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STATE OF ILLINOIS
SENATE REDISTRICTING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
COOK COUNTY
(OAKTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE, DES PLAINES)

Friday, October 8, 2021
10:22 a.m.

Via Zoom videoconference

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PRESENT: (via Zoom videoconference)

ILLINOIS SENATE REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE:

- SENATOR OMAR AQUINO, CHAIR
- SENATOR ELGIE R. SIMS, JR., SUB-VICE-CHAIR
- SENATOR JASON A. BARICKMAN, MINORITY SPOKESPERSON
- SENATOR SCOTT M. BENNETT, (MEMBER)
- SENATOR CHRISTINA CASTRO, MEMBER
- SENATOR BILL CUNNINGHAM, MEMBER
- SENATOR DONALD P. DeWITTE, MEMBER
- SENATOR MATTIE HUNTER, MEMBER
- SENATOR EMIL JONES, III, MEMBER
- SENATOR STEVE McCLURE, MEMBER
- SENATOR DAN McCONCHIE, MEMBER
- SENATOR LAURA M. MURPHY, MEMBER
- SENATOR JASON PLUMMER, MEMBER

WITNESS:

- Iris Y. Martinez (Clerk, Cook County Circuit Court)
- Aviva Miriam Patt (Decalogue Society of Lawyers)
- Frank Calabrese
- Madeleine Doubek (Change Illinois)

ALSO PRESENT:

- SENATE STAFF
- MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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1 (Meeting commenced at 10:22 a.m.)

2 CHAIR AQUINO: Good morning. This
3 meeting of the Senate Redistricting Committee
4 meeting is called to order.

5 First we have letter from Republican
6 Leader McConchie and our Minority Spokesperson
7 Barickman appointing Senator DeWitte to
8 temporarily replace Leader McConchie on the
9 redistricting committee for today and for
10 Tuesday's upcoming hearing.

11 Will the clerk please take the roll.

12 THE CLERK: Senator DeWitte.

13 MEMBER DeWITTE: Present.

14 THE CLERK: Senator Plummer.

15 MEMBER PLUMMER: Present.

16 THE CLERK: Senator McClure.

17 MEMBER McCLURE: Present.

18 THE CLERK: Spokesperson Barickman.

19 MEMBER BARICKMAN: Present.

20 THE CLERK: Senator Murphy.

21 MEMBER MURPHY: Here.

22 THE CLERK: Senator Jones.

23 MEMBER JONES: Present.

24 THE CLERK: Senator Hunter.

1 MEMBER HUNTER: Present.
2 THE CLERK: Senator Cunningham.
3 MEMBER CUNNINGHAM: Here.
4 THE CLERK: Senator Castro.
5 MEMBER CASTRO: Here.
6 THE CLERK: Senator Bennett.
7 MEMBER CASTRO: Here.
8 THE CLERK: Senator Sims.
9 MEMBER CASTRO: Present.
10 THE CLERK: And Chair Aquino.
11 CHAIR AQUINO: Present.

12 There being quorum present the
13 following entities are seeking leave to photograph
14 and video the proceeding, BlueRoomStream.

15 There being leave, you're allowed to
16 photograph and videotape.

17 Senator Sims, for a motion.

18 MEMBER SIMS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

19 I move that the Court Reporter be
20 allowed to record today's proceeding so that a
21 transcript can be made of today's proceeding.

22 CHAIR AQUINO: Senator Sims moves to
23 allow a court reporter to transcribe the hearing.

24 Is there leave.

1 Leave being granted, a court reporter
2 will be allowed to transcribe the hearing.

3 Today's hearing will focus on the
4 2020 census, the redistricting of Illinois
5 congressional districts and redistricting of
6 judicial subcircuits in Cook County.

7 I want to thank Oakton Community
8 College for providing the committee with a great
9 hearing location.

10 Staff has prepared a presentation on
11 census numbers related to Illinois congressional
12 districts and Cook County subcircuits. This
13 presentation will be posted later today on the
14 redistricting committee's page on the Illinois
15 General Assembly's website which is www.ilga.gov.

16 After the presentation we will be
17 moving to the following witnesses. We will be
18 having Cook County Clerk of the Circuit Court Iris
19 Martinez, Aviva Miriam Patt from Decalogue Society
20 of Lawyers, Madeleine Doubek from Change Illinois.

21 And I do believe we might have at
22 least one or two other witnesses that plan on
23 joining us a little later. And if they sign on,
24 we will go to them.

1 I will now turn it over to the staff
2 for the presentation they prepared.

3 STAFFER RANDAZZO: Good morning,
4 Everyone.

5 This is a somewhat long presentation
6 so instead of taking everybody's time, we'll go
7 through it a little faster so that we can get to
8 witnesses, but it will be up on the redistricting
9 website later on today.

10 So just, as a snapshot, back to our
11 population for the 2020 census we ended up with
12 12,812,508. That was a decrease of .14 percent.
13 There were 15 counties that had population growth
14 while 87 counties had a population decrease.

15 What this resulted in is a loss of
16 one congressional district in Illinois. This is
17 the trend since 1910. We are now at 17 seats and
18 the average population per seat would be 753,677.

19 The following are the congressional
20 districts as they are today with the 2020 census.
21 In respect for our witnesses I won't go into great
22 detail. Again, this will be up on the web.

23 But the first congressional is
24 705,949, the second congressional is at 679,628,

1 the third congressional is at 725,625, the fourth
2 congressional is at 698,570, the fifth
3 congressional is at 743,449, the sixth
4 congressional is at 732,745, the seventh
5 congressional is at 767,663, the eighth
6 congressional is at 716,990, the ninth
7 congressional is at 742,156, the tenth
8 congressional is at 724,946, the eleventh is at
9 706,376, the twelfth is at 674,870, the thirteenth
10 congressional is 695,583, the fourteenth
11 congressional is 753,195, the fifteenth
12 congressional is at 680,293, the sixteenth
13 congressional is at 692,552, the seventeenth
14 congressional is at 673,770, and the eighteenth
15 congressional is at 701,148.

16 Again, these numbers will be up --
17 this presentation will be up this afternoon so
18 that -- I know I went through the numbers somewhat
19 quick.

20 The other topic for today is the
21 subcircuits in Cook County. The general assembly
22 did pass an act in the 101st requiring the GA to
23 redraw the subcircuits in 2021 and then a -- to
24 redraw them every decennial census thereafter. It

1 wasn't a requirement that we had before that
2 public act.

3 Today we have Cook County judicial
4 subcircuits. These were created in 1991. The
5 districts as they stand today were last drawn in
6 1991. There are 15 subcircuits. By statute there
7 are 166 judgeships in these 15 subcircuits and the
8 way they did that is as retirements from the bench
9 happened, by lottery that the Supreme Court, I
10 believe, held back in 1991, as those judges
11 retired, their at-large, county-wide judgeships
12 were moved to the subcircuits in a lottery
13 fashion. The ideal population for a subcircuit
14 would be 351,703.

15 I will go through the subcircuits
16 here. There's the numbers for Cook County. There
17 was a 1.6 increase in the 2010 to 2020 census.

18 The first judicial subcircuit south
19 Chicago and south suburban Cook is at 278,725,
20 second judicial subcircuit is at 269,362, the
21 third subcircuit is currently at 367,094, fourth
22 is 364,375, fifth is at 257,166, the sixth is at
23 333,430, the seventh is at 324,205, the eighth is
24 at 449,055, the ninth is 366,973, the tenth which

1 is the subcircuit we're currently -- you're
2 sitting in at Oakton Community College is at
3 356,857, the eleventh has a total population right
4 now of 373,485, the twelfth has a population of
5 373,259, the thirteenth has a population of
6 400,535, the fourteenth subcircuit has a
7 population of 369,413, and the last subcircuit has
8 a population of 391,607.

9 That concludes the presentation I
10 have. Again, this will be up on the ILGA website
11 as soon as I can get it to our good friends at
12 LIS.

13 CHAIR AQUINO: Thank you. Our first
14 witness today is our Cook County Clerk of the
15 Circuit Court Iris Martinez, our good former
16 colleague.

