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STATE OF ILLINOIS
SENATE REDISTRICTING SUBCOMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2021

2:00 P.M.

VIA ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE

1 PRESENT via Zoom videoconference:
2
3 ILLINOIS REDISTRICTING SUBCOMMITTEE:
4 SENATOR ELGIE R. SIMS, JR., Vice-Chair
5 SENATOR SCOTT M. BENNETT, Member
6 SENATOR CRISTINA CASTRO, Member
7 SENATOR MATTIE HUNTER, Member
8 SENATOR EMIL JONES, Member
9 SENATOR LAURA M. MURPHY, Member
10 SENATOR JASON BARICKMAN, Minority Spokesperson
11 SENATOR STEVE McCLURE, Member
12 SENATOR JASON PLUMMER, Member
13 SENATOR TERRI BRYANT
14
15 SENATE STAFF:
16 MR. JOSHUA HORELED
17 MR. GIOVANNI RANDOZZO
18
19 WITNESSES:
20 MS. JANETH BARBA
21 MR. ARNIE BERNSTEIN
22 MR. JUAN CALDERON
23 (Puerto Rican Cultural Center)
24 MS. MADELEINE DOUBEK
 (Change Illinois Action Fund)
 MS. CLARE DUGGAN
 (Illinois 123GO)
 MR. ANDREW ELLISON
 MR. DALE FAST
 MS. CELESTE FLORES
 (Mano a Mano Family Resource Center)
 MR. CHRISTOPHER KANICH
 MR. ABRAHAM MATTHEW
 MS. JEANETTE QUIRK
 MS. ANNA SCHIBROWSKY
 ALSO PRESENT:
 MR. BRIAN BURIAN
 MR. MIKE HOFFMAN

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1 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Good afternoon. This is
2 the meeting of the Senate Redistricting
3 Committee. The meeting is called to order.
4 Clerk, please take roll.

5 MR. RANDOZZO: Mr. Chairman, I believe we
6 have a substitution letter from Senator
7 McConchie.

8 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: I'm looking for the
9 letter now, Mr. Clerk.

10 MR. RANDOZZO: It's Senator Bryant in
11 place of Senator McConchie, sir.

12 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Okay. I have a letter
13 from Senator McConchie replacing Leader
14 McConchie with Senator Bryant. Welcome,
15 Senator Bryant.

16 Clerk, you can proceed with the roll.

17 MR. RANDOZZO: Perfect. Senator Bryant?
18 Senator Plummer?

19 SENATOR PLUMMER: Present.

20 MR. RANDOZZO: Senator McClure?

21 SENATOR McCLURE: Present. Senator Bryant
22 is getting re-hooked up here, so she'll be on
23 in two seconds.

24 MR. RANDOZZO: Senator Bryant?

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1 SENATOR BRYANT: I'm on. Present.

2 MR. RANDOZZO: Senator Barickman?

3 SENATOR BARICKMAN: Present.

4 MR. RANDOZZO: Senator Murphy? Senator
5 Murphy?

6 SENATOR MURPHY: I'm sorry. I must have
7 been muted. Here.

8 MR. RANDOZZO: Senator Jones?

9 SENATOR JONES: Here.

10 MR. RANDOZZO: Senator Hunter?

11 SENATOR HUNTER: Here.

12 MR. RANDOZZO: Senator Cunningham?

13 SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Here.

14 MR. RANDOZZO: Senator Castro?

15 SENATOR CASTRO: Here.

16 MR. RANDOZZO: Senator Bennett?

17 Vice-Chair Sims?

18 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Present.

19 MR. RANDOZZO: And Senator Aquino is
20 absent. We have a quorum, sir.

21 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you.

22 There being a quorum present, the
23 following entities are seeking leave to
24 photograph and video today's proceedings,

1 Blueroom Stream. Is there leave? Leave being
2 granted. Senator Castro for a motion.

3 SENATOR CASTRO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4 I move that this hearing be
5 transcribed by the court reporter so that the
6 Committee can have a full transcript of this
7 hearing.

8 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you, Senator.

9 Senator Castro moves to allow a court reporter
10 to transcribe today's hearing. Is there
11 leave? Leave being granted. The court
12 reporter will be allowed to transcribe today's
13 hearing.

14 On Friday, the Congressional map
15 proposal was posted on the House and Senate
16 Redistricting websites. Since the posting of
17 that map, the Redistricting Committee has
18 received nine Congressional map proposals from
19 members of the public. Each of those maps
20 have been posted on the Senate Districting
21 Committee's ILGA website. We've emailed those
22 individuals and invited them to testify at
23 this hearing.

24 The Committee has also received a

1 number of email correspondences, which has
2 been posted on the Committee's ILGA website
3 under the testimony tab.

4 Today's hearing will focus on the
5 proposals released or submitted since the
6 Committee began its hearing on October 1st in
7 Des Plaines. The purpose of this hearing is
8 to hear testimony from the public regarding
9 what they want to see in the Congressional map
10 for the next decade.

11 We have the following individuals who
12 have signed up to testify today: Trevor
13 Anthony Anderson from Oak Lawn Community High
14 School representing himself submitted three
15 maps for consideration; Andrew Ellison on
16 behalf of himself submitted one map for
17 consideration; Juan Calderon on behalf of the
18 Puerto Rican Cultural Center; Celeste Flores
19 Mano a Mano Family Resource Center; Janeth
20 Barba on behalf of self, Clare Duggan on
21 behalf of Illinois 123GO; Anna Schibrowsky
22 representing self; Dale Fast representing
23 self; Arnie Bernstein representing himself;
24 Christopher Kanish representing himself;

1 Abraham Matthew representing himself; and
2 Madeleine Doubek on behalf of Change Illinois
3 Action Fund.

4 Our first witness will be Mr. Trevor
5 Anthony Anderson on behalf of the Oak Lawn
6 Community High School.

7 SENATOR BARICKMAN: Mr. Chairman, could we
8 just have some housekeeping matters, maybe
9 before we begin with the witnesses?

10 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: What are those
11 housekeeping matters, Senator Barickman?

12 SENATOR BARICKMAN: I raised my hand. I
13 guess, first, Mr. Chairman, there was
14 discussion at the prior hearing -- and I think
15 the Speaker's office has confirmed -- the
16 meetings that occurred between --

17 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator Barickman, why
18 don't we come back to that after we have
19 testimony from witnesses?

20 SENATOR BARICKMAN: Well, here is the
21 question, though, Mr. Chairman, with all due
22 respect. Is there a sponsor of the
23 legislation for which we plan to vote upon?

24 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator Barickman, why

1 don't we come back to that and we can have
2 that discussion of your questions after we
3 hear from witnesses?

4 SENATOR BARICKMAN: But for the witnesses'
5 questions, Mr. Chairman, I would like to
6 direct my questions to the sponsor of the bill
7 and I'm trying to inquire whom that person is
8 on this Committee.

9 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator Barickman, at
10 this moment, we don't even know what the
11 witnesses are going to testify to. How about
12 we hear from the witnesses and we come back to
13 your questions after we've heard from
14 witnesses?

15 SENATOR BARICKMAN: Will we hear today
16 from any witnesses regarding the judicial
17 sub-circuits, Mr. Chairman?

18 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator, I'm trying to
19 get to the witnesses so that we can hear from
20 them. I don't know what the witnesses are
21 going to testify to.

22 SENATOR BARICKMAN: The reason I ask, in
23 the House hearings, witnesses who tried to ask
24 questions regarding the judicial sub-circuits

1 were told that they could not make those
2 presentations. Does this hearing involve also
3 the judicial sub-circuits?

4 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator Barickman, as
5 you know, this is not the House. Can we get
6 to the witnesses and let's hear the questions
7 that they have.

8 SENATOR BARICKMAN: Fair enough,
9 Mr. Chairman. I look forward to that.

10 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you.

11 So our first witness is Mr. Trevor
12 Anthony Anderson from Oak Lawn Community High
13 School. Mr. Anderson, you have the floor.
14 Mr. Anderson? Going once. We can certainly
15 come back to Mr. Anderson.

16 Mr. Andrew Ellison on behalf of self
17 who submitted one map for consideration.

18 Mr. Ellison, we'll start with you,
19 sir.

20 MR. ELLISON: Good afternoon, everyone.
21 And I just want to clarify real quick, do I
22 have the opportunity to share my screen or is
23 that restricted at this time?

24 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Please, go ahead.

1 MR. ELLISON: Certainly. Excellent.

2 Just to clarify again, my name is
3 Andrew Ellison. I am here representing
4 myself. I'm not on behalf of any
5 organization. I'm originally from Kokomo,
6 Indiana.

7 Last night I drove three and a half
8 hours from Kokomo, Indiana, it's the central
9 part of the state, all the way out here to
10 Springfield to give my testimony on these maps
11 because I'm very passionate about the issue of
12 redistricting and what's happening in
13 Illinois. I just want to make sure that I'm
14 having my concerns taken seriously. And so I
15 thank you very much for having this Committee
16 hearing today.

17 Just as bit of background on myself,
18 being originally from Indiana, I went to
19 Indiana University. I graduated with a degree
20 in political science in 2016.

21 In terms of my experience here in
22 Illinois, my stakes here, in 2016 I lived and
23 worked in the Peoria area for Tammy
24 Duckworth's 2016 Senate campaign. In 2017 and

1 2018, I was Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi's
2 finance assistant. I was an organizer for Ann
3 Gillespie's Senate -- state Senate campaign in
4 2018. And in 2019 I had the great pleasure of
5 serving in the state house as a legislative
6 assistant for several representatives.

7 And so I've felt a great attachment
8 to Illinois in my time here. And I just want
9 to make sure that this process is going well,
10 to make sure that that work bears fruition.

11 And the final bit of my background is
12 that this last month the Indiana Senate
13 Democratic Caucus used my non-partisan
14 Congressional map as their baseline counter
15 proposal map during testimony. And so I've
16 had a bit of professional credibility on the
17 matter of redistricting issues at the
18 professional level.

19 So in that context, I have attempted
20 to submit my preferred proposal for a
21 Congressional map through the portal on the
22 redistricting website. I had difficulty
23 getting it submitted. There were technical
24 issues at the end that were completely

1 preventing me from submitting it. So I've
2 attempted to email it to the email address for
3 the Senate Committee as well as to the House
4 Committee.

5 I had some adjustments that I'll
6 discuss a bit, but more or less it's very
7 similar to the plan that I would like to see.

8 So if there is any ability to talk
9 with someone technical on that end, that would
10 be appreciated.

11 But the thing I would just note about
12 that is that this hasn't just been a casual
13 activity for me. I've spent hundreds of hours
14 over the last couple years kind of working on,
15 thinking over this map, perfecting it.

16 You know, there is over 10,000
17 precincts, voting precincts in the state of
18 Illinois. And I've been very deliberate about
19 every single precinct and where I put each one
20 of those on the map. I put deep thought into
21 my process on this. And so it's not just a
22 casual concern.

23 I want to make sure that as Illinois
24 moves in this next decade, that the state is

1 very thoughtful about its process and how it
2 approaches these maps.

3 I've felt a great sense of hope in
4 the sense of where the Democratic majority is
5 trying to push the maps as they move forward.
6 And I also have a great sense of concern in
7 terms of the feeling that the caucuses are
8 overextending a bit in terms of what they're
9 trying to achieve with the maps in terms of a
10 partisan sense or the breaking of communities
11 of interest. And so I wanted to touch on that
12 today with the comparison to the proposal that
13 I want to make.

14 And when I'm approaching it, my main
15 concern is stability, just making sure that
16 you have a stable map that, one, can reflect
17 the communities of interest in an effective
18 way but also providing some sort of stability
19 in the sense of what kind of representatives
20 are representing a lot of these areas.

21 The Ohio map that was proposed this
22 last decade, you could even argue was a very
23 stable map in the sense that they had 80 U.S.
24 House elections over the decade with a very

1 consistent record of not having a ton of
2 partisan turn in that sense.

3 So they originally had to split
4 Columbus into three different districts to
5 maximize Republican representation in those
6 area in a way that it fluctuated very heavily.
7 And in the last decade, they seated a seat to
8 the Democratic party in the Columbus area,
9 allowing them to shore up some of the
10 Republican seats in that region.

11 And so in that sense I want to bring
12 my attention to the 3rd Congressional District
13 both as it exists today and in the sense of
14 how the Committee has proposed changing and
15 recreating the districting system that they
16 have there.

17 My deep concern with the 3rd District
18 is that I would call it the most gerrymandered
19 Congressional district in the country; not
20 just for partisan intent but also for the
21 intention of what kind of person is being
22 elected in the primary electorate. It is not
23 a coherent community of interest. It is a
24 group of disparate communities that have been

1 mashed together that have very disparate
2 concerns and needs between each other.

3 In the northern parts of the 3rd
4 District, you have a lot of working-class
5 Latino communities. In the very northeast
6 corner, in Bridgeport and Armour Square, you
7 have a very strong Asian population presence.
8 And in some of these areas, you also have many
9 white ethnic enclaves, whether it is Italian
10 or Irish or Polish communities. And then
11 white working-class communities to the south.
12 And then some wealthier more college-educated
13 suburbs like the LaGrange area and Western
14 Springs in the northwest corner.

15 They're communities that have very
16 little in common with each other, but they
17 were drawn in a way to emphasize the election
18 of Democratic candidates like the Lipinskis,
19 Bill Lipinski before and Dan Lipinski in
20 recent years, who promote more culturally
21 conservative values that aren't necessarily
22 reflective of a lot of areas that have been
23 included in those areas; specifically because
24 they depend on low turnout and low citizenship

1 rates from minority communities to emphasize
2 the voting power of these more conservative
3 white voters in the primaries.

4 With that understanding, in the way
5 that they districts have had to flail out in
6 Chicagoland trying to preserve all these
7 seats, I feel it in my heart that it needs to
8 be proposed as a novel proposal, a modest
9 proposal you might say that the 3rd District
10 as it exists as a haven and a money pit for
11 money interest to have the 3rd District be
12 eliminated as it exists and have these
13 working-class communities combined with the
14 nearby existing Voting Right Act complaint
15 districts, to make sure that their needs are
16 being met well.

17 It is not lost on me that the
18 existing Voting Rights Act districts are
19 having to see a massive amount of change under
20 the existing proposals.

21 I'm going to share my screen here so
22 that you can all kind of look at the scheme
23 here. As we have it here, this is the
24 proposal that -- for communities put forward

1 this last Friday, including the overlay of the
2 existing districts on top so that we can get a
3 sense of exactly where they are.

4 The lines are how the districts are
5 as they are now. The colors are how they
6 would change.

7 It's not lost on me that most of the
8 districts to the north and the west part of
9 Chicagoland have seen very little change in
10 terms of population or any other concerns.

