the
18 Redistricting House Committee will stand at
19 recess.

20 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you, Chair
21 Hernandez.

22 As a reminder, if you want to see the
23 new census numbers or to draw a community of
24 interest or legislative map based on the new

1 census numbers, please go to our website at
2 ilsenateredistricting.com, again, that's
3 ilsenateredistricting.com.

4 And if you want to submit additional
5 testimony or maps, please email them to
6 redistrictingcommittee@senatedem.il.gov, again,
7 that's redistrictingcommittee@senatedem.il.gov

8 Seeing no further business to come
9 before the Senate Redistricting Committee, this
10 Senate Redistricting Committee stands adjourned.

11 Thank you everyone for being here.

12 (Concluded at 11:59 a.m.)

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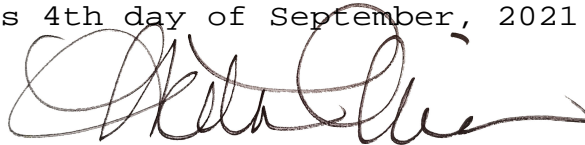
08/28/2021

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1 I, HELEN MILLER, CSR, RPR, within and
2 for the County of Lake, State of Illinois, do
3 hereby certify that the ILLINOIS HOUSE AND SENATE
4 REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE MEETING given on August
5 28, 2021 was reported by means of stenographic
6 shorthand given at the foregoing proceedings, and
7 that the foregoing is a true and correct
8 transcript to the best of my ability pursuant to
9 my shorthand notes so taken as aforesaid.

10 I further certify that I am not an
11 employee, counsel or a financially-interest party
12 nor in any way related to any of the parties nor
13 am I in any way interested in the outcome
14 thereof.

15 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set
16 my hand on this 4th day of September, 2021.

17 

18
19 _____
Helen Miller, CSR, RPR
084-004434

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