17 I believe I saw her as a participant.
18 Look here if the clerk could make sure to unmute
19 herself.

20 I know you've done this many times
21 before, but as a reminder if you can identify
22 yourself if you are speaking on behalf of yourself
23 or an organization and then you can begin your
24 testimony.

1 (Brief interruption.)

2 Madam Clerk, as I said before,
3 welcome, I know you've done this many of times
4 this side of the committee hearing, but I just
5 wanted to remind if you can just introduce
6 yourself if you are speaking on behalf of yourself
7 or an organization and then you can begin your
8 testimony.

9 Thank you.

10 **THE WITNESS:** Thank you so much, Senator
11 Aquino and all my former colleagues. It's so
12 great to see many of you. I'm doing fine. I'm
13 surviving this job. I miss all of you. Thank you
14 for having me. I'm speaking on behalf of myself
15 as the former sponsor of the bill, of this bill.

16 I would like to begin by thanking
17 Chair Aquino for his invitation to address the
18 Senate Redistricting Committee, I would also like
19 to thank Minority Spokesperson Barickman, good to
20 see you too, and the members of this committee for
21 a chance to speak on how important this is in the
22 topic of diversity and representation within the
23 circuit courts.

24 Public Act 101-477 the law that

1 requires judicial subcircuit boundary
2 redistricting process that this committee and the
3 General Assembly has started, had a simple
4 purpose. The purpose was to enact a process that
5 ensured the judicial system reflect the diversity
6 of the population that it serves going forward.

7 (Brief interruption.)

8 CHAIR AQUINO: Madam Clerk, just we get
9 every -- it seems you might be reading something
10 if you can have your team make sure to submit the
11 written -- so we can make sure we can get
12 everything you're saying. Thank you.

13 THE WITNESS: Absolutely. Thank you so
14 much for that. And I apologize. I know this mic
15 goes in and out on me for some odd reason.

16 As some of you may remember, HB 2625
17 was a passion project of mine not long ago when I
18 was a senate sponsor. But I was not the first
19 legislator who saw the need to amend subcircuit
20 boundaries to better reflect the latest census
21 figures and the diversity of our communities.
22 Leader Aquino and Rep. Arroyo were the two of many
23 members of the GA that sponsored legislation and
24 worked tirelessly on this effort. I am happy to

1 join you today to see the GA moving forward and
2 making progress that is long overdue.

3 The last time the GA redrew these maps
4 was in 1991 as we heard prior. We all know that
5 the population of Cook County has shifted
6 dramatically over those 30 years. And just like
7 in 1991 the diversity of the bench does not mirror
8 the county. According to the data released for the
9 Office of the Chief Judge of Cook County, only 20%
10 of the sitting circuit court judges are Black, 9%
11 are Latino and 3% are Asian. The remaining
12 two-thirds of the judges are White. By comparison
13 Cook County's population is one-quarter Black,
14 one-quarter Latino 8% Asian and only 40% white.

15 Subcircuit boundaries are an important
16 tool to increase the diversity of those sitting on
17 the bench. But that tool is useless if the
18 boundaries dilute the diversity of the community
19 and do not reflect the residents of those
20 subcircuits. As the population evolves, the
21 judicial system must reflect that evolution.

22 Judges uphold the laws of the state and
23 residents should have a voice in who is entrusted
24 to do this important work. We know from studies

1 that a more diverse bench leads to outcomes that
2 are fairer especially in a criminal justice
3 systems where defendants are disproportionately
4 black and Latino. We know that this is true in
5 civil cases, as well.

6 Within the current 15 subcircuits there
7 has been considerable demographic shifts captured
8 by the 2020 census. But stop and consider the
9 additional population changes seen in the since
10 the 1990 and 2000 census. Since 1990, just in the
11 City of Chicago, the Latino population has
12 increased by 50% and the Asian population by 92%.
13 This is just one example of the shift we're
14 talking about. In addition, not only has the race
15 and ethnicity of the city's and county's
16 population changed, but where they live has also
17 shifted in the past 3 decades.

18 In closing, the judiciary should reflect
19 the population that it serves. It is wonderful
20 that we now have a process to make sure that
21 that's the case. It's great that the GA will
22 revisit this issue after each decennial census.
23 This process will amend the boundaries of
24 subcircuits to ensure that they keep up with

1 changing demographics and address the need for
2 greater diversity on the bench going forward.

3 And As the Clerk of the Circuit Court of
4 Cook County and a lifelong resident of Chicago, I
5 can personally attest to the need for the face of
6 justice to mirror the community it serves.

7 Thank you so much and I'll be happy to
8 take questions.

9 CHAIR AQUINO: Thank you, Madam Clerk.

10 I see no hands up here present at
11 Oakton, but I'm going to look on the Zoom. I do
12 see that Senator McClure has raised his hand.
13 Senator McClure, if you'd like to ask your
14 question...

15 MEMBER McCLURE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

16 Just -- and thanks to the witness for
17 THE testimony.

18 I guess my first question is after
19 the most recent legislative maps, we had a lot of
20 groups of interest that were very upset with the
21 map and just because the map changes does not
22 necessarily mean it's going to reflect the
23 demographic changes of the state. For example, we
24 grew by 300,000 Latinos and yet Latinos lost a

1 seat in the General Assembly.

2 So I guess my question for the
3 witness is just because there's a new map being
4 drawn, it's not necessarily going to reflect these
5 things and do you have concern -- because we don't
6 see a map in front of us today before we're going
7 to vote on it, do you have concerns of what this
8 map is going to look like and would you like to
9 see this map soon in order for you to be able to
10 respond to what the demographics are of these
11 maps?

12 **THE WITNESS:** Thank you so much, Senator.
13 And, again, I will say this, I think the
14 conversation that we're having is great. I think
15 it's great to reflect upon those numbers. And
16 really I believe that as we continue this process
17 moving forward, we're all going to get to a good
18 place when it comes to the representation we need.

19 You're right there's been increase of
20 people in the state. The Latino population
21 community has again -- the shift has been -- you
22 can see it in the numbers. And, again, at the end
23 of the day it's about making sure these maps are
24 fair and that they're reflective of the population

1 that did actually -- and making sure the
2 demographics are ensuring in all these boards and
3 across the whole entire state that it reflects the
4 population there.

5 I really trust that you all are going
6 to do what needs to be done in making sure these
7 maps are moving forward. Will they be perfect, I
8 would hope so. But I know that sometimes trying
9 to get to the numbers, making sure they're
10 reflective and that the numbers are complete when
11 it comes to the representation of that particular
12 district, I think, you know -- I know you guys --
13 it's all in good hands. That's all I can say.

14 MEMBER McCLURE: So how much time would
15 you need TO review any judicial changes to the
16 maps, any congressional map? How much time would
17 you need review -- is there a map? What map is
18 that that's being shown in the background there?

19 THE WITNESS: That's the judicial --
20 subcircuit map that -- the map I have here is the
21 map that Geo showed you earlier.

22 MEMBER McCLURE: Oh, okay. How much time
23 would you need to review any proposed map in order
24 to be able to assess whether or not it's going to

1 be something you can support or something you
2 would like to be changed? Like how much time
3 would you need to review an actual map?

4 **THE WITNESS:** I will leave that to my
5 wonderful Chairman Aquino who I know is moving
6 this forward.

7 Again, I think all of us just want to
8 make sure that these numbers are reflected with
9 the end product coming. So I will work -- I will
10 continue to work at the pace that the -- with
11 Chairman Aquino and the redistricting committee in
12 making sure -- and also working with the judges in
13 this area looking to make sure we are increasing
14 our numbers. I leave it up to the chairman at his
15 pace and will work along side.

16 **MEMBER McCLURE:** So you don't need to see
17 a map. You just absolutely trust the committee to
18 make the right map, whatever that map looks like?

19 **THE WITNESS:** The conversations that
20 we're having are all good and I think that's the
21 most important thing right now, that we're
22 actively discussing this.

23 **MEMBER McCLURE:** Okay. Thank you.

24 **THE WITNESS:** Thank you so much.