11 Brad Schneider's 10th District, Jan
12 Schakowsky's 9th District, Mike Quigley's 5th,
13 Raja Krishnamoorthi's 8th, Sean Casten's 6th,
14 Chuy Garcia's 4th, these districts saw very
15 little change in terms of what they needed.

16 But the four black members of the
17 Illinois delegation also saw significant
18 changes to their districts to make room for
19 the 3rd. Bobby Rush, in particular, was very
20 vocal in his opposition to the map in recent
21 days. His district is being forced to draw
22 all the way out to take in a bunch of rural
23 areas that have, frankly, nothing to do or
24 nothing in common with the communities of his

1 district. Robin Kelly's district even more so
2 being drawn all the way to the Peru-Ottawa
3 area; areas that functionally have nothing in
4 common with the area around Jackson Park or
5 any of the Chicago southland area.

6 And so it's not lost on me that the
7 black representatives of our delegation are
8 having to pay a certain price to make room for
9 representatives who are coming from, you know,
10 the white suburbs from LaGrange or Western
11 Springs. And, frankly, if I was a member of
12 the ILBC or one of these black members, I
13 would be very upset with this map, as I know
14 that Bobby Rush and others are.

15 So the message that that sends is not
16 lost on me. So in that sense I feel like
17 because of the problems that have been coming
18 out of the 3rd District in terms of fan
19 representations presenting and the kind of
20 sacrifices it would have to make to make room
21 for that when these other districts are not
22 having to do that, I propose that the 3rd
23 District be eliminated to make room for these
24 other seats.

1 So in that spirit, I have proposed
2 this map that I have submitted to the
3 Committee for your consideration. I just
4 wanted to note I tried to submit this through
5 the web portal to the House and the Senate, as
6 I noted earlier. There was problems where I
7 wasn't able to, but I have sent it through
8 email for your consideration.

9 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Mr. Ellison, we have
10 received your proposal and it is posted on our
11 website, so you don't have to worry about that
12 for the Senate. We do have the proposal
13 posted.

14 MR. ELLISON: Wonderful. Thank you.

15 I will note that there were some
16 slight changes in a couple precincts I was
17 trying to change that are different between
18 this map and what's on there. But the general
19 spirit of it is very similar, so I do
20 appreciate that. Thank you.

21 In that spirit, this map proposal
22 that I've created I feel better reflects the
23 communities of interest that we would find in
24 the Chicagoland area trying to achieve balance

1 and better trying to achieve the goals the
2 Committee is trying to achieve in this region.

3 The 1st District that Congressman
4 Rush represents would now be entirely within
5 Cook County. It would take in the southwest
6 suburbs along with what he's representing
7 right now.

8 The 2nd District that Robin Kelly
9 represents would not have to be stretching out
10 into rural Kankakee County or even out to the
11 Peru-Ottawa area. It would remain uniting the
12 Chicago southland areas.

13 One other concern that I have
14 regarding the other member of the delegation,
15 Danny Davis, I am very worried that the map
16 that has been proposed for him might not be
17 Voting Rights Act compliant, just in the sense
18 that, as has been proposed -- I'll even pull
19 it up here for you to look at -- the 7th
20 District right now, it's only coming out to
21 about 42.9 percent black in terms of
22 voting-age population in 2020.

23 When you measure it by citizen
24 voting-age population 2019 or the

1 voting-eligible population as an estimate,
2 it's only coming out to about 49 percent
3 black. Whereas under my proposal, I'm able to
4 boost it up to about 45.1 percent black for
5 the census voting-age population. And on the
6 estimate of the citizen voting-age population,
7 it comes out to about 51 percent black.

8 The reason for this is that currently
9 the Asian population in Armour Square and
10 Bridgeport is currently split apart into
11 several districts. I've unified those into
12 the 7th District along with several Latino
13 neighborhoods on the southwest side.

14 And by doing that, because they're
15 lower citizenship rates in those communities,
16 you are able to artificially inflate the
17 electorate to make it so that the district
18 becomes majority black, for all intents and
19 purposes, and compliant with the Voting Rights
20 Act.

21 So at a minimum, you know, to avoid
22 any kind of lawsuit, I would try to be very
23 mindful of that in trying to boost the black
24 representation in that district as well.

1 Beyond that, I think it's just very
2 evident that as we're going into the next
3 election, trying to overextend yourself in a
4 very partisan way, trying to maximize the
5 number of seats that have been proposed in the
6 map, whether it's, you know, 14 Democrats and
7 3 Republicans or even 15 Democrats and 2
8 Republican, as another plan was put out on
9 Sundays, I feel, you know, going into a -- by
10 the midterm would be playing with fire to say
11 the least.

12 Some of these districts, especially
13 the 3rd District, as its proposed, in my mind
14 as a Democratic operative, it is not
15 sustainable in the long run.

16 **A lot of sacrifices are being made by**
17 **black members of the delegation to make room**
18 **for a district that may not even be**
19 **sustainable in the long run. So I think**
20 **that's something to be very mindful of.**

21 **The reason that I think those**
22 **districts are being proposed in that way by**
23 **consultants, whether they're in DC or Illinois**
24 **or wherever, is not out of a concern of**

1 maximizing Democratic interests. I'm sure
2 they want more Democrats to be represented.
3 But I don't think that at the end of the day
4 their primary motivation is whether a district
5 is red or blue. What they're most concerned
6 about is the green, whether they're getting
7 paid significant amounts of money for multiple
8 competitive districts in a very expensive
9 Chicagoland media market.

10 If there are four light blue seats,
11 they are maybe, in theory, just out of reach
12 for Republicans but just enough to incentivize
13 a lot of money to come in. The interests are
14 not there for representation or what the
15 people of the district need. The consultants
16 are pushing that because they want districts
17 that are going to force campaigns to spend a
18 lot of money there. And it is going to be an
19 invitation that way.

20 Because in all likelihood, there are
21 only going to be 20 to 25 Congressional
22 districts in the entire country that are going
23 to be competitive next year because of both
24 gerrymandering and regional polarization

1 throughout the entire country.

2 And that is coupled with the national
3 campaign arms, the DCCC and NRCC, raising
4 record sums of money. We've never been in an
5 era where we've raised this much campaign cash
6 with so few competitive Congressional
7 districts. It will be an open invitation for
8 dark money interest to come into the state and
9 flood the state with negative money.

10 They'll tell you otherwise. But
11 that's going to have a negative impact on the
12 state, not just at the Congressional level.
13 It will bleed down to legislative races. You
14 know, it will be a Pandora's box that will not
15 be something that can easily be contained no
16 matter what anyone is promising.

17 The Fair Tax Amendment last year was
18 not a fluke. The Justice Kilbride retention
19 last year was not a fluke. There is voter
20 outrage out there that's not dissipated.

21 And if this dark money is coming into
22 the state and aggravating people, making them
23 upset, it's going to spiral out of control.
24 If you think -- if you think those are flukes,

1 I've got a big metal bean in the loop I'd like
2 to sell you.

3 I'm hopeful that the Committee will
4 at least consider my proposal and my thoughts
5 today and be mindful that a bird in the hand
6 is worth two in the bush, in that being
7 mindful about the needs for communities of
8 interest, making sure that the districts ae
9 representative of the communities as they
10 deserve them to be is healthy and better for
11 the state in the long run and creating a
12 stable political environment that will favor
13 the people of Illinois in the long run.

14 So with that, I thank you very much
15 for your time and consideration today. And
16 thank you for holding this meeting.

17 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you so much,
18 Mr. Ellison.

19 Questions from members of the
20 Committee? Senator Castro.

21 SENATOR CASTRO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
22 And first off, thank you, Mr. Ellison, for
23 actually driving out here to testify today.
24 So thank you very much.

1 MR. ELLISON: Certainly.

2 SENATOR CASTRO: A couple questions.
3 Illinois lost population and lost a seat,
4 obviously. But the Latino community grew and
5 is now about 18.2 percent of the population.

6 My question is, do you support two
7 Latino or Latino-influenced districts?

8 MR. ELLISON: On the merits I support it.
9 In terms of practicality, I would argue that
10 it is -- at least as it has been proposed by
11 outside groups, I don't believe it's
12 necessarily workable in the sense that if we
13 had 20 districts or 22 -- I don't know the
14 exact number -- but if we had more
15 Congressional districts, I would absolutely be
16 in favor of that because I do feel like
17 Illinois is deserving a more Latino
18 representation.

19 The issue is that when you account
20 for it -- so I'll go ahead and pull my map up
21 again so you can look at it, just as an
22 example. So if I can find it here, sorry.

23 The basic gist of what I was going to
24 get at here is the 4th District, as I've got

1 it, as it exists right now, the total
2 population comes out to about 71 percent
3 Latino. When you go by census and voting-age
4 population, it comes down, as I note here, to
5 about 67.5 percent Latino.

6 When you start accounting for the
7 voting-eligible population, the citizen
8 voting-age population based on 2019 estimates,
9 it starts coming down to about 58 percent
10 Latino. And then when we account for drops in
11 turnout in a lot of these areas, you start
12 getting into a little shakier turf where it's
13 still majority Latino by the electorate, but
14 it starts getting very shaky very quick.

15 And so in theory, you could split the
16 earmuffs in a way that I'm not necessarily
17 sure would be very complaint. But my point is
18 that if you break that northern earmuff off
19 and try to put it in other areas, under a
20 17-district scheme, in all likelihood, it
21 would still end up as a plurality white
22 electorate and you'll probably end up with
23 maybe a white representative who might be
24 amenable to the concerns of the Latino

1 community, but not necessarily any more than
2 what they might get with any other member.

3 What I will say is that I believe
4 my 11th District, I feel, actually offers a
5 good opportunity for a Latino seat, even
6 though it is not in any way in an attempt to
7 be VRA compliant or anything like that. My
8 11th District comes out to about 22 percent
9 Latino and it is the home of Aurora and West
10 Chicago.

11 I know that there are many prominent
12 Latino political figures out in that region.
13 There are many prominent Latino figures in
14 Aurora. I know Senator Karina Villa lives out
15 in that area.

16 And so while Bill Foster may
17 represent that area now and he may run there
18 or he may do something else in his career -- I
19 don't know, I don't try to speculate on any of
20 that. But sometime in the distant future, you
21 know, I feel like my 11th District could be a
22 good opportunity district for a Latino
23 representative of a certain sort.

24 And that makes sense to me just in

1 the sense that Kane County is the most Latino
2 county in the state. So logically that region
3 would make a good hub for a second Latino
4 opportunity district.

5 And so while I think -- while I think
6 an effort to create, like, a second majority
7 or plurality Latino seat is not feasible under
8 a 17-district system, I think that some seats
9 like my 11th or even my 5th could provide good
10 opportunities for Latino representation in the
11 future.

12 SENATOR CASTRO: So a follow-up to that,
13 have you attempted in your iteration here,
14 attempted to draw either straight Latino or a
15 Latino-influenced district? Have you
16 attempted that? I know you mentioned
17 something about the 3rd Congressional and
18 it's, you know, having the high second-highest
19 Latino population of all the Congressional
20 districts. Have you attempted that?

21 MR. ELLISON: Yes. I know that one of my
22 friends, Frank Calabrese has made efforts. I
23 know that he testified last week on kind of an
24 idea that he has mocked up.

1 I think in -- in theory -- although I
2 will say one error with that analysis is that
3 oftentimes it's using total population, which
4 is not the standard that you want to use when
5 you're measuring for Voting Rights Act
6 compliance just in the sense that children and
7 noncitizens can't vote.

8 And so their impact in terms of who
9 they're actually electing, even though they're
10 represented by someone, they're not able to
11 have an impact on process in terms of having a
12 candidate of Latino voters' choice.

13 So I have looked at different
14 schemes. I have attempted it. In actuality,
15 when you're creating a district like that
16 where you're taking kind of the northern
17 earmuff and you're either trying to stretch
18 out it to Elgin or doing something where maybe
19 you're stretching the southern earmuff out to
20 Aurora or something like that, you end up with
21 districts where maybe it's coming in at like
22 the 30s or something like that when you start
23 getting into the voting-age population or,
24 certainly, by census voting-age population so

1 -- or the citizen voting-age population.

2 So, again, in theory, you might be
3 able to get something -- well, you get a
4 significant minority. But in terms of, again,
5 under a 17-district scheme, it's basically
6 impossible to make it work that way. If we
7 had more districts in the state, if we hadn't
8 been populated as much, I would absolutely
9 want to see that because I feel -- I'm a
10 massive proponent of, like, maximizing
11 minority representation. Minorities have been
12 very underrepresented in our political process
13 for our entire history. And I think we're
14 making big gains in that. You are a testament
15 to that, I should say.

16 But it's difficult under the scheme
17 that we've been able to provide under the
18 rules that we have to work it, it's difficult
19 to create a majority or even plurality Latino
20 second seat at this time.

21 SENATOR CASTRO: One other question, you
22 mentioned Elgin. Is Elgin in your 8th or in
23 your 11th?

24 MR. ELLISON: Elgin is in my --

1 SENATOR CASTRO: It's kind of hard to see.

2 MR. ELLISON: Yeah, Elgin is primarily in
3 my 8th District here. I might have, like,
4 little fringes just because I had -- all of my
5 districts population-wise are exactly equal
6 down to the person, plus or minus one person.
7 So I might have taken a little fringe here and
8 there. But, like, for all intents and
9 purposes, Elgin is in the 8th District.

10 SENATOR CASTRO: Thank you.

11 MR. ELLISON: Certainly, thank you.

12 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you, Senator
13 Castro.

14 **A bit of housekeeping, we have a**
15 **request from Andrew Campbell from WGEM to**
16 **videotape today's proceedings and from Lee**
17 **Milner to photograph today's proceedings.**

18 **I see a hand from Senator Bryant.**
19 **Senator Bryant.**

20 SENATOR BRYANT: I didn't expect to get
21 recognized that quickly.

22 Mr. Ellison, looking at your
23 districts for 17 and 13, on those two
24 districts, do you believe that the citizens in

1 those communities would be adequately
2 represented considering it looks like there
3 may be 300 miles or more from the north to the
4 south in the 17th?

5 And then also I'm curious to know
6 what the metro east has in common at the lower
7 western part of 13 with the central part of
8 13, which tends to be very rural. So I'm --
9 looking at 17 and 13 and not understanding
10 your rationale.

11 MR. ELLISON: Certainly, yes. I like to
12 think that I'm a very transparent person. I
13 try to be upfront with people.

14 So I would say, like, these are,
15 obviously, not compact districts. Like anyone
16 with two working eyes would say that. They
17 are very -- geographically these are very
18 disparate areas that are being drawn together.