1 CHAIR AQUINO: I see Senator Plummer with
2 HIS hand up virtually.

3 Go right ahead.

4 MEMBER PLUMMER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
5 Well, Iris, good to see you.

6 **THE WITNESS: Good to see you too.**

7 MEMBER PLUMMER: Hope everything is going
8 well.

9 Hey, I just wanted to kind of follow
10 up on that, and I fully appreciate that we're all
11 colleagues and you want to entrust some of this
12 with the committee and with the chairman.

13 You know, the last round of hearings
14 we had were basically boycotted by everyone in the
15 state of Illinois essentially because no one
16 trusts the committee. And they're kind of sick
17 and tired of, you know, being fed false
18 information. So I fully appreciate you might
19 trust the committee, but really no one else does.

20 So my question would be, you know,
21 not how much would you need, but since you've gone
22 through this process in the past, what do you
23 think is a reasonable amount of time between when
24 maps are unveiled for the public to see and a vote

1 would take place on this end? What do you think
2 is a reasonable amount of time for the public to
3 be able to digest that information, review what's
4 important to them and then provide feedback to the
5 committee so that we can then kind of proceed
6 accordingly?

7 **THE WITNESS:** As a former legislature,
8 you know, again, I know how it is to work through
9 this process in the past and, again, it's really
10 in the hands of the committee of redistricting.

11 And that's where, you know, I think
12 they've gone across -- I know they've gone across
13 the state when it came to having the meetings on
14 redistricting.

15 Again, it's a process and I have to
16 respect the process as far as the committee doing
17 its job and whatever time that's needed out there,
18 I as a former legislature will go along -- will
19 have gone along in the past and will continue to
20 go along with all my colleagues, all of you, as
21 far as what needs to be done to get this map
22 passed.

23 **MEMBER PLUMMER:** Thank you. Good to see
24 you again.

1 **THE WITNESS: Good to see you too, thank**
2 **you.**

3 CHAIR AQUINO: Madam Clerk, I do not see
4 any further hands up virtually nor here in person
5 so once again it's always a pleasure to see you,
6 glad you're doing well in your new role. And
7 thank you again for your testimony here today.

8 And as a reminder, if you and your
9 team would submit your testimony so that we can
10 make sure that we were able to capture everything
11 that you said on the official record, thank you so
12 much.

13 **THE WITNESS: Thank you so much and have**
14 **a great weekend everyone. Thank you again for**
15 **having me in front of you. Thank you so much.**

16 CHAIR AQUINO: Excellent.

17 So we'll be moving forward in the
18 manner of how I stated that -- our witnesses
19 earlier. So next up is Ms. Aviva Miriam Patt from
20 the Decalogue Society of Lawyers.

21 Ms. Patt, you have done this as well
22 before so, if you don't mind, just introduce
23 yourself just stating for the record the
24 organization that you are speaking on behalf of

1 and then begin your testimony.

2 Thank you.

3 THE WITNESS: Thank you. Good morning.
4 My name is Aviva Miriam Patt. I'm the executive
5 director of The Decalogue Society of Lawyers.

6 The Decalogue Society of Lawyers, founded
7 in 1934, is the nation's oldest Jewish bar
8 association. Decalogue's mission includes
9 educating the public on legal and Jewish issues,
10 maintaining vigilance against discriminatory
11 public and private practices, particularly
12 anti-Semitism, and working with other ethnic
13 communities to combat hate and promote justice.

14 The society's earliest days during the
15 rise of anti-Semitism in the 1930s, Decalogue
16 often had to fight for equal opportunities for
17 Jewish lawyers to advance in their professions.
18 We challenged newspaper job listings that
19 specified "gentile" or "non-Jew" as requirements
20 for hiring and we worked to end the scheduling of
21 the Bar exam on Jewish holidays. Sometimes we had
22 to respond to anti-Semitism expressed in court by
23 other attorneys and even by judges.

24 As the decades passed and discrimination

1 under the law and within the society receded,
2 Jewish attorneys were able to participate fully in
3 the profession and in public life, including
4 elevation to the bench. But remnants of prejudice
5 still remain and Jewish candidates for the bench
6 face an uphill battle to be elected countywide.

7 Few Jewish candidates have succeeded in
8 recent years and mostly only those with very
9 substantial campaign coffers. Multiple studies
10 have shown that voters choose judicial candidates
11 largely by gender and the perceived ethnicity of
12 their name and Jewish names are not among the
13 popular ones.

14 The legislature created judicial
15 subcircuits in Cook County to enable racial and
16 ethnic communities to elect judges that would
17 increase the diversity of the bench and the 9th
18 subcircuit met that need for the Jewish community.
19 At the time it encompassed the greatest
20 concentration of Jewish voters in Cook County. But
21 our people have become much more dispersed in the
22 past 30 years and Decalogue is asking for the
23 subcircuit to be redrawn to include other areas
24 which are now home to more Jewish residents.

1 The Jewish population in Illinois is
2 small. At no level of the government do we
3 constitute a majority, but it is possible to draw
4 districts in which we have sufficient
5 concentration to have an influence in the
6 political process. And when it comes to electing
7 judges, that influence exists only at the
8 subcircuit level. We have submitted a map
9 identifying those areas that can be combined to
10 create a Jewish-influence district in the far
11 north side of Chicago and the northern suburbs.
12 Decalogue asks that as the subcircuits are being
13 redrawn, the 9th Subcircuit be redrawn to include
14 these areas so that our community can have a
15 strong voice in selecting those who will
16 administer justice in our County. Thank you very
17 much for hearing us today.

18 CHAIR AQUINO: Thank you, Ms. Patt. I
19 just wanted to let the record show that we have
20 received the map that you had described. It is on
21 our redistricting website also on ilga.gov. So
22 for those that are unable to see it now would like
23 to see a copy of that map, it is again both on the
24 redistricting committee's website and ilga.gov as

1 well.

2 I am looking around to see if there's any
3 hands up both virtually and in person for
4 Ms. Patt. I see none here in person. And
5 virtually I do see a hand that came up.

6 Senator McClure, if you would like to
7 ask your question...

8 MEMBER McCLURE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9 Ms. Patt, how long would you need to
10 review any maps in order to give a proper analysis
11 of them and see kind of what your comment would be
12 and what suggestions you may have to change it?

13 **THE WITNESS: Well, I would probably just**
14 **need, personally, a day. But for me to get**
15 **feedback from our board or our executive**
16 **committee, I would say at least a week.**

17 MEMBER McCLURE: At least a week, I think
18 that's a very reasonable time frame. Thank you
19 very much.

20 **THE WITNESS: Thank you.**

21 CHAIR AQUINO: Seeing no further hands I
22 want to thank you again for your participation
23 today and through this process.

24 And so we will be moving on to our

1 next witness this -- I believe -- still morning,
2 this morning.

3 So moving on we have Madeleine Doubek
4 from CHANGE Illinois. You as well have been a
5 part of this process. Just make sure if you can
6 announce yourself for the record and the
7 organization that you are here representing, thank
8 you.

9 THE WITNESS: Thank you, Chairman Aquino,
10 Vice Chair Sims and all committee members for
11 providing our organization with the opportunity to
12 come before you today to weigh in on the
13 congressional maps.

14 My name is Madeleine Doubek and I am
15 the Executive Director of the CHANGE Illinois
16 Action Fund and CHANGE Illinois, both are
17 non-partisan non-profits championing ethics and
18 efficiency in government and elections.

19 Our first recommendation to this
20 committee is to use the 2020 Census data as the
21 basis for congressional maps rather than American
22 Community Survey data. Ignoring advocates'
23 previous warnings against the negative
24 consequences of using ACS estimates as a

1 replacement for the 2020 Census data led to for
2 the first time since the state constitution was
3 adopted in 1970 having two Illinois General
4 Assembly redistricting maps signed into law within
5 a matter of months.

6 Lawmakers revisiting the legislative maps
7 for a second time created additional confusion and
8 alienated community voices from the process to an
9 even greater degree. People had even less time
10 and opportunity to participate than was provided
11 in the spring. Each time we come back for another
12 remap, the process should be improved as lessons
13 are learned from previous errors.

14 Our second recommendation is that the
15 committee pay particular attention to the Federal
16 Voting Rights Act and create a congressional map
17 that honors and prioritizes that law. It would be
18 in the best interest of the committee and the
19 public for committee members to publicly announce
20 the prioritization of all the redistricting
21 criteria they are considering so that Illinoisans
22 can better understand the committee's intentions
23 in drawing the map. Those criteria should
24 prioritize the federal Voting Rights Act first and

1 foremost. It breeds unnecessary distrust amongst
2 the people when they have no information to help
3 them make heads or tails of why district lines end
4 up where they do. This committee has the
5 opportunity to create maps that empower
6 communities of color through the federal Voting
7 Rights Act by drafting maps that empower those
8 communities to elect candidates of their choosing.
9 In previous congressional redistricting cycles,
10 that didn't happen, forcing communities of color
11 to pursue lengthy and costly legal avenues to
12 achieve the representation they richly deserve.
13 We mustn't forget that Illinois' first
14 majority-Latino congressional district was created
15 as a result of a lawsuit. We can save our
16 communities a lot of time and resources by
17 ensuring that the next decade of congressional
18 districts respect and prioritize the Federal
19 Voting Rights Act ahead of any other
20 considerations.

21 Our third and final recommendation is for
22 this map to prioritize listening to community
23 members and affording them a better opportunity to
24 participate, particularly after a map proposal is

1 released. Even advocacy organizations that track
2 remapping had trouble providing meaningful
3 feedback on the legislative maps that were
4 released and voted on within a day earlier this
5 year. There's absolutely no ability for everyday
6 community members to have a meaningful say in
7 their congressional maps if votes are again rushed
8 right after a map is released in the coming weeks.

9 There needs to be a real and meaningful
10 dialogue between lawmakers and community groups
11 who come before this committee with
12 recommendations for how their communities can best
13 be reflected in the institutions that are here to
14 represent them. We have not been able to find one
15 group that participated in the state legislative
16 remap hearings that has publicly endorsed those
17 legislative maps, but there are many who have
18 rejected them. How can we say a map is the best
19 reflection of the interests of communities if
20 almost every single community group that tries to
21 engage says its members' voices were ignored and
22 their communities were harmed? Their efforts
23 should not be in vain. We encourage this
24 committee to provide a much greater level of

1 transparency, engagement, time and community
2 involvement than was seen in the legislative remap
3 process. We ask this committee to align its
4 congressional remapping work more closely with the
5 work of federal lawmakers who are pushing for the
6 John Lewis Voting Rights and Freedom to Vote Act,
7 making sure to prioritize communities of interest,
8 removing partisan gerrymandering from the process,
9 and not prioritizing incumbent protection.

10 Thank you, again, for the opportunity to
11 offer these suggestions and I'm happy to answer
12 any questions.

13 CHAIR AQUINO: Thank you for your
14 testimony. Looking on to hands both here present
15 and virtually, I see that Senator McClure has his
16 hand up,

17 Senator McClure -- and as a reminder,
18 Senator McClure, if you don't mind, I didn't ask
19 this before of you, but if you can get on video
20 when you're speaking to our witnesses, I
21 appreciate that.

22 MEMBER McCLURE: I can. I'll have to
23 switch to my computer so the next time I ask a
24 question I will. But my phone video is not

1 working right now, Mr. Chairman, so if I could ask
2 a brief question, I'd appreciate it.

3 CHAIR AQUINO: That's fine. Go right
4 ahead.

5 MEMBER McCLURE: Thank you.

6 Thank you very much for your
7 testimony. So you talked about the need to see
8 maps before we vote on them. What is the
9 reasonable amount of time you would need to review
10 any map before we vote on the congressional
11 maps -- map I should say?

12 **THE WITNESS: We've previously asked for**
13 **at least two weeks, a month would be preferable**
14 **and much better to give us time to take a look and**
15 **analyze and allow community groups to understand**
16 **how these maps affect them.**

17 MEMBER McCLURE: I think that's a very
18 reasonable request. Thank you very much.

19 No further questions.

20 CHAIR AQUINO: Thank you.

21 Looking virtually and also here in
22 person I see no further hands up.

23 So, Ms. Doubek, thank you so much for
24 your testimony.

1 I do believe we have another
2 participant who has logged on to want to be a
3 witness today. And that is Frank Calabrese.

4 If folks that are are on --

5 Mr. Calabrese, if you just wait for
6 one second.

7 Anyone else that has signed into the
8 Zoom that wants to provide testimony today, if you
9 can just raise your hand virtually, so I can make
10 sure I write you down and that we can take your
11 testimony as well.

12 Mr. Calabrese, you as well have been
13 a witness here before. So just a reminder, if you
14 can say your name for the record and also if you
15 are speaking on behalf of yourself or some entity
16 if you can mention that and begin your testimony.

17 **THE WITNESS: Thank you, Chairman, for**
18 **holding this.**

19 **My name is Frank Calabrese. I'm**
20 **going to be speaking on behalf of myself today. I**
21 **am working with a number of groups and I will**
22 **submit later the groups that will be supporting**
23 **this proposal. Clerk Martinez and Judge Chevere**
24 **I've been working with and they do support one of**

1 **the subcircuits that I drew.**

2 **And if you mind, I'll just go through**
3 **the presentation very quickly if I could screen**
4 **share.**

5 CHAIR AQUINO: Give us -- yeah, I am not
6 sure LIS is able to do that.

7 LIS, could you allow for
8 Mr. Calabrese to share his screen?

9 LIS: Senator Aquino, as long as he has
10 whatever he needs to present on his computer
11 that's connected, he can share his screen.

12 CHAIR AQUINO: Excellent.

13 **THE WITNESS: Thank you so much.**

14 **Sorry, I accidentally exited out of**
15 **my presentation.**

16 (Brief interruption.)

17 Can you see this now? Sorry about
18 that.

19 All right. I will go through this
20 really quickly. So as you are aware, this was a
21 special law that was passed to redistrict the Cook
22 County subcircuits. It's been 30 years since the
23 subcircuit has been redistricted.

24 There are three primary problems with

1 the subcircuits: the population is unbalanced,
2 there's a lacking of diversity -- Cook County is a
3 majority minority county but only a third of the
4 districts are majority minority, and the
5 subcircuits, you know, they were gerrymandered to
6 reflect political alliances that existed in the
7 80s and they really don't reflect communities that
8 exist today.

9 So this kind of shows you the
10 population difference in kind of a visual aspect.
11 So the 8th subcircuit is the largest with about
12 430,000. And then the 5th subcircuit, which is
13 Englewood, Hyde Park is the smallest set, about
14 240,000. And this is a bar graph, just kind of
15 shows you that difference.

16 I was actually surprised that the
17 differences were more stark over 30 years. But
18 the 8th subcircuit which is the lake front is
19 about a subcircuit and a half larger than other
20 subcircuits.

21 So one of the problems -- and this is
22 what Clerk Martinez spoke about -- there's only
23 one Latino subcircuit left out of the 15 and
24 that's the 14th subcircuit. And this might

1 surprise you, but the 14th subcircuit elected
2 essentially no Latinos until two years ago because
3 the 14th subcircuit was kind of controlled by
4 Alderman Burke. So even though the 14th
5 subcircuit is majority Latino, the 14th subcircuit
6 in 30 years has only elected 30 Latinos.

7 The 6th subcircuit which was
8 initially created as a Latino majority subcircuit
9 is now a Latino minority subcircuit. And this
10 shows you the dominant racial group by the
11 subcircuits.

12 So there are 4 black subcircuits, one
13 Latino subcircuit and 10 white subcircuits. And
14 the subcircuits, they're kind of ugly. If you
15 look at, you know, the 7th subcircuit, the 10th
16 and the 9th, there's a lot of squiggly lines that
17 really don't reflect community boundaries and
18 they're very confusing and people -- occasionally
19 I work in judge elections. It's very hard to
20 explain to people what subcircuit they live in.