19 However, I would say that there are
20 very distinct communities of interest that are
21 being drawn together. These two particular
22 districts, especially the 17th, along with the
23 13th as well, are primarily urban and suburban
24 districts. There are nominally rural parts

1 within them that are fairly sparsely
2 populated.

3 But in terms of the concerns of these
4 communities, I wouldn't say that there are
5 good communities of interest between them. My
6 13th District, for example, is over 20 percent
7 black. There are significant black
8 populations in all of the major cities that I
9 connected to the 13th in Champaign-Urbana,
10 Decatur, Springfield, and throughout the metro
11 east.

12 There are significant black
13 populations who otherwise, because of being
14 very fractured throughout central and southern
15 Illinois, there is a very distinct chance that
16 the concerns of the communities, who have been
17 consistently underserved throughout state
18 history in a lot of these areas, by uniting
19 them together, it strengthens, it pulls and
20 strengthens their voting power within the
21 district and creates a situation where they
22 are better poised to achieve the -- to achieve
23 the ends and the needs that they need to see
24 met in their communities that they might not

1 otherwise been getting over time.

2 SENATOR BRYANT: You could be uniting them
3 by race. But you can look at 17 and clearly
4 you're not uniting them, as you said, in using
5 a compact situation.

6 So you could have someone 3- to
7 400 miles away in a community that may or may
8 not have transportation -- and I get it, the
9 elected should be reaching out to their
10 constituency. But you still have to be able
11 for the individual constituents to also reach
12 out to their representative.

13 So separating them that much, clearly
14 it sounds to me like you are -- you are
15 looking to unite by numbers on a chart whether
16 certain populations are represented, but you
17 clearly do not care -- I'm sorry, I don't mean
18 to phrase it that way. You clearly did not --
19 I don't mean it emotional.

20 MR. ELLISON: You're fine.

21 SENATOR BRYANT: You clearly were not
22 looking to make sure that geographically that
23 they have access to their representative.

24 MR. ELLISON: Absolutely. And I think

1 that's a valid concern. I would say that the
2 17th District as we have it now, for example,
3 which is represented by Congresswoman Cheri
4 Bustos, it constitutes effectively all the
5 areas that we have in the 17th District right
6 now with the exception of the
7 Bloomington-Normal metro.

8 To all that I've understood,
9 Congresswoman Cheri Bustos has been a very
10 accessible congresswoman.

11 I'll note for example that when I was
12 working in the Peoria area for several months
13 in the 2016 campaign for Congresswoman
14 Duckworth at the time, now Senator, Cheri
15 Bustos came to our campaign office at least
16 three or four different times throughout that
17 campaign cycle. And I was only there for a
18 couple months. And I know that she was
19 visiting the others.

20 But that is not just the campaign
21 season that she is around. Whenever she's in
22 the district, I know, having had friends who
23 work in the office, when she's in the
24 district, she's wanting to visit every single

1 time. And even though she specifically will
2 not be there anymore, I have great confidence
3 at least that this district, again, will have
4 a representative who is very present
5 throughout the district and visiting a lot of
6 the urban and suburban areas of this district.

7 Once again, the 17th is not an
8 inherently rural district. It's uniting the
9 urban and suburban cores that scatter
10 throughout the northwestern and central
11 Illinois and the specific needs that they
12 have.

13 Whereas the rural communities, rural
14 and white, working-class, small, urban pockets
15 in the 14th and 16th District have very
16 disparate needs from what people in the
17 communities in the 17th District might have.

18 So in terms of compactness,
19 absolutely, I will say that I'm guilty as
20 charged. This is not a compact district.

21 But in terms of drawing communities
22 together that are going to have fairly similar
23 needs and concerns that they're wanting to
24 bring to their member of Congress, I would say

1 that the 17th District functions as an
2 effective community of interest.

3 SENATOR BRYANT: Except for the rural
4 communities of the 17th District who look, to
5 me, by this map, to have been totally left out
6 of the conversation. But I'll let you answer
7 that. And then that's all the questions I
8 have.

9 MR. ELLISON: Certainly. And one of the
10 main things that I try to hammer home to
11 people when discussing the issue of
12 redistricting is that it's impossible to make
13 everyone happy. There are always going to be
14 some people who don't necessarily have all of
15 their wants or needs met. There are winners
16 and losers to this process inherently.

17 And in my mind the goal is to make as
18 many people in a utilitarian way, make as many
19 people winners as possible.

20 That's not to say that I think the
21 rural people in this -- the rural residents of
22 this district are losers. I think that the
23 representative is going to have to pay
24 attention to these rural voters, just as much

1 as they have to pay attention to the urban
2 voters.

3 I know that Congresswoman Cheri
4 Bustos took that very seriously. And it
5 showed in the election results that she would
6 overperform relative to other candidates on
7 the ballot.

8 As it exists today, you know, it is a
9 district that voted for Donald Trump by 2
10 points, but she reelected by 4 because she a
11 very strong presence in these rural areas.

12 And I feel confident, you know, even
13 if the district is becoming more inherently
14 urban or suburban, there is still a
15 significant rural presence in this district.
16 And I don't think that any representative who
17 is worth their salt would ever be leaving
18 these rural areas behind, so to speak.

19 So even if they're not necessarily a
20 perfect fit, I'm not necessarily concerned
21 about their needs not be met, if that makes
22 sense.

23 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator Bryant, is that
24 your last question or is your hand still up?

1 SENATOR BRYANT: I'm sorry. No, that's
2 the last one. Thank you.

3 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you.
4 Senator Plummer.

5 SENATOR PLUMMER: Sure. Thank you,
6 Chairman Sims.

7 Mr. Ellison, thank you for appearing.
8 I know at the beginning you kind of walked
9 though your background a little bit and I know
10 you drove a long way.

11 But so I understood, you are
12 presently a resident of where?

13 MR. ELLISON: Kokomo, Indiana.

14 SENATOR PLUMMER: Kokomo, Indiana. Okay.
15 Great. Nice community.

16 So out of the sake of time, I know we
17 want to be a little careful here. But how
18 would you say your current proposal benefits
19 the citizens of Illinois in general?

20 MR. ELLISON: Yes, I would say that my
21 Chicagoland district for one, I think, better
22 reflects some of the communities of interest
23 throughout the region.

24 You know, Lake County being fully

1 united in one district instead of being split
2 two or three different ways. The 8th District
3 having the six northwest township of Cook
4 County. My 6th District is the six
5 eastern-most townships of DuPage County, along
6 with the northeastern parts of Wayne township.
7 You know, the 11th being Kane and western
8 DuPage. The 3rd is Kendall and northern Will.

9 And so each of these communities I
10 feel are much more coherent communities of
11 interest in that would better meet the needs
12 of the people in these areas. And I even feel
13 that way about the 13th and 17th, as I was
14 just elaborating with Senator Bryant in terms
15 of meeting that need.

16 So as a whole, I feel like my map
17 better represents what the communities of
18 interest in the state look like in terms of
19 what they need and having their voices heard
20 in the process.

21 SENATOR PLUMMER: I think during testimony
22 earlier I heard you say that there might only
23 be 20 to 25 competitive Congressional
24 districts nationally.

1 Do you view this as a good thing, a
2 bad thing? Is this an issue in your mind?

3 MR. ELLISON: I would say it is an issue.

4 SENATOR PLUMMER: In what way?

5 MR. ELLISON: Yes, I think at a national
6 level -- at a certain point, this is difficult
7 to control just because our country is
8 becoming so hyperpolarized in a regional
9 level, like, you know, urban and increasingly
10 suburban areas are becoming extremely
11 Democratic, more rural areas are becoming
12 extremely Republican. And this is not just an
13 American thing. This is becoming a global
14 issue along with, you know, education
15 polarization, for example. Like this isn't
16 just an Illinois issue.

17 Like, globally around the world, if
18 you're college educated, you're tending to
19 trend more Democratic. If you don't have a
20 college education, you're tending to trend
21 more Republican.

22 So I think a lot of that is feeding
23 into the polarization at the national level in
24 a way that individual parties can't

1 necessarily control.

2 But even compounding beyond that, we
3 have an issue where a lot of states are
4 redistricting their maps throughout the
5 country and engaging in a sort of Cold War,
6 you know, like a bit of an arms race,
7 ratcheting up the tensions between each other,
8 and making it so that limiting the number of
9 opportunities in competitive districts of the
10 country.

11 So, for example, being from Indiana,
12 I spoke and testified at some of the
13 redistricting hearings we had there. At one
14 point I had to drive two and a half hours down
15 to Columbus to make my voice heard on a -- my
16 feeling being from Kokomo, Indiana, part of
17 north central and east central Indiana, that
18 area has not had a member of Congress elected
19 to it in over 20 years since David McIntosh
20 tried to run for governor in 2000 and it
21 shows.

22 Our region is very industrial. It's
23 been depopulating for 40 years. And we've not
24 had a champion in Congress. We're always

1 getting drawn in with suburban areas of the
2 Indianapolis metro. And sure enough, with the
3 district that they've passed this time,
4 instead of making a more compact suburban
5 competitive district, as I had as my proposal
6 that the Indiana Senate Democrats used, they
7 opted to put Kokomo in with Hamilton County,
8 areas that basically have nothing in common
9 with each other.

10 And so when you have that arms race
11 where Indiana is doing this thing and maybe
12 Oregon or Texas or Illinois are doing all
13 these different things, at a national level, I
14 feel like it is problematic. And it's -- it
15 does create that arms race and incentive to
16 behave in that way.

17 SENATOR PLUMMER: So how does your
18 proposal provide more competition and more
19 choice for voters?

20 MR. ELLISON: Yes. So I would note that
21 my 2018 Attorney General race -- I've got it
22 on the right ledger there. Multiple districts
23 of mine in this case, you know, in a Biden
24 midterm, you know, historically the party out

1 of power tends to do better in midterms when
2 they're out of power. That's not an assured
3 thing. But if we're just making assumptions,
4 at least to some degree we can suspect that.

5 And, you know, if you've got a
6 situation where Kwame Raoul maybe wasn't doing
7 so well, maybe some of these districts in
8 theory, like my 17th or my 6th or my 11th
9 could be more competitive in some of those
10 scenarios.

11 I don't necessarily assume that again
12 because we have no idea what the environment
13 is going to look like. But I don't think it's
14 necessarily something that should be ruled
15 out.

16 SENATOR PLUMMER: So I guess my question
17 would be, you know, we don't have to dive into
18 the details, I think you kind of -- my
19 question was going to be how many competitive
20 districts do you think there are. I think you
21 kind of answered that. If you want to go a
22 little deeper, you're welcome to.

23 But I'm a little -- I'm a little
24 curious that there is a concern about the

1 national environment where there is not a lot
2 of competitive districts and then I look at a
3 map like this and I heard you say in Indiana
4 you tried to draw more competitive and more
5 compact districts for the Senate Democrats, I
6 believe you said. And I look at this and
7 these districts don't look super compact and
8 they don't look super competitive to me.

9 So it kind of seems like, you know,
10 again -- and I know you said in your opening
11 statement, I think you described your
12 occupation or something as a Democrat
13 operative. I'm just concerned here that this
14 map doesn't resolve those tensions that you
15 said are building up nationally. It doesn't
16 resolve some of those issues that I think
17 leads to a polarization of our politics, our
18 policies, and our population where
19 gerrymandering creates a less competitive
20 playground for the citizens to engage in their
21 civic duty.

22 And if you could walk me through this
23 map and how this is designed to create
24 competition, how this is designed to engage

1 the voters more, and how this is maybe
2 designed to diffuse those tensions, instead of
3 maybe being so partisan, I would love to hear
4 that.

5 But other than that, I think that
6 would be my last question. I sure do
7 appreciate the obvious amount of time you put
8 into this and traveling over here.

9 MR. ELLISON: Certainly, thank you.

10 I appreciate this question to help
11 clarify this. And I want to respect the
12 Committee's time to go too much longer.

13 But, basically, I don't necessarily
14 see my views on Indiana and Illinois as
15 incongruous. In the case of Indiana, I'm not
16 necessarily just drawing the district to be --
17 the 5th District, as I view it, to be
18 competitive. The way I drew it was I take
19 northern Indianapolis, most of Hamilton
20 County, northwest Boone -- or Boone County to
21 the northwest and then Hendricks to the west,
22 creating, just in a general sense, a district
23 that is highly concentrated with wealthier,
24 college-educated, white residents in the metro

1 area. They are their own --

2 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Mr. Ellison, if I could,
3 could you confine your discussion to the
4 Illinois recommendations? I appreciate the
5 discussions of Indiana. But could you confine
6 them to the Illinois proposal?

7 MR. ELLISON: Yes. My general point with
8 that is my concern first and foremost in that
9 instance is with creating a community of
10 interest rather than necessarily an interest
11 in partisan concern.

12 So with that in mind, when we're
13 looking at the Illinois map, it's basically
14 impossible for my 6th District, for example,
15 to be more compact than I've drawn it right
16 now. It is a very sensible community of
17 interest, much more so than either the
18 existing 6th District as it exists or, you
19 know, the proposal that's been put forward.

20 The western suburbs and the northwest
21 suburbs in particular, as I've noted with
22 educational polarization that's occurring,
23 these areas are filled with a lot of
24 college-educated, white residents who have

1 been trending Democratic. You would have to
2 go out of your way to draw a district that is
3 more amenable to Republicans just because of
4 the trends we're seeing in those areas.

5 And so my primary concern is making
6 sure that the communities of interest are
7 better represented in these areas and kind of
8 letting the partisanship fall where they may.

9 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator Plummer, was
10 that your last question?

11 SENATOR PLUMMER: That was. Thank you.

12 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Okay. Thank you so
13 much.

14 Mr. Ellison, thank you. It does look
15 like you spent a considerable amount of time
16 with this proposal and to be -- and to
17 participate here today. So we appreciate your
18 time and effort.

19 I guess I do have one question. As
20 you've talked the shifting districts, there
21 has also been shifting population. So with
22 the loss of the one district, the proposal has
23 to take that into consideration and making
24 sure that you're keeping those communities of

1 interest together.

2 And building on a couple of the
3 questions that Senator Castro asked in terms
4 of making sure that you are keeping the
5 communities of interest together and
6 adequately recognized them, I think that's
7 really the tone of all of the questions that
8 I've heard today from all of the participants
9 who asked questions, I'm just trying to
10 understand the proposal as -- and how it
11 maximizes those areas that you've outlined.

12 But I appreciate that. I think
13 you've answered a number of those questions
14 already, so I appreciate that. But that is an
15 area that I spent some time looking at this
16 proposal and a little more depth, I think that
17 would -- those are some of the things I know
18 I'm looking at.

19 MR. ELLISON: Yeah. I appreciate that
20 question. The one thing I guess I would
21 emphasize that I didn't even emphasize at the
22 House hearing is that, you know, when a state
23 loses a Congressional seat, more often than
24 not, the chunk of the population has to come

1 from where most of the people live. So even
2 though the heaviest deep population is coming
3 from, you know, quote/unquote, downstate
4 outside of the Chicagoland area, Chicagoland
5 still has two-thirds of the Congressional
6 districts. And so Chicagoland is still going
7 to bear the brunt in terms of what population
8 gets cut or which districts get cut, where the
9 population gets moved around.

10 And so with that in mind, my feeling
11 is that if we're trying to create the
12 districts in a sensible way that makes sense
13 for the communities that want to be
14 represented by them in terms of the
15 representatives who are trying to run for
16 them, the elimination of the 3rd District as
17 it currently exists, has existed for some time
18 in the hodgepodge of communities that is drawn
19 together, it makes sense in my mind to split
20 those disparate communities up with disparate
21 needs into the districts that are most
22 representative for them; putting the Latino
23 voters in the northern part of the 3rd
24 District in with the 4th District that's

1 majority Latino because Congressman Garcia or
2 someone else will have a better sense for
3 them; putting Asian voters in the Armour
4 Square and Bridgeport area in the 7th to make
5 sure it's very compliant, et cetera.

6 So in my mind to make everything
7 balance and sit just right, eliminating that
8 3rd District as it exists makes the most sense
9 to me in terms of getting everything to fit
10 just right at the statewide level. I think
11 you're muted there.

12 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you, Mr. Ellison.
13 I appreciate that explanation and the
14 proposal. This was very helpful.

15 MR. ELLISON: Thank you very much for the
16 opportunity. I appreciate it.

17 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Absolutely.

18 Next we're going to move on to
19 Mr. Juan Calderon. Mr. Calderon, you have the
20 floor, sir.

21 MR. CALDERON: Thank you, Senator and
22 Leader.

23 Good evening, Senators. My name is
24 Juan Calderon. I identify as Puerto Rican

1 Mexican, later in the census track as
2 African-American; born and raised in Chicago's
3 west side Humboldt Park. I'm currently a
4 member of the Commission to end poverty. And
5 I have -- my full-time job is the chief
6 operating officer at the Puerto Rican Cultural
7 Center.

8 I'm here today speaking on behalf of
9 our Latino/Latina neighbors across the
10 northwest side of Chicago and the suburbs.

11 The Illinois General Assembly
12 unveiled the draft of a Congressional map that
13 does not provide racial equity for
14 redistricting in Chicago's northwest side, and
15 specifically the northwest side suburbs.

16 I stand here today advocating for you
17 guys to consider to redraw the map to include
18 an additional Latino majority Congressional
19 district. Latinos have a significant
20 population growth and we need to amplify our
21 voices in Congress.

22 We need an additional voice in
23 Congress that will prioritize a Latino
24 collective agenda, both the Puerto Rico

1 Self-Determination Act currently in Congress
2 and the Immigration Reform Act.

3 Our policy team here at the Puerto
4 Rican Cultural Center is currently leading the
5 Self-Determination Act that I've mentioned,
6 H.R. 2070 that Congressmen Nydia Velazquez and
7 Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez introduced. This
8 current legislation calls for a status
9 convention to allow the people of Puerto Rico
10 to determine its status of independence or
11 state order to make a choice.

12 Why am I touching on this piece of
13 legislation of Congress? Because today we
14 have members in Congress that are not
15 listening to the Puerto Rican community, to
16 the Latino constituents because of the lack of
17 common interest and/or small percentage as
18 illustrated by the previous speaker of Latino
19 populations that are being segregated into
20 small pots in every district on the northwest
21 side and the suburbs. Furthermore, they have
22 no interest in becoming a voice for our
23 people.

24 Gentrification displacement, lack of

1 wealth, and growing taxes are the drivers of
2 the Latino population in Chicago's northwest
3 side that is dispersing to the suburbs.

4 Leaders of this great state, we must
5 continue to see a long-term impact that the
6 COVID pandemic is going to have in our
7 communities, specifically the Latino
8 community. And we need to make sure to have
9 an additional voice, an advocacy voice
10 alongside our Congressional Congressman Jesus
11 "Chuy" Garcia for the next generation of
12 Latino Illinoisans.

13 We need to have a Latino district in
14 Chicago's northwest side that will charge to
15 address the common interests of our
16 population.

17 As I close my brief remarks, I say
18 Illinois is ready for an additional Latino
19 voice and an advocate in Congress. Illinois
20 needs to completely overhaul the northwest
21 side current mapping recommendations to
22 incorporate a new district, hopefully a new
23 Latino-influenced district in the 11th
24 District that can start from the 11th District

1 and take from the 8th District, the 5th, and
2 the 6th District to create a Latino-influenced
3 district that will add and amplify our voice
4 as we are leading our efforts and pushing our
5 agenda forward in Congress.

6 And I leave you with that and thank
7 you for taking the time to listen to me.

8 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you, Mr. Calderon.

9 Senator Bryant, I see your hand
10 raised.

11 SENATOR BRYANT: Yes. I have a question
12 more out of curiosity than anything.
13 Mr. Calderon, I think you were here in the
14 Committee room just few minutes ago, but I
15 noticed that you are now someplace else in
16 what looks like the Capitol. The previous
17 witness was here to testify in the House
18 Committee, it looked like, from his testimony,
19 he was also here.

20 Is there any reason why you didn't
21 stay in the Committee room?

22 MR. CALDERON: Well, the only reason is
23 that I got there at 2 o'clock and an hour half
24 passed by and I had another prior engagement,

1 prior meeting beforehand. I didn't know if it
2 was going to delay.

3 SENATOR BRYANT: Okay. That's all I have.
4 Thank you.

5 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you.

6 Senator, other questions? Members?

7 Seeing none, thank you, Mr. Calderon,
8 for your testimony here and your advocacy on
9 this issue.

10 Next I have Celeste Flores seeking to
11 testify. Ms. Flores.

12 MS. FLORES: Good afternoon, Celeste
13 Flores. I'm here with Mano a Mano Family
14 Resource Center.

15 I wasn't planning on testifying, but
16 I was listening to the House hearing and, you
17 know, heard fellow community members
18 advocating for maps. And, you know, the
19 current map that's proposed at least for the
20 district -- one of the districts that Mano a
21 Mano serves is the 10th Congressional
22 District. And we see the Round Lake areas and
23 Waukegan being put together. And that's what
24 we are hoping for. That's what we're hearing

1 from the community.

2 So I have seen some map proposals
3 that would put those communities in different
4 Congressional seats. So I'm just asking this
5 Committee to stay on track with what they've
6 already -- what they've already proposed.

7 And I just want to thank this
8 Committee for putting out the maps and giving
9 the community time to look at them and be able
10 to testify and be part of this process. Thank
11 you all for your time and safe travels back
12 home. And good luck being back in session
13 next week.

14 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Ms. Flores, thank you.
15 Again, I appreciate that. We appreciate your
16 desire to testify here today. You have been
17 an active participant in this process, and we
18 appreciate you continuing to do that. Thank
19 you so much.

20 Next, I have Janeth Barba.

21 MS. BARBA: My name is Janeth Barba. I am
22 here to represent myself. And I'll tell you a
23 little bit about myself and kind of what I'm
24 hoping you guys will be able to accomplish.

1 I was born and raised in Aurora,
2 Illinois. I've worked in Aurora and actually
3 currently work in Aurora. So I have spent a
4 lot of time in that area.

5 I am the daughter of immigrant
6 parents. My mom is now a citizen, first
7 generation. And I grew up in a Latino
8 household, bilingual, speaking Spanish. I
9 went on from -- to graduate from Illinois
10 State University with my bachelor's in social
11 work and my master's in social work. And now
12 I'm a licensed clinical social worker. And I
13 work for an agency that's called Family
14 Service Association. It's a community mental
15 health agency that works in Kane County, the
16 Elgin part of Cook, and part of -- or Kendall
17 County. So, essentially, working in the
18 Aurora and Elgin community.

19 Previous to being in this position, I
20 actually worked for DuPage County and worked
21 heavily in the West Chicago area.

22 So I have a lot of experience working
23 with those three communities. Like I said,
24 one, I grew up and I've had the opportunity to

1 kind of see how it's grown through the time.

2 I also -- another unique role that I
3 have is that I am the police social work
4 supervisor at Aurora Police Department. So
5 I'm not speaking on behalf of them, but it
6 is -- it is Aurora that we serve and our
7 services are based on those individuals
8 experiencing crisis.

9 So I want to thank you all for
10 allowing me the opportunity to speak.

11 The proposed map would be unfair to
12 the Latino voters. Really, what it's going to
13 do right now is it's going to silence their
14 voice when we actually need to hear from them
15 the most. We have a large population that's
16 currently suffering but they're suffering in
17 silence.

18 So we definitely -- what I'm hoping
19 is that the communities of Aurora, Elgin, and
20 West Chicago are united so there is Latino
21 representation in those areas. Because the
22 families that live there whose children are
23 growing up there, there is a lot of
24 similarities in their values, in their

1 history, and the way that they view problems,
2 how they approach problems. But also the
3 things that negatively impact them; you know,
4 immigration issues, the economy, health, you
5 know, small businesses, you know. And even
6 just in that, there is information that says
7 Latino-owned businesses were not accessing the
8 Payment Protection loans compared to the
9 general population.

10 So we have a lot of Latino-owned
11 businesses that, essentially, have suffered
12 not being able to get assistance that other
13 businesses have been able to get. And that's
14 huge in our communities to have small
15 businesses. It really is a cornerstone for
16 us.

17 What I want to say is that what I've
18 noticed through my time in living in Aurora,
19 working with Aurora is that with different
20 generations, we see more and more desire to be
21 involved in political matters.

22 And a lot of that makes sense. You
23 know, I am a first-generation individual. I
24 went through the education system. I learned

1 about the political system and how to vote and
2 what that matters.

3 We have a growing population of
4 Latinos. As it was already mentioned before,
5 there is a lot of people exiting the state of
6 Illinois. That's not the case for Latinos.
7 Latinos are growing, especially in these
8 communities. And I'm sure once all the census
9 data is in, we'll probably end up seeing that
10 being represented.

11 So we have a huge desire of people
12 wanting to participate. And I think there is
13 a lot of momentum that right now needs to be
14 captured; the desire especially for the youth,
15 people who are starting their careers or in
16 their careers that really want to make
17 Illinois their home. Right?

18 There is a lot of states right now,
19 too, that are, you know, pulling on our --
20 some of our best resources. We want to keep
21 our Latinos here. And how we keep them here
22 is by them being heard and understood.

23 So, you know, my entry into voting,
24 it actually started at a young age. And I

1 know we talked about -- you know, there was
2 mention before how there is -- you know,
3 children are not eligible to vote. We
4 definitely know that. However, we're,
5 essentially, creating a system that they will
6 eventually be eligible to vote within this
7 time frame.

8 When I was -- I think I was like in
9 first grade. I'm going to date this back. My
10 first voting experience was actually going
11 with my mom to vote for Bill Clinton at the
12 time. So that was my first entry into what
13 it -- what voting even was, why did it matter.

14 We as Latinos, that's how we learn
15 things. We do things in community. We do
16 things, you know, in celebration. We,
17 essentially, need the momentum to keep going.
18 And the way we, essentially, keep the momentum
19 going is by, essentially, ensuring that our
20 voices are heard.

21 So one of the things that can happen,
22 essentially, if the Latino voice is not heard
23 and represented, is you're going to lose a lot
24 of those individuals that right now are like

1 let's, you know, address these issues, let's
2 come together, the community right now that's
3 coming together.

4 What's happened to previous
5 generations of Latino voters, in my opinion,
6 it's something called learned helplessness.
7 So that is actually a term I did not coin.
8 It's a psychological term that basically says
9 when you're exposed to a lot of pain and
10 suffering and you can't escape it and there is
11 no way of escaping what you've learned, you,
12 essentially, stop trying, even if the
13 situation now becomes escapable.

14 They did this, essentially, with
15 dogs. But they've seen this now working in --
16 this happens with individuals. The reality is
17 that we've had a large population of Latinos
18 that no matter what they say, what they vote
19 on, it doesn't make a difference because their
20 voice isn't strong enough represented. So
21 after awhile, it doesn't matter whether they
22 vote or don't vote or they participate or
23 don't participate. So they go into learned
24 helplessness. So even when there is an

1 opportunity, it makes it that much harder.

2 We have a population right now that
3 wants to participate. Let's not shut their
4 voices out and let them fall into what
5 previous generations have fallen into, which
6 is learned helplessness.

7 Now, those who are stuck in that,
8 they can come out, but they're going to need
9 to see how it's done. The population right
10 now that's younger, that's -- you know, has
11 gone through the education system here.
12 That's working. They're very invested.

13 Last thing I want to say is we
14 definitely need more than one district in
15 Illinois that will represent the Latino
16 population. And the Latino population
17 relationship is key. It's the key to
18 engaging, engaging them. So they don't need
19 to feel heard; they need to be heard. They
20 don't need to feel understood; they need to be
21 understood. Right? There is a difference
22 feeling than actually things happening as a
23 result of it.

24 So we definitely need to combine

1 communities that have similar needs and
2 similar strengths so we can build even on
3 those strengths that they already have.

4 So the areas of Aurora, Elgin, West
5 Chicago, they're communities that have, as
6 mentioned, a growing Latino population that
7 needs to be represented. And we need fair
8 redistricting that then accomplishes fair
9 representation. Thank you.

10 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: All right. Thank you,
11 Ms. Barba.

12 Questions from members of the
13 Committee? Seeing none, Ms. Barba, I
14 appreciate your participation here today. And
15 thank you for your testimony.

16 I will remind all of our witnesses to
17 please remember to state your name at the
18 beginning of your testimony and spell your
19 name for the record. As was mentioned at the
20 outset, we do have a court reporter who is
21 transcribing today's hearing, so we want to
22 make sure we get an accurate spelling of your
23 name.

24 Next, I have Clare Duggan. And make

1 sure you also state who you are representing.

2 Ms. Duggan, please, the floor is
3 yours.

4 MS. DUGGAN: Thank you Chairman, Senator
5 Sims. My name is Clare Duggan; C-l-a-r-e,
6 last name Duggan, D-u-g-g-a-n.

7 I represent a civic organization
8 based in the 19th Ward of the city of Chicago
9 on the far southwest side. Our organization
10 is called Illinois 123GO because we are a
11 community-based organization made up of our
12 neighbors that are based in the 1st, 2nd, and
13 3rd Congressional District of the state of
14 Illinois. The GO stands for gerrymander
15 override.

16 We believe in being a community-based
17 organization and unifying based on common
18 cause and common principles; not based on
19 lines that I know we all have to draw so we
20 know where to vote. But, you know, we believe
21 that the community activism is based on common
22 cause and knowing our neighbors and speaking
23 out and coming together on issues.