21 And so this is kind of a proposal I
22 drafted of just kind of squaring out the
23 subcircuits and making everything even. So some
24 circuits are just kind of squaring out; some more

1 drastically change.

2 Like you probably have to take the
3 current 10th subcircuit and move it to lakefront
4 to alleviate the excess population of the 8th
5 subcircuit and you also need to bring down some
6 black subcircuits such as the 5th and the 1st and
7 the 2nd further south.

8 30 years ago the south end of Cook
9 County was farmland. Now it's largely black
10 suburbs. And so the 16th subcircuit you can
11 essentially split in half.

12 So this proposal solves diversity
13 problems. It's essentially zero percent deviation
14 and it's currently 22 percent deviation under the
15 current proposal. So this just gives you a good
16 idea of where to generally shift boundaries to get
17 a zero percent deviation map.

18 The 6th subcircuit becomes a majority
19 Latino subcircuit. And the 3rd subcircuit becomes
20 a Latino-influenced district so this increases
21 Latino representation within our subcircuit system
22 and hence -- and will increase the likelihood of
23 electing Latino judges in Cook County.

24 The 7th subcircuit, that's been the

1 subject of some media. So the 7th subcircuit
2 includes the west side of Chicago currently with
3 some white suburbs. And the Supreme Court last
4 cycle, they appointed a white judge and a lot of
5 black alderman in Chicago were complaining because
6 it was created as a black subcircuit.

7 What I do is I remove River Forest
8 and Berwyn from the 7th subcircuit. I also remove
9 the West Loop. And I add some African American
10 suburbs and the western suburbs. So I increase
11 the black population by 10 percent in the 7th
12 subcircuit and I clearly make it a black
13 subcircuit so you don't get situations where the
14 Supreme Court appoints non-black judges to that
15 subcircuit.

16 And there's lots of -- as you're
17 aware with the state map there's been significant
18 population loss on the south side. So you have to
19 extend a lot of these south side black subcircuits
20 further south to catch in the necessary population
21 to maintain equal population, but this proposal
22 still maintains for majority black subcircuits.

23 And, again, the lines they're much
24 cleaner. They respect municipal and township and

1 ward boundaries. They're much easier to explain
2 to normal people which subcircuit they live in.

3 This is a close up of a subcircuit.
4 This is supported by Clerk Martinez and Judge
5 Chevere. They spoke earlier.

6 Currently the 6th judicial subcircuit
7 is 43 percent Latino. This increases it to 56
8 percent Latino. And, again, this does it zero
9 deviation. Each subcircuit should be about
10 350,000. And what I do is I remove the eastern
11 end, which is now very white, and I move it
12 west -- or rather northwest to take in emerging
13 Latino population which is shifting west.

14 In the 7th subcircuit I remove -- the
15 7th subcircuit as of today doesn't really make
16 sense. It includes wealthy white areas such as
17 the West Loop and River Forest and kind of working
18 class areas like Park Forest and Berwyn and then
19 includes it with the west side of Chicago. It's
20 kind of a chaotic subcircuit.

21 So just to make it demographically
22 make sense, I remove the West Loop, remove a lot
23 of the suburbs and I add Maywood and Bellwood and
24 Melrose Park and make it a solidly minority

1 subcircuit.

2 And I made a lot of these figures
3 with -- the last two slides of the 6th and 7th
4 subcircuit, that uses census data, but, again,
5 this is adjusted for the census. This was not
6 made with the estimate data. This is -- I made
7 all of this with the 2020 census.

8 And that concludes my brief
9 presentation. And I'm out of screen share so if
10 anyone has any questions.

11 I just want to thank the chairman for
12 this special hearing on Cook County subcircuits.

13 CHAIR AQUINO: Thank you, Mr. Calabrese.
14 Before we go to questions from the committee I
15 actually have a couple of questions because you've
16 several times have indicated that there's folks
17 that testified today that are in support of some
18 of the maps that you drew; however, when they
19 provided testimony -- it's specifically one
20 person -- you mentioned two people, but one person
21 provided testimony today and that was Clerk
22 Martinez -- she did not discuss any of the maps.

23 Are you -- have you been hired by
24 either Judge Chevere or Clerk Martinez to speak on

1 their behalf?

2 **THE WITNESS: No, no. I know Judge**
3 **Chevere. I spoke to her about 30 minutes ago.**

4 CHAIR AQUINO: Okay.

5 **THE WITNESS: I just like subcircuits.**
6 **This has been a project I'm working on.**

7 CHAIR AQUINO: I see Senator DeWitte with
8 his hand up. Go right ahead.

9 MEMBER DeWITTE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

10 Thank you, Mr. Calabrese, for your
11 testimony. You mentioned prior to the
12 presentation that you are in fact representing
13 several groups with regards to the work you're
14 doing. While we're in our open meeting and on the
15 record here, could you please share that list of
16 clients you are currently employed by?

17 **THE WITNESS: So currently I'm only --**
18 **I'm just working with the city of Chicago, the**
19 **redistricting. I do a lot -- I work on a lot of**
20 **judge campaigns and I'm talking to a lot of bar**
21 **associations. I've only had -- I only prepared**
22 **for this this morning.**

23 I just want to reconnect with the
24 different bar groups to make sure that they're on

1 board before I put anything on the record. So I'm
2 just testifying on behalf of myself, but I've been
3 speaking with a lot of groups over the last few
4 weeks about subcircuit redistricting.

5 MEMBER DeWITTE: So you're not currently
6 employed by any of these other groups?

7 THE WITNESS: No, I'm not currently
8 employed. I made this on my own.

9 Judge Chevere has been very
10 interested in the 6th subcircuit. I've just been
11 drafting variations of that.

12 MEMBER DeWITTE: Are you working with
13 judges who will have to run in some of these
14 districts?

15 THE WITNESS: Yeah, I will in the future
16 most likely; not currently.

17 MEMBER DeWITTE: Okay. I was able to see
18 several of your testimony sessions during the
19 legislature map process. I know you submitted a
20 lot of information to that process.

21 To the best of your knowledge was any
22 of the input you gave in any of those legislative
23 hearings taken into account given the revised map
24 process that the legislature maps went through?

1 **THE WITNESS: Not to my knowledge.**

2 MEMBER DeWITTE: Okay. And would you
3 anticipate a similar process, most likely, to take
4 place through this hearing process with regards to
5 the judicial maps?

6 **THE WITNESS: Well, I didn't submit very**
7 **specific plans on the legislative maps. I was**
8 **just trying -- I submitted a plan on the**
9 **subcircuits, but then the chairman created a**
10 **specific hearings for the subcircuits later on and**
11 **I was requesting a revision of the board of review**
12 **districts which did not happen.**

13 And also I just offered a suggestion
14 on how to create an extra Latino district, but I
15 expect the committee to take into account some of
16 these proposals.

17 MEMBER DeWITTE: Okay. One last
18 question, Chairman. Thank you for your patience.

19 If there was a period of time we
20 would have to review these maps prior to the
21 legislature voting on them, Mr. Calabrese, how
22 much time would you prefer to see with regard to a
23 review period to see these?

24 **THE WITNESS: Well, I can work faster**

1 **than probably most members of the public so I can**
2 **do it in a few hours, but that's just me.**

3 MEMBER DeWITTE: Thank you.

4 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5 CHAIR AQUINO: Just for the record,
6 Mr. Calabrese submitted these maps to us, to the
7 committee this morning. And so they are not
8 posted currently but will be posted on our
9 website, again the redistricting website and the
10 ilga.gov website, the maps he submitted to us this
11 morning.

12 And so I see another hand up.
13 Senator McClure --

14 And then, Senator DeWitte, if you
15 don't mind putting your hand down virtually just
16 so I make sure I....

17 And, Senator McClure, go right ahead.
18 And good to see you on the screen. Thank you --

19 MEMBER McCLURE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
20 always good to see you.

21 Sir, you said you just need a few
22 hours. I mean, how much time would -- in a
23 perfect world how much time would you like to
24 have? I am not saying what you could do, could

1 you scramble together from 2:00 a.m. from
2 5:00 a.m. I'm asking in a perfect world where we
3 have legislative committees that we schedule weeks
4 in advance, how much time would you like to have
5 to review any map?