24 In 2018 Illinois 123GO joined with --

1 originally we were part of the first ten
2 organizations to join, we've since grown to 40
3 grassroots organizations across Illinois' 3rd
4 District -- 3rd Congressional District to form
5 the Coalition for Change in IL3.

6 Again, we strove not to look at the
7 boundaries that divide us but what is the
8 common cause that brings us together. And
9 we've seen that growing from our membership
10 based here in the very diverse and integrated
11 part of the 19th Ward in the far southwest
12 side that we unified with other southwest
13 siders, be that Bridgeport, Back of the Yards,
14 McKinley Park, and the near southwest suburbs.

15 We looked at what were the issues
16 that mattered to us; issues of social justice,
17 issues of transportation and infrastructure.
18 How do we get to our jobs? Practical things
19 like freight trains blocking the way or do we
20 have the orange line to be able create new
21 jobs in the southwest corridor or to get to
22 jobs downtown from the southwest corridor.

23 We're concerned about environmental
24 issues across the district. Whether I live in

1 Beverly in the southwest side -- the far
2 southwest side, I still care about what's
3 happening with the air we breathe and the
4 water we drink, in all the areas across the
5 district. We care about education and these
6 kids going to schools across the area.

7 Across the district and across our
8 coalition, all 40 groups and the thousands of
9 members that represent, we care about
10 immigration reform. We care about diversity
11 and inclusion, a range of issues.

12 And as we look at solving problems
13 like environmental issues and the need for job
14 growth and the need for transportation, we
15 care about the growth of labor and having good
16 paying, fair union jobs growing not just for
17 the traditional immigrants but for the next
18 generation of immigrants. So we've come
19 together in this common cause to unify.

20 When we look at the map that was
21 proposed this past Friday and we spent a lot
22 of time this past weekend with our membership
23 and -- both within Illinois 123GO and across
24 the coalition, what really strikes us is the

1 changes that are being proposed really silence
2 that people power that we've worked so hard to
3 grow.

4 Our goal is that we do see -- you
5 know, I was very struck by the former speaker,
6 the first gentleman who had the map -- I'm
7 sorry, I don't have name at hand -- they way
8 he typified our communities was not
9 recognizable to those of us who actually live
10 here. It was very strange to have someone
11 from Indiana talking about our communities and
12 how they're so different, when our experiences
13 is those who live here and those who organize
14 here and those who organize across the
15 communities here, we expect -- we experience
16 our common cause in our inclusion.

17 So we're asking the Committee to
18 actually take a step back and maintain the
19 historical boundaries of IL3. That we do in
20 our current form and we understand there is
21 going to be some changes, but what's the least
22 change necessary to be able to maintain this
23 coalition and communities that we've brought
24 together so that our ability to raise our

1 voice to Washington about these issues that
2 matter to the citizens across the area will
3 continue to be represented in the new map and
4 that we won't be disempowered and lumped in
5 with other areas where we feel our voices will
6 be diluted.

7 As a small business owner, a
8 community activist, and a life-long resident
9 of this area, I really hope that we can build
10 on our desire to grow a more diverse and more
11 integrated collaborative way of working
12 between citizens and the government, instead
13 of silencing our voices.

14 So with that, I'm open for any
15 questions and I appreciate the opportunity to
16 speak with you today.

17 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you so much,
18 Ms. Duggan.

19 I can certainly appreciate the
20 slowdown of traffic via the trains and having
21 recently experienced that as early as -- as
22 late as today prior to this hearing. So I'm
23 certainly sympathetic to that.

24 Senator Castro for a question.

1 SENATOR CASTRO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2 I'm going to ask the same question
3 that I asked Mr. Ellison. Obviously, Illinois
4 lost population, right? And the Latino
5 community has gained 18.2 percent of the
6 state's population.

7 Do you support two Latino or
8 Latino-influenced districts?

9 MS. DUGGAN: Well, I'm not a mapmaker like
10 Mr. Ellison, you said, in that way. I'm a
11 community-based activist. So I really looked
12 across that.

13 What I can only speak to is within
14 the 3rd District, we have a very broad
15 coalition that includes the Latino groups from
16 other wards. And we don't see -- like I said,
17 I was rather offended by the way how he
18 typified how the 19th Ward talks to the 11th
19 or the 15th Ward in terms of that.

20 We do have -- we have found common
21 cause and support in elevating each other's
22 voices rather than assuming that somehow,
23 because I came from an Irish-ethnic heritage
24 in my neighborhood, which is no longer the

1 case that it's the majority here, it just
2 happens to be personal heritage, that I
3 wouldn't care about immigration reform or I
4 wouldn't care about Puerto Rico or I wouldn't
5 care about that.

6 So I'm all for making sure that this
7 representation is fair, to your question,
8 Senator. But I don't have a macro sense of
9 how well or what are the best possible ways to
10 divide up all the population. But I do think
11 it is strange, given the growth in the city
12 and within the Latino population, that the
13 proposal for IL3 is to take out the city
14 wards, thereby lessening their voices in the
15 IL3's representation, and lumping us in with
16 folks, you know, a few hours away that don't
17 share, you know, the -- what's happening when
18 we asphalt factory in McKinley Park, what's
19 happening when we don't have Orange Line
20 service on the southwest side. Like you said,
21 the trains stop all of us from getting to work
22 in the morning, which is something that has
23 improved recently because of the activism from
24 our Congressperson.

1 So I hope that answers your question.
2 Like I said, I'm not a macro map specialist.
3 I'm a community activist. But my experience
4 in working across groups on the southwest side
5 is we try and elevate each other's voices
6 until such time as there is a comprehensive
7 district that would make sense to be primarily
8 Latino focused. Because the votes are going
9 to be there one day and then there will be
10 time.

11 SENATOR CASTRO: And, Ms. Duggan, I do
12 recognize that you're not an expert in drawing
13 maps, but it's a very simple question that's
14 either yes or no.

15 Do you support two Latino or
16 Latino-influenced districts?

17 MS. DUGGAN: I believe absolutely having
18 Latino-influenced districts in terms of
19 balance -- if that's what the population on --
20 but you do have to look at the macro sense on
21 a map to be able to answer that honestly, I
22 would say.

23 I can say in my heart, having a
24 Latino-focused district sounds fantastic. I

1 don't know if the numbers bear out for that in
2 terms of how the boundaries overlap. But I
3 would be supportive of it if it was possible.

4 SENATOR CASTRO: Excellent. Ms. Duggan,
5 have you looked at all the other submissions
6 and do you have any opinion on some of the
7 other public submissions that have been put
8 onto the portal?

9 MS. DUGGAN: Like, for example, the one
10 from the previous gentlemen or...

11 SENATOR CASTRO: Yes. There has been
12 actually several submitted to the portal. And
13 I was just kind of curious if you've had an
14 opportunity to review that, has your coalition
15 had an opportunity to review it?

16 MS. DUGGAN: To be honest, I haven't
17 looked at all of them. I've seen some that
18 have been published more through the press and
19 then I'm assuming are on there. I've seen
20 ones come from the DCCC that has been shared
21 widely in the press. And I've now been on two
22 hearings with the gentleman before me today in
23 terms of that.

24 But, no, I have not reviewed all of

1 them in detail.

2 SENATOR CASTRO: Thank you.

3 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you, Senator
4 Castro.

5 Senator Bryant I saw hand up but go
6 down. Was that intentional?

7 SENATOR BRYANT: Yeah, I'm good.

8 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Okay. Senator McClure.

9 SENATOR McCLURE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
10 Thank you very much, ma'am, for
11 testimony today.

12 So obviously this is a draft map is
13 what it's been described as, so I intend to
14 see another map sometime by next week. How
15 much time would you need to review the final
16 map in order to properly analyze and be able
17 to come back to the Committee and testify
18 about it?

19 MS. DUGGAN: Well, my understanding is
20 there isn't going to be another opportunity to
21 testify or will there be?

22 SENATOR McCLURE: I don't know. At this
23 moment I don't know.

24 In a world where government works

1 well, how much time would you need to present
2 any sort of testimony after seeing a map, a
3 final map?

4 MS. DUGGAN: So we are -- if I look at the
5 case of how we've experienced this last drop
6 versus feedback, you know, it came out within
7 hours, minutes to hours of the Friday
8 meetings. So in that case, we only could just
9 go, oh, I'm looking at this vague blob on a
10 map and I haven't had time to zoom in. People
11 are at their jobs. People are doing their
12 other things. We don't all have this as a
13 full-time job.

14 So we spent a few days and evenings
15 and weekend time, you know, analyzing it with
16 our members and having opportunity to have
17 back and forth in that membership so they
18 could put together a comprehensive statement.

19 So I would say at this point we're
20 all, obviously, very -- you have our
21 attention, so it's not like we have to --
22 we're ready to respond in such time.

23 But I would say it's in all due
24 course, we would need one to two days, at a

1 minimum, to be respectfully looking at
2 something and not be giving a gut reaction.

3 SENATOR McCLURE: Thank you. No further
4 questions.

5 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you, Senator
6 McClure.

7 Ms. Duggan, thank you for your
8 testimony, very informative. Again, I
9 appreciate the work that you and your
10 colleagues are doing across your communities.
11 So thank you for being here today.

12 MS. DUGGAN: Thank you for your time.

13 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Absolutely.

14 Next I have Anna Schibrowsky and I
15 hope I said that right. Please state your
16 name and spell it for the record and your
17 group and organization that you're
18 representing.

19 MS. SCHIBROWSKY: Hi, My name is Anna
20 Schibrowsky. First name is A-n-n-a; last name
21 Schibrowsky, S-c-h-i-b, as in boy,
22 r-o-w-s-k-y.

23 I am here today representing myself.
24 I am a resident of Chicago's Bridgeport

1 neighborhood and the current 3rd Congressional
2 District.

3 And I'm testifying today to urge you
4 to allow my neighborhood to remain in the 3rd
5 Congressional District and to maintain the
6 historical boundaries of the 3rd Congressional
7 District.

8 For over 20 years, the 3rd
9 Congressional District has represented
10 working-class communities from the Bridgeport
11 neighbor going southwest through the suburbs
12 to Joliet and it's roughly followed the I-55
13 corridor.

14 It has included blue-collar
15 communities that benefit from the jobs and the
16 economic prosperity of industry but also
17 struggle with the pollution and traffic
18 created by manufacturing and shipping.

19 Bridgeport residents have been
20 talking in the past year with Joliet residents
21 to discuss our common issues around railroad
22 hubs, last mile cleats, and logistics centers
23 operating along the I-55 corridor.

24 The proposed map that I've seen would

1 split my neighborhood into the 4th and 7th
2 Congressional Districts. It would carve up
3 Bridgeport at one of our major retail
4 intersections. It would move our grocery
5 store into the 7th District and our drug
6 stores into the 4th District.

7 The proposed 4th District would form
8 a horseshoe around the city. It would loop
9 from the stockyards plant manufacturing
10 district and include it in the same
11 Congressional district as Oak Park country
12 club.

13 The proposed new 3rd Congressional
14 District stretches half way across the state
15 and it contains disparate populations. It
16 would include manufacturing-oriented
17 neighborhoods in Chicago and similar
18 blue-collar suburbs, but it would also include
19 miles and miles of farmland and grain elevator
20 villages.

21 It would stretch out to LaSalle
22 County, which is where I grew up. I know the
23 area and I understand a lot of the issues in
24 that area are going to revolve of around

1 farming and farm subsidies.

2 So constituents would not be
3 well-served by districts where the
4 representatives have to split their focus
5 between industrial areas and country clubs or
6 between multi-modal facilities and soybean
7 farms.

8 So please keep the historical
9 boundaries and keep the character of the 3rd
10 Congressional District. Thank you.

11 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you,
12 Ms. Schibrowsky.

13 Senator Castro, I see your hand.

14 SENATOR CASTRO: Thank you. I'm going to
15 ask the same question that I asked the
16 previous speaker. So, obviously, you know,
17 repeat what I asked, Illinois lost population.
18 The Latino community gained 18.2 percent. Do
19 you support two Latino or Latino-influenced
20 districts?

21 MS. SCHIBROWSKY: Yes. As an individual,
22 I do.

23 SENATOR CASTRO: Just out of curiosity,
24 have you looked at any of the other public

1 submissions? I know there have been several.
2 Have you been able to have an opportunity look
3 at them, study them? Do you like any of them?

4 MS. SCHIBROWSKY: I have been able to
5 glance at them. I guess I would be interested
6 in seeing a proposal that would include more
7 of the I-55 corridor including the Latin X
8 communities near us. But it would have to --
9 I guess there is a lot of if, ands, or butts
10 in that to see what else would be included in
11 that district in order to make a majority
12 Latin X district and whether it would still
13 include, like I said, the historical
14 boundaries and character of the current
15 district.

16 SENATOR CASTRO: Another question. I know
17 you talked about LaSalle-Peru and you were
18 originally from there. I know you mentioned
19 the importance of the strong industrial union
20 base. Doesn't LaSalle-Peru also have that?

21 MS. SCHIBROWSKY: Not anymore.
22 Historically, yes, LaSalle County historically
23 was a strong union factory area. But it is
24 not anymore. And their concerns are more

1 about bringing back industry, while the
2 concerns in this area are about -- I hate to
3 say -- too much industry. But we have
4 concentration of industry and pollution and I
5 view those as they are separate issues.

6 And I think it's unfair to the
7 residents and unfair to potential
8 Congressional reps to try to make them
9 represent both of those differing interests.

10 SENATOR CASTRO: Awesome. Well, thank you
11 for your testimony.

12 Mr. Chairman, no further questions.

13 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you, Senator
14 Castro.

15 Ms. Schibrowsky, thank you. I don't
16 see any other hands. So thank you for your
17 testimony. We appreciate you being here
18 today.

19 Next I see Mr. Dale Fast seeking to
20 testify. Mr. Fast, the floor is yours.

21 MR. FAST: My name is Dale Fast; Dale,
22 F-a-s-t, a resident of the 3rd Congressional
23 District.

24 I reside in Beverly on the southwest

1 side of Chicago. I am retired, having served
2 as a faculty member and administrator at
3 St. Xavier University in nearby Mount
4 Greenwood for 37 years.

5 I've seen the proposed Illinois
6 Congressional map. I have even simply looked
7 at the first one; I have not looked at the
8 others. But I'm a bit surprised at seeing the
9 district I called home for decades replaced by
10 something that is quite unrecognizable.

11 The southwest side of Chicago is a
12 diverse place. And I've connected with my
13 neighbors in Berwyn, Cicero, Orland Park, and
14 many other suburbs around my home because we
15 have common interests.

16 The southwest side has consistently
17 had representation in Congress that hails from
18 that same area, not the rural parts of the
19 state; the state that share less in common
20 with us.

21 Our district is a transportation hub
22 with three Metra lines running through, a
23 booming trucking industry passing up the I-55
24 to Chicago, and a well-connected education

1 system that has people all over the suburbs
2 attending schools on the southwest side.

3 For decades I have fought for social
4 justice and would strive to make our democracy
5 more inclusive. By splitting parts of the
6 district, the state could segment communities
7 and diminish their chance at fairer
8 representation.

9 I don't want to see my neighbors'
10 voices diluted in this redistricting process.
11 I ask the Redistricting Committee in this
12 process, please maintain the character of the
13 southwest side and keep Illinois' 3rd District
14 in its general shape as in the current map.
15 Thank you.

16 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you, Mr. Fast.

17 Senator Castro.

18 SENATOR CASTRO: Thank you, Mr. Fast. You
19 answered the second part of my question but I
20 will ask you the first, similar to what I've
21 asked everyone.

22 Do you support two Latino or
23 Latino-influenced districts?

24 MR. FAST: I certainly think that's going

1 to make sense. I don't know how one exactly
2 does that and makes that work. But it makes
3 sense to me that that's a direction that our
4 state is going.

5 SENATOR CASTRO: Thank you. No further
6 questions, Mr. Chairman.

7 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you, Senator
8 Castro.

9 Seeing no further hands, Mr. Fast,
10 thank you so much for your testimony here and
11 for your advocacy on behalf of your community.

12 Next, I have Ms. Jeanette Quirk on my
13 list of testifiers. Ms. Quirk, you have the
14 floor.

15 MS. QUIRK: Hi. My name is Jeanette
16 Quirk, J-e-a-n-e-t-t-e. I live in LaGrange
17 Highlands, an unincorporated area adjacent to
18 LaGrange, a near southwestern suburb of
19 Chicago.

20 Thank you so much to the Committee
21 for your time and effort and for all the other
22 folks who are testifying.

23 I'm originally from Chicagoland, the
24 south suburb of Riverdale. I'm here as a

1 member of the Congressional District IL3 and
2 as a member of several grassroots efforts to
3 promote civic engagement and responsibility.

4 I wanted to testify simply because
5 with over 31 years in the area, we have grown
6 to value the diversity and intelligence in the
7 southwest side and suburbs.

8 Growing up in Riverdale, we live on
9 the Illinois Central line. Riverdale borders
10 the city on the south, and the great migration
11 of Americans into the south side was a
12 defining feature of the area in the '60s, '70s
13 and '80s when I was growing up there.

14 We were also proud of our proximity
15 to the train line and spent many days
16 traveling on the train to downtown Chicago for
17 work, fun, and civic engagement.

18 The southwest side appealed to my
19 husband and I for the same reasons when we
20 bought a house. On the Burlington Western
21 commuter line, it had easy access to the city
22 and also vibrant and a mixed larger community,
23 not to mention the wider area filled with
24 beautiful forest preserves that spread to the

1 west and south.

2 What I soon realized in this area,
3 which I learned comprised IL3, is that it
4 stuck with people who are passionate about
5 government, equality, service to the
6 community, the arts, infrastructure,
7 education, and all of the things that make up
8 our lives as Midwesterners and Americans.

9 I learned that the southwest side,
10 like the south side also had its genesis in
11 the city and continued to expand with human
12 migration on a south-moving trajectory.

13 In my area we are bound by the
14 waterways and train lines of the southwest
15 transportation corridor. These features have
16 dominated our daily lives in terms of jobs and
17 recreation and the time of the inception of
18 the Illinois-Michigan Canal, the Cook County
19 forest preserves, Old Route 66, up to the
20 building of the Stevenson Expressway and the
21 UPS facilities.

22 I learned that the area was full of
23 city and southwest side natives who migrated
24 like I did. They encouraged me to become

1 engaged in civic life, to take initiative, and
2 to fight for what's right for people across
3 society.

4 When I realized the boundaries of my
5 congressional district, it made sense that I
6 included the origins to the area and the
7 current expression of the area. This means
8 that the reach of the district IL3 into my
9 area on southern suburbs of Tinley Park,
10 Orland Park, and the Palos area made sense, as
11 the families there often had their origins in
12 the deep southwest side neighborhoods.

13 As I began to meet people in all of
14 the IL3 neighbors, I realized we did want
15 common things and that we truly enjoyed
16 meeting and working with each other for common
17 civic causes.

18 The district has shown its vitality
19 and passion and a good old-fashion work ethic
20 coming out of the greatest generation and
21 passed on to the baby boomers and our
22 children, XYZ, millennials and onward.

23 Grown children flock back to this
24 area to have families and start businesses.

1 People come for the train lines, the culture,
2 the diversity and the backyards.

3 I ask of you, do not destroy IL3 as
4 it represents a historic evolution of
5 multicultural cooperation and aspiration. We
6 belong together, from Bridgeport to Orland
7 Park. We are not only rural, only city, or
8 only suburban. We are all of those things.

9 Together we move Illinois forward in
10 all the important areas; civic participation,
11 economic strength and diversity for all
12 people, caring for our people no matter what
13 their backgrounds and working to keep Illinois
14 strong, moral, and competitive in our divided
15 nation.

16 I also want to mention that Mr. Ellis
17 couldn't have gotten it more wrong when he
18 said that our communities did not have much in
19 common. When he said we were a hodgepodge, I
20 just don't understand how he could say those
21 things.

22 I will say, Senator Castro, and I
23 know you're going to ask the question, that I
24 was not able to read the additional maps.

1 They came up on my email this morning and I've
2 been at work, so I haven't been able to see
3 them.

4 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Okay. Thank you,
5 Ms. Quirk.

6 Senator Castro for a question.

7 SENATOR CASTRO: One more question, do you
8 support two Latino or Latino-influenced
9 districts?

10 MS. QUIRK: I support the idea of Latino
11 districts. Without knowing much else, I can't
12 really say anything else.

13 SENATOR CASTRO: Okay. Thank you.

14 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: All right. Thank you,
15 Ms. Quirk. I appreciate your testimony and
16 for being here to advocate on behalf of your
17 community. It's very helpful.

18 Next I have Mr. Arnie Bernstein.

19 Mr. Bernstein, you have the floor, sir.

20 MR. BERNSTEIN: My name is Arnie
21 Bernstein; A-r-n-i-e, B-e-r-n-s-t-e-i-n. I'm
22 a 25-year resident of the Beverly
23 neighborhood. I married into it.

24 **A few years ago, I'm sure some of you**

1 know, there was some leaflets left in our
2 neighborhood by White Supremacist Nazi
3 elements. I was part of a group of local
4 residents who gathered together to speak out
5 against this and talk about the integrity and
6 the diversity of not only the Beverly area but
7 the southwest side at large. That's the
8 beauty of the 3rd District.

9 We are united in a lot of different
10 ways; by ethnicity, by race, by religion.
11 Certainly I'm a minority religion in this
12 area. Blue color, white collar.

13 But things that really unite us are
14 the commonalities, the transportation issues.
15 The train doesn't care who you are when they
16 sit there on the tracks.

17 I formerly taught at Morton College,
18 which is out in Cicero. I don't think Morton
19 is part of the 3rd District, but I do know
20 parts of Cicero are part of the 3rd District.
21 And as I would drive to work, I was always
22 struck by the beauty of the diversity of the
23 district.

24 By moving parts of it to a rural area

1 and what seems to be a carving up of a ward
2 here, a ward there, a finger of a ward here, a
3 finger of a ward there, it seems to be
4 changing the fundamental nature of our
5 district going from Bridgeport -- and as a Sox
6 fan, I spent a lot of time in Bridgeport --
7 down to Orland, which is -- these are shopping
8 areas that people from our area go to.

9 It's a diverse district. It's a
10 wonderful area to live. And the commonalities
11 I think are what unites us.

12 To address Senator Castro, I have not
13 looked at the maps per se. However, having
14 worked with Hispanic students at various
15 schools, I certainly support the idea of
16 largely Hispanic districts.

17 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Okay. Mr. Bernstein, I
18 don't know if we lost you.

19 MR. BERNSTEIN: Can you hear me?

20 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: We can hear you. Did
21 you conclude your testimony?

22 MR. BERNSTEIN: I'm sorry. Yes, I have.

23 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you. Questions
24 from members of the Committee. I see Senator

1 Castro gave the thumbs up when you answered
2 her question as part of your testimony.

3 MR. BERNSTEIN: I saw it coming.

4 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: That's the professor in
5 you. And I appreciate the fact that you,
6 again, you as other residents of the 3rd
7 Congressional District have raised the
8 transportation issue. Again, I mentioned that
9 also earlier. And I certainly have an
10 affinity for your choice of baseball team.

11 MR. BERNSTEIN: Thank you. I wish they
12 had done better.

13 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Likewise. Thank you so
14 much, Mr. Bernstein. I appreciate you being
15 here today and for your testimony, for your
16 advocacy on behalf of your community.

17 Next I have Mr. Christopher Kanich.
18 I hope I'm saying that right.

19 MR. KANICH: It's Kanich, but I respond to
20 basically anything.

21 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: I appreciate that. But
22 I surely want to get it right. But the floor
23 is yours, sir.

24 MR. KANICH: Thank you very much, Senator

1 Sims. Thank you for this opportunity to
2 address the Committee.

3 I'm testifying here today as a fifth
4 generation resident of southern Cook County
5 and the south side of Chicago, as well as a
6 resident of the current 3rd Congressional
7 District.

8 Over the past six months, I've also
9 served as a commissioner for the Chicago
10 Advisory Redistricting Commission, which has
11 been a groundbreaking and successful
12 experiment showing that a citizen-led
13 commission can draw an equitable and
14 high-quality district map.

15 While we were focused on municipal
16 ward maps, we heard hundreds of residents of
17 Chicago tell us very earnestly and
18 passionately that they want their communities
19 kept whole.

20 The proposed Congressional map breaks
21 up both Bridgeport and the Greater Chinatown
22 Area, making it even harder for our
23 communities to effectively advocate for
24 ourselves at the federal level and secure much

1 needed resources, as well as Ms. Duggan,
2 Ms. Schibrowsky, Mr. Fast, and Ms. Quirk have
3 all mentioned -- and Mr. Bernstein have all
4 mentioned much, much better than I can, it's
5 the cross-roads of several transportation
6 networks that really do tie our district
7 together quite well and have a very strong
8 theme.

9 And even though our community is
10 culturally and socio-economically diverse, we
11 are united by a strong working-class common
12 denominator here. Making the 3rd District
13 more white and more rural is not in the best
14 interests of all of these communities, as it
15 completely changes of character of the
16 district.

17 If this change was, indeed, made to
18 ruthlessly entrench a Democratic district, I
19 feel that even this strategy is foolhardy and
20 could backfire, as the new 3rd District could
21 very possibly be won by a strong centrist
22 Republican in the general election, even one
23 running without the support of their party.

24 This map is bad for Bridgeport, bad

1 for the Greater Chinatown Area, bad for the
2 southwest side of Chicago and Cook County, and
3 bad for the Illinois Congressional delegation.

4 I encourage you to find a way to
5 restore the strong, working-class, culturally
6 and socioeconomically diverse character of the
7 current 3rd Congressional District.

8 I would also be very happy to host
9 Mr. Ellison in the current 3rd District to
10 show him a little bit more about how well our
11 community is tied together by common
12 interests.

13 And in the interests of everybody's
14 time, I would like to say that I do support
15 two Latino-influenced districts. I believe
16 Mr. Calabrese's map is a fantastic starting
17 point for such a discussion. However, I
18 haven't seen a full map that would adequately
19 create two influenced districts within an
20 entire redistricting of the state of Illinois.

21 I've also given a quick look to a lot
22 of the other maps that were submitted. I
23 believe it was Mr. Kotski's map, I certainly
24 believe is favorable to the map that was

1 currently published as a draft by the
2 Committee.

3 And that is all I have to say at this
4 moment. So thank you very much for your time.
5 I would be happy to take questions.

6 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you so much,
7 Mr. Kanich. And, again, I think you addressed
8 Senator Castro's questions, so I appreciate
9 your testimony here today and also your -- let
10 me say this for not just you but all of the
11 individual citizens and residents of the 3rd
12 Congressional District who made the --
13 offering the outreach to Mr. Ellison to show
14 the great diversity of the district and I
15 appreciate that, that offer. That is exactly
16 what as -- as all of us as neighbors we should
17 be looking to do, making sure we are
18 showcasing and showing the best that our
19 communities have to offer. So I appreciate
20 you making that offer.

21 Next I have Mr. Abraham Matthew. The
22 floor is yours, sir.

23 MR. MATTHEW: Thank you to the Chair and
24 the members of the Committee.

1 My name is Abraham Matthew. That's
2 A-b-r-a-h-a-m, M-a-t-t-h-e-w. I'm a father,
3 I'm an attorney, and I live and practice law
4 in Chicago's Bridgeport neighborhood, which at
5 present is part of Illinois' 3rd Congressional
6 District.

7 I'm before you today to ask you to
8 allow Bridgeport, Armour Square, Canaryville,
9 McKinely Park, and Beverly, to remain as part
10 of the 3rd Congressional District.

11 Now, the task of redistricting is not
12 an easy one. You've to deal with issues of
13 geography, as you have a limited amount of
14 space. You have to deal with competing
15 interests, whether they're political or
16 whether they're the interests of incumbents or
17 they're the interests of the people and the
18 community group that are served by the people
19 who would be elected in the proposed maps.

20 It's a tough thing to do. And I
21 thank you for holding this hearing today
22 because you're doing a great job of reaching
23 out to the people who will be affected most by
24 this map. This is a great time and a great

1 opportunity for us to educate each other about
2 the process and about the interests of the
3 specific regions that are affected by the map
4 that was proposed on the 15th.

5 I'm here today to ask that our
6 communities are allowed to remain in the 3rd
7 District. And there are two points I would
8 like to make today. The first is that the 3rd
9 Congressional District as it stands now is the
10 transportation hub of the Midwest.

11 At present starting from where I'm at
12 here in Bridgeport where Highway 55 and the
13 Dan Ryan begin and going all the way down to
14 Joliet, there are truck yards, there are rail
15 yards, there is a CSX interchange, there is
16 Midway Airport. We have parts of Argonne
17 National Laboratory. There are large
18 logistics hubs that are presently there and
19 presently under works.

20 We are the logistics capital of the
21 Midwest. And why this is important is because
22 when we as a district and we as Illinois need
23 support from Washington DC, the best way to do
24 that is to have one person, a point person,

1 who can go to Washington and get the resources
2 that we need to invest in our future.

3 If we're going to get dollars for
4 electric vehicle structure, for upgrading
5 bridges and roads, we're going to have to look
6 to our congressman here in this district --
7 congressman or congresswoman in this district.