6 **THE WITNESS: Well, I mean, again, I**
7 **would have to see, but a few days maybe. I don't**
8 **have a specific answer.**

9 MEMBER McCLURE: Okay. Thank you very
10 much.

11 No further questions.

12 **THE WITNESS: And, Mr. Chairman, just**
13 **wanted to say Gloria Chevere texted me, it's**
14 **perfectly okay to drop my name.**

15 CHAIR AQUINO: Sounds good.

16 Looking for other committee members
17 hands up, I do not see.

18 So moving on, Mr. Calabrese, thanks
19 again for your testimony. I just wanted to --

20 **THE WITNESS: Thank you.**

21 CHAIR AQUINO: Yeah, thank you.

22 I just want to make sure there's no
23 one else on the Zoom that would like to provide
24 testimony this morning to the committee. And so

1 if there is someone else, please either use the
2 raise-your-hand function or unmute yourself to
3 identify yourself.

4 Going once, going twice, I'm looking
5 through the Zoom.

6 All right. Well, I want to thank
7 everyone, again, who provided testimony today both
8 here in person and those that provided testimony
9 virtually.

10 As a reminder, if you want to view
11 the 2020 census numbers, draw a community of
12 interest or district, please go to our website
13 which is ilsenateredistricting.com, again that's
14 ilsenateredistricting.com.

15 If you have drawn a map using another
16 mapping platform and would like to share with the
17 committee, please email it to
18 redistrictingcommittee@senatedem.ilga.gov,
19 redistrictingcommittee@senatedem.ilga.gov.

20 If you want to submit additional
21 testimony or maps, please email them to
22 redistrictingcommittee@senatedem.ilga.gov.

23 Another reminder that the Senate
24 Redistricting Committee has scheduled the

1 following future hearings: Tuesday, October 12th
2 at 2:00 p.m. at Chicago State University, 4th
3 floor board room, Gwendolyn Brooks Library which
4 is located at 9501 South King Drive. Reminder
5 that that hearing is both going to be held in
6 person and virtual. So those that would like to
7 attend in person can do so and those that would
8 attend virtually can sign up to do so as well.
9 The subject matter would be on congressional
10 boundaries and Cook County subcircuits once again.

11 On Wednesday, October 13th at
12 4:00 p.m. the Elgin area community college, Seigle
13 Auditorium in Building E would be hosting us and
14 that's 1700 Spartan Drive in Elgin, Illinois.
15 That hearing will be virtual. Participants may
16 testify at the hearing location or via Zoom as
17 well. The subject matter there would be on the
18 congressional boundaries once again and current
19 subcircuits in Will and Kane Counties and
20 potential creation of subcircuits in counties with
21 a population of more than 150,000.

22 On the following day on Thursday,
23 October 14th at noon at 12:00 p.m. at the Illinois
24 State Capitol Building, Room 409, in lovely

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1 Springfield, Illinois, we'll be holding another
2 hearing, both -- again, there will be the virtual
3 component to it. The subject matter for that
4 hearing will be congressional boundaries and the
5 potential creation of subcircuits in counties with
6 population of more than 150,000.

7 On Friday, October 15th at 2:00 p.m.
8 at Dunn-Richmond Economic Center, Conference Room
9 241 at the Southern Illinois University at
10 Carbondale, that's located at 1740 Innovation
11 Drive in Carbondale. Again, that hearing will
12 have a virtual component as well so those that
13 like to testify in person may do so or sign up to
14 testify via Zoom. The subject matter there would
15 be congressional boundaries and the potential
16 creation of subcircuits in counties with a
17 population of more than 150,000.

18 Senator Plummer, do you have a
19 question.

20 MEMBER PLUMMER: I do. I guess a
21 question of you, Mr. Chairman, so thank you. It
22 sounds like we're starting to wind up so I just
23 wanted to inquire as to a couple of things.

24 I appreciate the witnesses that

1 appeared today. I think it's safe to say they're
2 all people that have been fairly engaged in the
3 map process going back to the state legislative
4 maps including one in particular who was
5 personally attacked by some legislatures for her
6 involvement in the process so I appreciate her
7 having the courage to reappear.

8 But I can't help but notice in a
9 state as large as ours there's a lack of
10 witnesses. I personally hosted a couple of town
11 halls the last couple of evenings, encouraged
12 people to get involved. And the general feedback
13 from Illinoisans from multiple counties is what's
14 the point, the committee didn't listen to us last
15 time.

16 So I guess my specific question to
17 you as chairman of the committee is what are you
18 or what are we doing to rehabilitate the
19 reputation of the committee so that Illinoisans
20 feel more willing to be engaged in this process.

21 As we all know, the last round of
22 hearings were boycotted by numerous organizations
23 because their input wasn't being listened to. So
24 what are we doing to rehabilitate the committee so

1 this can be transparent and open process where the
2 public has input?

3 CHAIR AQUINO: Senator, this has been a
4 very transparent and open process so much so that
5 we've had over -- at this point over 60 hearings
6 throughout this year on redistricting alone where
7 we have gone to multiple places throughout the
8 state of Illinois, have also made sure that the --
9 every single hearing, every single one this year
10 had a virtual component.

11 Because, as you all know, we are
12 still living in a global pandemic unfortunately
13 with COVID-19 so provided that for people's safety
14 and also allow for folks to participate from the
15 comfort of their own home or local library or so
16 forth. We have always had a virtual component to
17 that. We've also made announcements of when the
18 public portals have been open so that people can
19 submit testimony, maps and so forth directly to
20 us.

21 And I'm glad that at a recent event
22 you have encouraged people to participate in this
23 process. I think that we have, especially on the
24 democratic side, encouraged everyone from our

1 communities and outside our communities to be a
2 part of this process. And so we've had
3 participation from folks and we always are open to
4 that participation and appreciate the robust
5 discussions that we've been having. This is
6 nothing new.

7 As you know as a member of this
8 committee, we've had a number of these hearings
9 this entire year to talk about a number of
10 redistricting that we had to complete this year.

11 As we know, we are now working on the
12 congressional map and the subcircuit maps and we
13 are encouraging folks -- and I just announced the
14 five different hearings that we are having in the
15 next week. I would hope that you and your
16 colleagues on your side as well as my colleagues
17 on our side would encourage folks to participate
18 in those hearings both virtually or in person.

19 And so that's what we're doing to
20 once again show that we are trying to gather as
21 much information as possible to provide -- to have
22 a great outcome with these upcoming maps that
23 we're going to be voting on very soon.

24 MEMBER PLUMMER: And I appreciate that,

1 Mr. Chairman, I really do. But, you know, the
2 quantity of hearings is a bit irrelevant if the
3 doors are locked to the building, the ability for
4 people to log in doesn't work, if they're not
5 getting the emails, they're not getting the log in
6 access, if they can't participate.

7 It's nice that we have something that
8 we call portal, but the portal is meaningless if
9 zero maps are submitted because people can't use
10 the portal. So all of that sounds good.

11 I guess what I'm asking right now for
12 these next five hearings -- for example that you
13 just mentioned on the congressional map -- because
14 I think it's pretty unanimous by everyone across
15 Illinois that the state map process was not
16 transparent, was kind of train wreck.

17 Are we going to make sure that the
18 doors are open and not locked to the buildings for
19 the next hearings? Are we going to make sure that
20 people that register online to participate are
21 going to get the emails and are going to be able
22 to access the hearings virtually? And are we
23 going to make sure that maps submitted to the
24 portal -- I am sorry -- the portal is set up so

1 that maps can be submitted through the portal in a
2 way that the average Illinoisan can use it, I
3 guess, would be my question?

4 That all sounds good, but we all know
5 in practice it didn't work so will it work going
6 forward?

7 CHAIR AQUINO: So Senator Plummer, I do
8 believe that in practice it has worked. Doors
9 have been open, Zooms have been open, our ears
10 have been open. We have had a number of folks
11 that have participated in this process without
12 fail.