8 And so by having this transportation
9 hub contained in one district, we make things
10 easier, not only for the region but for
11 Illinois as a whole. Because we're,
12 essentially, electing a point person for our
13 transportation hub.

14 So it's vitally important that we not
15 split off parts of that transportation hub
16 such that we have to coordinate as a people
17 and as a state amongst various representatives
18 who have other duties and other constituencies
19 to attend to.

20 And the second point I would like to
21 make is that our district may be diverse, but
22 we share a common character. The
23 infrastructure in this district, which I just
24 touched on, began over 150 years ago. It

1 began with the construction of the
2 Illinois-Michigan Canal, which parts right
3 here in Bridgeport where I sit and went all
4 the way down past Joliet to the Illinois
5 River. And that canal earthed a new
6 generation of infrastructure for the Midwest.
7 That's why we have so much infrastructure here
8 in the 3rd District, is because the vital link
9 between the East Coast and the Gulf of Mexico
10 was placed here in the district. It's the way
11 that we can get goods from Lake Michigan and
12 the Great Lake cities down to New Orleans.

13 So out of that, as generations went
14 on, the infrastructure grew around it. We got
15 Midway Airport and we got all of these
16 trucking and transportation hubs, the train
17 yards. And they were all built by immigrants.
18 They were built by people who came to this
19 country for a better life and they weren't all
20 from one place.

21 Some of those immigrants came here
22 from Europe. Some came here from Asia. Some
23 came here from Mexico. We have people from
24 every country on the planet in this district.

1 So it's correct to say that we are a diverse
2 district. But when you dig deeper than just
3 the statistics, we see that we're united by a
4 common character. And that common character
5 is, essentially, the American dream. It's
6 that we all want to provide for our families.
7 We all want to be able to go to work and start
8 businesses. We're a very entrepreneurial
9 district.

10 We simply are a veritable cornucopia
11 of faiths, colors, and creeds. And our values
12 are shared. And that diversity is our
13 strength.

14 As a father, a small businessperson,
15 and the son of an immigrant from India, I may
16 be unique in my neighborhood here in
17 Bridgeport, but I share a common plight with
18 everyone along the I-55 corridor.

19 We work hard to educate our kids,
20 grow our businesses, and enjoy the diversity
21 of this region. And as people and as the
22 transportation capital of the Midwest, those
23 ties bind us together and we deserve common
24 representation.

1 So the 3rd Congressional District
2 historically has represented residents of the
3 southwest side of Chicago and the southwest
4 suburbs. And for almost three decades, the
5 district has represented constituents were I
6 live here in Bridgeport, down to Beverly
7 through Canaryville, which is just south of
8 Bridgeport, through the suburbs of Stickney,
9 Lyons, Palos, Worth, and Orland Townships.

10 We have a strong history as a
11 working-class stronghold and as people who
12 simply have real grit. As a resident of the
13 11th Ward, Chicago's Bridgeport neighborhood
14 and the southwest side, I am asking the
15 Committee to allow my community and the others
16 that I've mentioned to remain in the 3rd
17 Congressional District.

18 I just want to thank you all again
19 for listening to us, for hearing us out. It's
20 a testament to yourselves. And I truly
21 appreciate the opportunity and any questions
22 that you may have.

23 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you, Mr. Matthew.

24 I see one hand raised. Senator

1 Castro.

2 SENATOR CASTRO: Mr. Matthew, you might
3 have, since you're at the tail end, might have
4 missed my initial question, so let me restate
5 it.

6 Obviously, Illinois lost population.
7 But when it comes to a Latino community, we
8 gained 18.2 percent of the population. My
9 quick question is, do you support two Latino
10 or Latino-influenced districts?

11 MR. MATTHEW: Yes, I do. And part of my
12 issue with the current map is that it destroys
13 what is effectively the second
14 Latino-influenced district in the state.

15 Right now the 3rd Congressional
16 District as it stands is, I believe, the
17 second-most Latino-influenced district in the
18 state. And when we're talking about districts
19 that -- going into politics are going to be
20 weighted more Democratic, we were talking
21 about a Democratic primary. So that influence
22 is even stronger within a Democratic primary
23 if voting trends continue.

24 So by creating a new map which takes

1 out, essentially, a lot of the Latino portion
2 from the 3rd District and destroys the
3 character of the 3rd District as a diverse
4 place, we're also reducing the influence of
5 Latinos in our Congressional delegation.

6 So it's really important that the 3rd
7 District retain its current character.

8 SENATOR CASTRO: Have you had an
9 opportunity to look at any of the other maps
10 that have been proposed? I mean...

11 MR. MATTHEW: Yes, Senator. I had the
12 opportunity to take a look at Mr. Harden's
13 map, and I believe it maintains the status
14 quo, as a district with strong Latino
15 representation and influence in that I believe
16 it's 25 percent of the population, of the
17 voting-age population would be of Latino
18 origin.

19 And also Mr. Kotski's map is a few
20 points higher than that. And the current
21 proposal that's before the Committee is lower
22 than that. So it's vital that we retain that
23 influence in our Congressional delegation.

24 SENATOR CASTRO: I know you talked a

1 little bit about, you know, Latino
2 representation. You're right, it is the
3 second highest Latino population of all the
4 Congressional districts.

5 But I also would like to see, have
6 you looked at it from a state-wide
7 perspective? Like thoughts on the northwest
8 side has big pockets of Latinos to the
9 northwest suburbs.

10 When you look at all of that, I still
11 go back, do you support a second Latino or
12 Latino-influenced district? So if you can
13 expound a little bit about that, that would be
14 great.

15 MR. MATTHEW: Yes, I do. I believe the
16 statistics are there to bear that out. And my
17 worry on the current proposal is that we're
18 regressing rather than moving forward.

19 SENATOR CASTRO: I have nothing further,
20 Mr. Chairman.

21 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you, Senator
22 Castro.

23 Mr. Matthew, again, thank you for
24 your participation here today and for

1 advocating on behalf of your community. Your
2 testimony was very helpful. We appreciate
3 that.

4 MR. MATTHEW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Last but the certainly
6 not least on my list of preselect -- or
7 pre-signed-in testifiers is Madeleine Doubek
8 on behalf of Change Illinois. Madeleine.

9 MS. DOUBEK: Thank you, Vice-Chair Sims
10 and Committee Members for the opportunity to
11 wrap up the testimony today on the draft
12 congressional map.

13 My name is Madeleine Doubek. That's
14 M-a-d-e-l-e-i-n-e, last name D-o-u-b, as in
15 boy, e-k. And I am the Executive Director for
16 the Change Illinois Action Fund and Change
17 Illinois.

18 As part of my testimony today, I
19 would like to review the Princeton
20 Gerrymandering Project's analysis of the draft
21 map and provide some feedback on the
22 Congressional map proposal.

23 The Princeton Gerrymandering Project
24 is an organization based out of Princeton

1 University that seeks to actively educate,
2 provide resources, and help people nationwide
3 to engage in the redistricting process. One
4 of their resources is a free mapping tool for
5 communities of interest called Representable.

6 PGP also uses quantifiable metrics to
7 review, analyze, and grade district maps in
8 three overall categories; partisan fairness,
9 competitiveness, and geographic features.

10 In PGP's analysis, graded A to F,
11 Illinois scored much lower than most other
12 states. It only was matched by Texas.

13 The Illinois draft map received an F
14 in partisan fairness and geographic features
15 and a C in competitiveness.

16 Their analysis found that the maps
17 provide a significant Democratic advantage.
18 Eleven of the draft districts are projected to
19 be uncompetitive Democratic seats and three
20 districts are uncompetitive Republican seats.

21 For competitive districts, their
22 analysis projects only three of the 17
23 congressional districts will be competitive
24 with all three competitive districts favorable

1 to Democratic candidates.

2 The main part of the PGP's analysis I
3 want to focus on today is the geographic
4 features section where the Illinois draft map
5 also scored an F. The grade uses a standard
6 quantitative measure of compactness known as
7 average Reock. Higher Reock scores mean
8 districts are more compact. The draft
9 Congressional map for Illinois scored a .307
10 out of 1.

11 The other factor measured is the
12 extent of the number of counties split up in
13 the draft map. The Congressional map proposal
14 presented splits up 42 of the Illinois 102
15 counties.

16 Now, splitting a county alone doesn't
17 necessarily mean that a district is
18 gerrymandered. For instance, Cook County and
19 DuPage Counties have to be split up due to
20 their population sizes being larger than
21 what's allowed in Congressional districts to
22 meet the equal population standards.

23 However, a district map with a higher
24 number of split countries does raise questions

1 about what goal mapmakers set out to achieve.
2 The same goes for compactness. While a
3 non-compact district doesn't guaranty a
4 gerrymander, as exemplified in the current 4th
5 Congressional District, it does raise
6 questions about what is motivating the drawing
7 of those borders.

8 The sheer lack of compactness is one
9 of the more troubling aspects of the
10 Congressional map proposal. It's seem to pit
11 urban and rural areas of Illinois against each
12 other at a time when we've already been
13 experiencing extraordinary polarization.

14 One example out of many is the 17th
15 District, which is not compact, and splits 15
16 counties stretching from Rockford to
17 Bloomington and not simply by going straight
18 south. Instead, the district runs from
19 Rockford in northwestern Illinois, turns west
20 to the Mississippi River, and then runs down a
21 narrow strip of western Illinois to the Quad
22 Cities and cuts back east to capture Peoria
23 and Bloomington.

24 The proposed 17th District does not

1 follow this path to empower communities of
2 color, as the district has a strong majority,
3 white, voting-age population of 72.23 percent
4 and includes a small fraction of black VAP of
5 12.12 percent, a Latino VAP of 9.26 percent,
6 and 2.5 percent Asian VAP.

7 As defined by the Illinois Voting
8 Rights Act of 2011, this district would fall
9 short of being a coalition district that would
10 give racial and language minority groups in
11 the district the opportunity to elect a
12 candidate of their choice. If the goal is to
13 connect communities of interest, it's not
14 clear what commonalities are being prioritized
15 that couldn't be achieved using cities or
16 towns closer to either the northern or
17 southern part of the district.

18 If the goal was simply to connect
19 urban voters, it seems it would have been
20 easier to go east from Rockford to create a
21 district between Waukegan and Rockford or
22 Rockford and Elgin. Connecting Waukegan to
23 Rockford not only would have been closer
24 geographically, but it would have reduced the

1 need for thin swaths to ensure equal
2 population requirements were met.

3 In prior testimony, we encouraged
4 this Committee to prioritize and publicize
5 what criteria was being considered for each
6 district. As the current map is drafted, it
7 is difficult to determine any rationale for
8 many of districts, absent any guidance from
9 this Committee.

10 We've also previously asked Committee
11 members to prioritize the Federal Voting
12 Rights Act in their mapping considerations.
13 We do have strong concerns that this map falls
14 short of that goal.

15 According to the data released on the
16 Illinois Senate and House Redistricting
17 websites, 13 of the 17 draft districts are
18 majority white, including the 8th
19 Congressional District, which is just
20 two-tenths of a percent shy of a 50 percent
21 white majority threshold based on total
22 population but exceeds the 50 percent
23 threshold in voting-age population.

24 For context, according to the 2020

1 Census, the total population of Illinois is
2 61.6 percent white. Roughly figured, that
3 means three more districts possibly could have
4 been drawn that be would non-majority white
5 districts.

6 Now, we understand that people don't
7 live in perfect square boxes, nor are we
8 asking you to overlay a perfect grid over the
9 state of Illinois. But there are a handful of
10 districts that are in close proximity to one
11 another that include significant black,
12 Latino, and Asian populations, including
13 Districts 5, 6, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

14 We would encourage this Committee to
15 ensure that the federal Vote Rights Act is
16 prioritized in any additional drafts using
17 voting-age population data to truly empower
18 communities of color to elect candidates of
19 their choosing.

20 While today's participation has been
21 surprising, our concerns over the extent of
22 community input remain. These Committee
23 hearings need more meaningful dialogue with
24 more Illinoisans. After being shunned over

1 and over again, during the spring and summer,
2 many community groups and advocates have given
3 up on participating in this process.

4 Without their input, people in
5 Illinois communities are needlessly split up,
6 their voting power is diluted, and their
7 representation is stifled.

8 Please make a sincere effort in these
9 final hours to reach those Illinoisans and
10 show that you are taking their input
11 seriously.

12 And in getting to Senator Castro's
13 question, I will say that we certainly believe
14 that two Latino districts ought to be
15 explored. It seems to us, in a general look
16 at the data and the map, that there is a
17 majority Latino district that could be created
18 on the south side of the city of Chicago and a
19 Latino-influenced district on the north side.

20 And we would certainly encourage all
21 of you to solicit more input from voters in
22 those communities and to use voting-age
23 population data to see if that can be done.

24 Thank you for your time and I'm happy

1 to take any questions.

2 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you, Ms. Doubek.

3 I see Senator McClure's hand.
4 Senator McClure.

5 SENATOR McCLURE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
6 And thank you, ma'am, for your testimony.
7 You've been very involved in this whole
8 Committee process, and I really appreciate
9 your patience and your willingness to come
10 before us.

11 How much time do you think is needed
12 in order to review the final map before there
13 is a vote with enough time for yourself to
14 review it and for other important constituents
15 and for every constituent across this entire
16 state to be able to review it.

17 MS. DOUBEK: We have said a minimum of two
18 weeks, but a month would certainly be
19 preferable.

20 SENATOR McCLURE: Thank you very much.

21 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you, Senator.
22 Senator Castro.

23 SENATOR CASTRO: One final question.
24 Madeleine, have you looked at any of the maps

1 and analyzed them that have been submitted to
2 the portal thus far?

3 MS. DOUBEK: Senator, unfortunately, I
4 have not had time to do that. I have not had
5 an opportunity to examine them, no.

6 SENATOR CASTRO: And I understand it's
7 not -- there is others who have not. And what
8 I would encourage others that -- who talked
9 about seeing them but not having a chance to
10 digest them, that there is more time, so
11 please look at those and submit your comments,
12 concerns.

13 I think I would like to engage more
14 of the folks who are here. And thank you all
15 for your time today.

16 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you, Senator
17 Castro.

18 Senator McClure, is your hand up for
19 a second time? Okay.

20 So let me say this. And, Ms. Doubek,
21 I appreciate your testimony. I appreciate
22 your participation, as you have always been
23 consistently participating in this process.

24 But I would challenge and push back

1 that the participation that you've seen,
2 particularly from the voices of residents of
3 the 3rd Congressional District who have
4 participated in this process, this is exactly
5 how we've identified and want this process to
6 work; for individuals to have the opportunity
7 to participate. And that's why we've been
8 doing this and that's why we're doing these
9 hearings.