13 Actually, every single one of the
14 folks that participated today, except for our
15 clerk of the circuit court in Cook County, have
16 been returning folks that have returned to provide
17 testimony. Actually, before each and every single
18 one of their testimony, we kindly thanked them
19 once again for their participation in this
20 process.

21 That as you know, again, as a
22 committee member of this committee this year,
23 we've had a number of hearings over the year,
24 close to -- combined with the house, I think over

1 60 at this point. And I know that the House are
2 doing their own hearings as well currently at the
3 moment. So -- and in different places throughout
4 the state to make sure that we are even getting
5 more testimony in all different parts of the state
6 of Illinois.

7 So while, you know, I appreciate your
8 question, I don't think it's rooted on fact. Our
9 public portal has been open. Folks have actually
10 submitted maps. They've submitted maps in a
11 different number of ways, both using the public
12 portal or even sending us maps that they've used
13 from other map sites directly to our emails. And
14 we have always posted those maps and any and all
15 information that we have received from folks, not
16 only the Illinois Senate Redistricting Website,
17 but also to ilga.gov.

18 So certainly I would suggest to you,
19 sir, you can go and review both websites to find
20 all the information there because -- and, again,
21 all things submitted here are part of the public
22 record and so that is official -- all that I've
23 just said is part of the official record and that
24 has been there.

1 And so what we are doing this week is
2 gather even more information and we're going to
3 continue to do so.

4 MEMBER PLUMMER: Right. I appreciate
5 that.

6 And one more point on this topic and
7 then I have a couple of other questions. I
8 appreciate that, but that all, again, it sounds
9 great, it really does sound good, but literally,
10 basically every group that has testified before
11 this committee, if they are still coming back to
12 testify -- as we all know a lot of them are
13 boycotting -- as chairman of the committee, what
14 is your specific response to all these groups
15 including at least one today that said that all of
16 their input, all of their testimony was ignored
17 throughout this spring?

18 I mean, the complaints that I'm
19 talking about aren't my complaints. These are
20 complaints that you can pick up a newspaper and
21 read about from all of the groups that are
22 testifying saying that this committee is not
23 transparent, it's not open and it's not listening
24 to their testimony?

1 So it's good that we have these
2 hearings, but if we don't listen to the public,
3 it's just kind of a dog and pony.

4 So I guess my question is, as
5 chairman of the committee, what is your response
6 to all of these groups that are complaining about
7 the process?

8 And then I've got a couple of
9 questions on a different topic.

10 CHAIR AQUINO: Senator Plummer, we have
11 -- I've asked and answered your question and I am
12 going do put an end point to this.

13 We've had over 60 hearings throughout
14 the entire state of Illinois all that can be held
15 virtually and so forth.

16 The number of groups today alone that
17 have provided testimony are returning folks that
18 have decided to come once again to be a part of
19 this process because they choose to be a part of
20 this process and we encourage folks to do so.

21 I would hope that you and your
22 colleagues on your side to keep on encouraging
23 folks to be a part of this process. That's what
24 we're trying do here and that's what we've done

1 this entire year so...

2 MEMBER PLUMMER: So moving on to a
3 different topic, Mr. Chairman. Has a map on the
4 judicial subcircuit or a congressional map been
5 drawn yet that you've aware of?

6 CHAIR AQUINO: Senator, there's no map
7 today that I'm aware of. This is -- as we've done
8 this before, we are gathering information from the
9 public.

10 We've actually had two maps submitted
11 already to the committee here today and that's
12 what we're doing. We're gathering information,
13 including maps, two of which because of this
14 hearing being posted were submitted already, one
15 from the Jewish community, from the Decalogue
16 organization, and also from Mr. Calabrese as well.

17 MEMBER PLUMMER: So when the map is
18 drawn, can you tell us, as members of the
19 committee and the public, who will be drawing that
20 map and what data they'll be using? Will that be
21 only census data that they're using and who will
22 be doing the drawing?

23 CHAIR AQUINO: What I can tell you is
24 that we are gathering the information right now.

1 And we will be -- there's going be -- we're going
2 to be voting on a map that is going to take into
3 account all of the testimony that has been
4 provided to this committee in the next few
5 hearings.

6 MEMBER PLUMMER: And who will be drawing
7 the map that we'll be voting on?

8 CHAIR AQUINO: I do not know.

9 MEMBER PLUMMER: You're the chairman of
10 the committee, you don't know who is drawing the
11 map?

12 CHAIR AQUINO: This is a question that
13 has been asked a number of times in the past and
14 the answer continues to be I do not know who is
15 physically drawing the map.

16 MEMBER PLUMMER: Well, this is the first
17 senate hearing we've had on these maps so I don't
18 know how the question could have been asked in the
19 past but...

20 So can you tell us, as chairman of
21 the committee, specifically the data that will be
22 used to draw the maps?

23 CHAIR AQUINO: We are going to use the
24 census data that's from the decennial census and

1 also from testimony that has been provided and
2 maps that have been submitted and things that are
3 going to be submitted to our website and to the
4 committee.

5 MEMBER PLUMMER: I think depending on
6 your answer this is my last question, but
7 obviously, I think the public should know who is
8 drawing the map. I think us, as members of the
9 committee, should know who is drawing the map.

10 But obviously after the disastrous
11 series of maps and map revisions we went through
12 in the spring, I would hope that the same people
13 that drew those maps behind closed doors without
14 public input are not the same people drawing these
15 maps because we don't have time to go through a
16 circus like that again.

17 So can you tell us, Mr. Chairman --
18 Mr. Chairman, can you tell us when you will be
19 notifying us, the members of the committee and the
20 public, the names of the people that will be
21 drawing the map that we will be voting on in the
22 senate?

23 CHAIR AQUINO: Senator, as I mentioned
24 already and asked and answered that, I do not know

1 who is creating or drawing any maps and so I can't
2 provide names of --

3 MEMBER PLUMMER: No --

4 CHAIR AQUINO: -- right now --

5 MEMBER PLUMMER: -- I asked if you will
6 let us know when you'll provide us the names.

7 CHAIR AQUINO: Again, I can't provide
8 names if I don't know.

9 What we are doing right now from
10 these hearings and from what we've done before on
11 other hearings is we are gathering information
12 from the public and that's what we're doing.

13 MEMBER PLUMMER: Will we know the names
14 of the people that are drawing the map before we
15 vote on the map?

16 CHAIR AQUINO: I've answered that
17 question already, Senator. If you have other
18 questions, we can take them. If not, Senator
19 McClure has some more questions.

20 MEMBER PLUMMER: Well, you haven't
21 answered it, but we'll move on because you don't
22 want to answer it.

23 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

24 CHAIR AQUINO: Senator McClure.

1 MEMBER McCLURE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2 So obviously I've asked every witness
3 just about how much time you need to review any
4 potential maps. What sort of time line are they
5 going to have this go around?

6 Obviously, you know, in the June
7 hearings or the hearings before June, the last go
8 around, many witness were told that you're not
9 going to have that much time to review it because
10 it's got to be done before June 30th.

11 Well, that deadline came and went.
12 Turns out a month later, you know, we still had
13 new maps and our witnesses still did not get very
14 much time to review them, hours at most.

15 So I guess just, you know, I
16 understand you're not sure who is drawing the
17 maps, but have you at least set out some sort of
18 deadline to say, okay, at least a week before we
19 vote we need to have these maps completed so the
20 public can comment and we can have some valid
21 and -- you know, discussions that will have an
22 impact on what the final maps look like?

23 CHAIR AQUINO: Senator, we have a fall
24 veto session that is scheduled. I anticipate that

1 we will be voting on a map for congressional and
2 maps for the judicial subcircuit during that veto
3 session. And folks -- there will be an
4 opportunity for folks to look at those maps prior
5 to us voting on those maps.

6 MEMBER McCLURE: Will they have maybe at
7 least, Mr. Chairman, at least two weeks? Will
8 that be sufficient time for you guys?

9 Because I know we've had this data
10 for quite some time. And I believe, from what
11 I've heard, that there is at least one
12 congressional map that people have described to --
13 I understand, Mr. Chairman, you may not be aware
14 of it, but we've got people running for
15 congressional seats right now after apparently
16 they've seen something they like about some
17 potential congressional district.

18 So I would just -- can we get at
19 least a week perhaps for these witnesses to be
20 able to review the map, Mr. Chairman?

21 CHAIR AQUINO: Senator, we are gathering
22 information now and accepting folks to submit
23 maps. The only maps that I've seen are the ones
24 that have been submitted to the committee

1 hearings. And we actually just had this hearing
2 today so from -- again, I'll repeat the maps that
3 I saw were the subcircuit maps from the Decalogue
4 group and Mr. Calabrese.

5 I can't comment on maps that I
6 haven't seen. I don't believe there are maps out
7 there because I haven't seen them.

8 And so, again, there will be an
9 opportunity for the public to see maps prior to
10 voting on them.

11 And in terms of when we'll be voting
12 on them, well, there is a veto session scheduled
13 for -- in a couple of weeks, fall veto session.
14 So that is the time that we will be taking up
15 matters including the redistricting maps that
16 we're speaking about.

17 But we are taking in information and
18 looking forward to getting more map submittals
19 including if you all at the republican party and
20 the senate republicans or house republicans would
21 like to submit a map, we would certainly accept
22 and are open to seeing and reviewing those maps as
23 well.

24 MEMBER McCLURE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 On behalf of the witnesses I would request at
2 least two weeks before we vote to be able to talk
3 about these. And I would be happy to jump in and
4 attempt to draw maps, Mr. Chairman. But I think
5 we need to see your map first so we know what
6 we're working with because you're the majority
7 party, you guys are in control and you're the
8 chair of this committee.

9 So I would be happy to be engaged in
10 the process, but we need to see what you guys have
11 to work with first and then we can go from there.
12 But I would appreciate as much time as possible
13 for these witnesses to be able to review these
14 maps.

15 And I thank you for answering my
16 questions.

17 CHAIR AQUINO: No problem. And just a
18 reminder, Senator McClure, since you're very
19 interested in maybe submitting a map, I just want
20 to remind you that if -- you could go to our
21 website at ilsenateredistricting.com to fill out a
22 map.

23 And also if you all have a map from a
24 different site, you can send it to our committee

1 which is

2 redistrictingcommittee@senatedem.ilga.gov.

3 Thank you for your questions.

4 With there being no business to come
5 before the committee --

6 MEMBER PLUMMER: Mr. Chairman, I have a
7 question.

8 CHAIR AQUINO: Senator Plummer for
9 another question, go right ahead.

10 MEMBER PLUMMER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

11 I know in the spring there was some
12 debate about deadlines and timelines and so there
13 was a bit as the last -- as Senator McClure
14 mentioned, there was potentially some timelines we
15 had to hit on a vote and I fully understand it
16 would be convenient for everybody if we could vote
17 on a map during the presently scheduled upcoming
18 veto, but there is no hard deadline where we have
19 to vote on this map in the near future.

20 So why don't we commit to the people
21 of Illinois that, I mean, even if we have to come
22 back to Springfield, we can easily schedule a
23 block of time for the public to review these maps
24 before the vote. So it's not like we have to be

1 up there for the first day of veto to vote on
2 these maps.

3 My question is: As chairman of the
4 committee, can you commit to these witnesses -- we
5 heard them all ask for it -- they've asked for it
6 previously -- a block of time, whenever that map
7 lands, whenever that map shows up, there will be a
8 block of time before we come to Springfield and
9 specifically vote on that map? I mean, this is
10 all about public input, right?

11 CHAIR AQUINO: Senator Plummer, I'm glad
12 you're agreeing there was a constitutionally
13 mandated deadline that we have of June 30 to vote
14 on previous maps. I'm glad --

15 MEMBER PLUMMER: Please --

16 CHAIR AQUINO: -- agree with that --

17 MEMBER PLUMMER: -- no -- nobody said
18 that Mr. Chairman --

19 CHAIR AQUINO: Well, you said there was a
20 deadline that --

21 MEMBER PLUMMER: I said there were
22 deadlines. I said there were deadlines --

23 CHAIR AQUINO: Yeah, so --

24 MEMBER PLUMMER: I said there were

1 deadlines that were debated and talked about and
2 that was the argument used and that argument was
3 not viable now. That's exactly what I said.

4 CHAIR AQUINO: I will certainly look back
5 to the -- we have the Court Reporter here so we'll
6 see what you exactly you said, but it did sound --

7 MEMBER PLUMMER: Good.

8 CHAIR AQUINO: -- like, sir, that you
9 said that you understood that we had deadlines in
10 the past and I'm glad you agree that we did have
11 those deadlines and so --

12 MEMBER PLUMMER: -- talking about --

13 CHAIR AQUINO: We certainly do have
14 deadlines because -- and if you're not aware,
15 there's a voting cycle for people to make sure
16 that they can vote for their representation. And
17 those elections are held in 2022 and so we want to
18 make sure that -- so that people can vote for, you
19 know, for their representatives as they see fit
20 and to sign both to -- on the bench to the general
21 assembly or to congress, we need to make sure
22 we're giving folks the appropriate time to be able
23 to vote for their representation.

24 And so those elections are happening

1 very soon and so that's why, you know, we are
2 moving forward to getting this work done for
3 judicial maps as was discussed here in this
4 testimony earlier today.

5 In term of judicial maps we can't act
6 sooner because of the fact that it's been over --
7 it's been 30 years since the subcircuit maps have
8 been worked on. And it was discussed at length of
9 how there has been demographic shifts especially
10 in Cook County with those -- in 30 years and so to
11 ensure that all folks have equal representation
12 and have a voice in who represents them either in
13 the halls of congress or in the capitol of
14 Illinois in Springfield or in their local
15 courthouses, we need to make sure that we are
16 moving forward with our work and, as I said,
17 there's a scheduled veto session coming up. I
18 presume that we would be finishing our work in
19 that veto session as that is the schedule that we
20 have in front of us.

21 MEMBER PLUMMER: I understand that and I
22 would just remind you that it's your side that's
23 controlled the map making for the last couple of
24 decades so the fact that these judicial

1 subcircuits are out of whack right now is
2 definitely not a good thing but every opportunity
3 has been there for that to be addressed in the
4 past.

5 Again, we've pushed all the deadlines
6 back for filing, for petitions, for the primary
7 election so it seems to me this rush to get maps
8 filed for veto session and a vote during veto
9 session is just another false deadline perpetuated
10 by your side so that there's no public input and
11 there's no transparency to the process. That's a
12 shame.

13 You have every opportunity to make
14 sure there's a block of time for a public review
15 of these maps before a vote and I encourage you
16 and encourage everyone on your side to give the
17 public the opportunity to review these maps so we
18 can receive true input on the maps, not what they
19 would like, but their input on the specific maps
20 we're going to vote on before the vote takes
21 place. It's the only proper way to do this. I
22 hope that you take that into consideration.

23 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

24 CHAIR AQUINO: As a reminder, if there's

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1 anyone, including our republican colleagues, if
2 you'd like to submit your maps, if you submit them
3 by October 14th, you will be giving witnesses two
4 weeks to review those maps as they will be on our
5 website again and also on ilga.gov.

6 And, again, there's no further
7 business to come before the committee. This
8 meeting of the Senate Redistricting Committee
9 stands adjourned.

10 Thank you.

11 (Meeting concluded at 11:40 a.m.)

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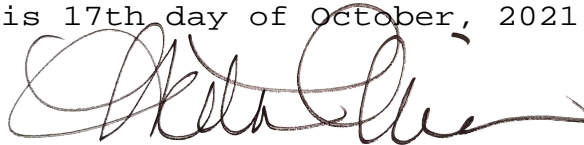
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I, HELEN MILLER, CSR, RPR, within and for the County of Lake, State of Illinois, do hereby certify that the ILLINOIS SENATE REDISTRICTING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING given on October 8, 2021 was reported by means of stenographic shorthand given at the foregoing proceedings, and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript to the best of my ability pursuant to my shorthand notes so taken as aforesaid.

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

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand on this 17th day of October, 2021.



Helen Miller, CSR, RPR
084-004434

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