10 So I would agree with you. We want
11 participation. And when you see today,
12 individuals voice -- want to lift up their
13 voices and participate in this process. And
14 we are glad that they did that. So I'm
15 certainly glad to see all of the participants
16 and always nice to see you, again, Ms. Doubek.

17 Seeing no for the questions --
18 Senator Plummer, I see your hand raised.

19 SENATOR PLUMMER: Yes, it is. Thank you,
20 Chairman Sims.

21 My question is not for the previous
22 speaker. I appreciate her comments. I had a
23 couple questions for you if that time is
24 appropriate now.

1 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Before we do that, let
2 me go to see if there is anyone -- any
3 other -- anyone from the public seeking to
4 testify before we go to questions from Members
5 of the Committee to the Chair.

6 Are there any other questions from
7 any member of public seeking to be heard?

8 Going once, going twice. Okay.
9 Senator Plummer, please proceed with your
10 question, sir.

11 SENATOR PLUMMER: Thank you, Chairman
12 Sims.

13 And I know this was touched on
14 briefly earlier. I wasn't fully clear of the
15 answer. But, you know, my understanding is
16 this process is for the Congressional
17 Districts but also the judicial sub-circuits
18 in Cook County.

19 Is there going to be a proposal
20 release on those judicial sub-circuits for the
21 public to view and, if so, when will that
22 proposal be released?

23 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: I would certainly
24 believe that there will be a proposal

1 released. I can't speak to when that might
2 be.

3 But as was mentioned and was made
4 public in the announcement of today's
5 Committee hearing, this is for the
6 Congressional hearing -- the focus of today's
7 hearing was for Congressional maps. But if
8 anyone is seeking to testify or bring up the
9 topic, we certainly would be willing to listen
10 to that.

11 SENATOR PLUMMER: Obviously, there is just
12 some concern that no one has seen these very
13 important maps or proposals. And there is a
14 vote expected next week. So, hopefully, there
15 is time for the public to comment on that.

16 So we had a hearing last Thursday.
17 Thank you again for that. During that
18 hearing, there was questions that I asked of
19 the Chair regarding when a map might be
20 dropped, who was going to be drawing the map,
21 so on and so forth. The constant response --
22 I'm not trying to put words in anyone's mouth.
23 But the constant response was "I don't know,"
24 "we don't know," "we'll have to wait and see,"

1 "we're just gathering information." That was
2 Thursday.

3 Coincidentally a map dropped Friday,
4 a map that obviously took a tremendous amount
5 of time. That the timing is, you know, odd to
6 say the least.

7 So I guess my question is when did
8 members of the Committee find out that this
9 map was going to be dropped? And I guess it
10 brings back the original, you know, hearing
11 Friday, why was that canceled?

12 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Well, number one,
13 Senator, the meeting was not canceled; it was
14 rescheduled. So that's a -- Friday's hearing
15 is -- we're having that hearing today. We
16 have always talked about giving and providing
17 ample opportunity for the public to review the
18 maps, see them and then comment, which is,
19 thus, the hearing we are participating in
20 right now.

21 SENATOR PLUMMER: So I guess my question
22 remains then, who drew the map that no one
23 knew about Thursday that showed up on Friday?

24 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator, we have a map.

1 We have a proposal that's been out there. And
2 it's like -- the map is like any other piece
3 of legislation where -- that takes place in
4 the legislative process.

5 Senator, my response is going to be
6 consistent with what it has always been. This
7 process requires that we all participate. And
8 just like any other part of legislative
9 process, we would certainly be willing to look
10 at proposals coming from our friends on the
11 other side of the aisle.

12 I would also remind my friend that
13 there have been significant proposals
14 submitted through our public portal but not
15 yet one of them that includes the input from
16 my friends on the other side of the aisle.

17 SENATOR PLUMMER: Well, that's because
18 Republicans don't think that the politicians
19 should be drawing the map. We've said that
20 constantly.

21 So you talk about the legislative
22 process here. So this is part of the
23 legislative process, I think is what you just
24 said. So who is sponsoring this legislation?

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1 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator, I can't answer
2 that. I don't know.

3 SENATOR PLUMMER: You don't know?

4 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: That was what I just
5 said, Senator.

6 SENATOR PLUMMER: Okay. Typically, in the
7 legislative --

8 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: If it passes prologue,
9 then the Senate President was the sponsor of
10 the legislative maps. I would assume that
11 might be -- that might be the case here as
12 well. But I can't answer that because I don't
13 know.

14 SENATOR PLUMMER: Well, typically through
15 the legislative process, as you well know, the
16 sponsor of legislation appears before the
17 Committee so that questions can be asked of
18 them and so that there can be a more
19 transparent process.

20 So I'm being told by the Vice
21 Chairman of the Committee -- I just want to be
22 clear about this -- and if I'm incorrect,
23 please correct me -- that the Vice Chairman of
24 the Committee in charge of redistricting

1 doesn't know who drew the map that appeared
2 out of nowhere Friday and doesn't know who is
3 going to be sponsoring the legislation, even
4 though this map is supposedly part of the
5 legislative process?

6 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Well, Senator, what I
7 just said was, the legislative maps were
8 sponsored by the Senate president. If that
9 holds true, I would imagine that the Senate
10 president would do that again. That's number
11 one. Let me finish, Senator.

12 Number two, this is not the hearing
13 on the bill or the final bill. We're not
14 taking any votes today. This hearing was to
15 hear specifically from the public, which we
16 heard the testimony after testifier after
17 testifier speaking to their desire for what
18 they want to see in a final proposal.

19 **A proposal that -- we are not taking**
20 **any votes today. So that's not -- we are**
21 **not at a part of the process yet. This**
22 **process was to hear from community members**
23 **what they want to see and their desire for the**
24 **map. That's what we did.**

1 SENATOR PLUMMER: So will there be another
2 hearing then before a vote so that the sponsor
3 of the legislation can appear and there is a
4 transparent process where the public can have
5 input on -- you know, as we normally would
6 through the legislative process?

7 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator, again, I've
8 talked about the transparency in this process
9 over and over again and the opportunity for
10 the public to have input and for there to be a
11 discussion on the proposals.

12 And I have said to you previously,
13 that we are committed to a process that is
14 transparent and that will continue. That is
15 still a commitment that that will happen.

16 SENATOR PLUMMER: So there were a lot of
17 witnesses today. Clearly a lot of witnesses
18 that spent a tremendous amount of time putting
19 a lot of thought into mapmaking or put a lot
20 of thought analyzing their district or their
21 community, a lot of interesting testimony.

22 I think the disconnect -- and if you
23 could -- you know, this is less of a specific
24 question and more of an ask that you explain

1 this to me but also explain it to the
2 witnesses so that there is a comfort level
3 here. If you don't know who is drawing the
4 map and we then don't know who is drawing the
5 map, how do we know that this testimony and
6 the hard work of these witnesses gets to those
7 people and is reflected on the map?

8 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator, as I said to
9 you and I have said a number of times before,
10 this process is like any other in the
11 legislative process. And as we are going
12 through this process -- and those maps will be
13 drawn. If you want to participate, we
14 certainly would like -- we would like to have
15 that input.

16 We have not yet seen that input.
17 That's why we set up the portal that has been
18 created to allow for individuals to state
19 their perspective about how the maps should
20 look.

21 Again, I've not yet seen that from
22 the other side of the aisle, but I have seen
23 that from everyday ordinary citizens of
24 Illinois across the state who have lifted up

1 their voices to participate in the process. I
2 would encourage any friends on the other side
3 of the aisle still to use that as an example
4 and do the same.

5 SENATOR PLUMMER: Well, I think I'm
6 sitting here actively participating with you
7 right now.

8 But based on that response, is it
9 your claim that anyone that is participating
10 in the -- or anyone that shows up in the
11 hearings that hasn't submitted a map isn't a
12 participant in the process? Or what are you
13 saying there?

14 Because I've been to every single
15 hearing. I've questioned you at every single
16 hearing. I've questioned witnesses at every
17 hearing. I've been a very active participant,
18 and then you tell me I'm not participating.

19 So is the lack of a map submittal,
20 does that mean someone isn't participating or
21 what are you saying there?

22 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Participating in
23 the process -- in creating a map for the --
24 a proposal for the entire state of

1 Illinois.

2 Senator, I think -- and, again, I'm
3 not -- please don't take this as me attempting
4 to denigrate your participation in this
5 process. But there is participation via the
6 exchanges that you and I are having and there
7 are active -- there is active participation as
8 it relates to producing a final product that
9 the General -- that the General Assembly will
10 take up in legislative action. And that is
11 the process that I'm asking for my Republican
12 colleagues to participate in.

13 There is certainly the back and forth
14 and the questions about this process. I
15 appreciate that, but participating and
16 producing a proposal that will be taken up by
17 the Illinois Senate, taken up by the Illinois
18 House, and then forwarded to the Governor for
19 action, that is the process that I am asking
20 for and my Republican colleagues to
21 participate in.

22 SENATOR PLUMMER: So in theory, if
23 someone wanted to participate in that specific
24 map-drawing process that you're describing,

1 where is map drawing taking place and who
2 would be we be participating with?

3 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator --

4 SENATOR PLUMMER: Who is drawing the map?

5 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator, I'm so glad you
6 asked that question because we have a public
7 portal that anyone who wants to draw a map can
8 utilize that portal to draw and submit a map.

9 Additionally, there is an email
10 address where anyone -- and we have said we
11 will accept any proposal from anyone from an
12 additional mapmaking software to be submitted.
13 If you have -- if you have challenges with it,
14 I will -- I can certainly -- I will certainly
15 show you, tell you again. Because that
16 website is ILSenateredistricting.com. If you
17 want to go to that, go to the website and go
18 to the portal.

19 But, also, if you want to submit a
20 map through whatever mapmaking portal or
21 platform that you have used, you can
22 submit that via email to
23 RedistrictingCommittee@SenateDem.ILGA.gov.
24 Again, that's

1 RedistrictingCommittee@SenateDem.ILGA.gov.

2 SENATOR PLUMMER: So I appreciate that.

3 And, you know, the very first witness
4 commented. And I think that person seemed to
5 be extraordinarily acquainted with the process
6 and deeply involved in mapmaking, not just in
7 Illinois, but elsewhere. But he mentioned the
8 extreme technical difficulties he was having.
9 And just so you know, because I know you care,
10 Senator Sims, that your website wasn't working
11 this weekend. So anyone that did try to go
12 there, the website wasn't loading. Just as an
13 FYI. That's something you might want to have
14 your IT team look into. I want to shift gears
15 here.

16 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: That's why we have got
17 the backup email address, Senator. Please
18 continue.

19 SENATOR PLUMMER: So it is now -- and you
20 and I have talked about this and there seemed
21 to be a certain lack of curiosity around this,
22 which I found very odd, considering this is
23 the Committee tasked with the redistricting
24 process. And I would hope that this is the

1 way redistricting is handled, in a transparent
2 manner.

3 But it is widely reported by multiple
4 reporters, multiple media outlets that there
5 have been secret meetings between the
6 President of the Senate's office, the Speaker
7 of the House's office, and the Governor's
8 office.

9 I have asked numerous times if you or
10 anyone else on the Committee would inquire
11 with those bodies to find out either, yes,
12 that's true so that we can dig into it and
13 have them show as witnesses or they can
14 correct the record and tell us it's not
15 happening.

16 You know, the majority part has
17 elected not to do that thus far. The House
18 Democrat Press Secretary Jaclyn Driscoll has
19 confirmed on the record now that these
20 meetings are taking place. So the Governor
21 had committed to not participating in a
22 partisan or a process lacking in transparency.
23 And now it's very clear that the Governor's
24 office is leading an effort with the House

1 Democrats and the Senate Democrats to draw a
2 map outside of the authority or outside the
3 purview of this Committee.

4 This is, obviously, a significant
5 problem. Will you, Vice-Chairman Sims, ask
6 the Governor and/or a representative of the
7 Governor to appear before this Committee
8 before a final map is drawn so that we can ask
9 about this not only reported news but this
10 confirmed news?

11 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Well, Senator, I'm not
12 going to speak on behalf of what House
13 Democratic -- a representative of the House
14 Democrats has or has not confirmed.

15 What I will commit to and which is
16 what we have done here today and which I will
17 continue to do is listen to the voices of our
18 constituents, listen to the voices of Illinois
19 residents who are asking for participation in
20 this process. That's what I am more
21 interested in participating in, Senator.

22 You know, again, you can -- we can go
23 around and around about this story and I --

24 SENATOR PLUMMER: I don't want to go

1 around and around.

2 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator, let me finish,
3 let me finish.

4 We can go around and around about
5 this story, which I am not interested in
6 doing. I am more interested in a product and
7 a process that produces a map that our
8 constituents are looking for. That's what I'm
9 prepared to do, Senator.

10 SENATOR PLUMMER: What concerns me is the
11 complete lack of interest in pursuing the
12 story, especially now that it has been
13 confirmed by participants in these meetings
14 that are drawing a map.

15 You know, I'm not an investigator or
16 anything like that. But it's pretty easy to
17 connect the dots. Committee hearing is on
18 Thursday. We ask about these meetings; nobody
19 knows about them. We ask who's drawing the
20 map; nobody knows. We ask when we will see a
21 map; nobody knows.

22 **A map appears out of thin air on**
23 **Friday, right. I'm going to guess it probably**
24 **came from the Governor's office and the**

1 representatives of those other groups. And so
2 I would think, just out of sheer diligence or,
3 frankly, out of frustration by you -- because
4 they're clearly running around this Committee,
5 that we would want the Governor's office to
6 appear.

7 So I'm going to send a letter to the
8 Governor's office, Senator Sims. Would you
9 join me in writing a letter to the Governor's
10 office to ask the Governor and/or a member of
11 his staff to appear to -- before the Committee
12 to answer questions about these meetings that
13 have been confirmed?

14 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator, you are
15 certainly within your right to send that
16 letter to the Governor. But, again, as I said
17 to you previously, I don't need to be told how
18 to feel.

19 But, in addition, I guess I don't
20 understand the concern. Because what has
21 been -- I have heard on a consistent basis
22 coming from my friends on the other side of
23 the aisle that we need at least two weeks
24 before hearing -- before final action on a

1 final map proposal.

2 There was a proposal that was
3 submitted last week, which is almost two weeks
4 before the end of the scheduled spring --
5 scheduled fall veto session. So is the
6 complaint with the timing of the submission of
7 the map?

8 I guess I don't understand the
9 circular logic and the circular outrage
10 because we have consistently talked about
11 having -- giving the public ample opportunity
12 to see a map and to weigh in on it. That's
13 happening, Senator. We submitted -- there was
14 a map submitted. The map was then -- the map
15 was submitted. We have now had the
16 opportunity. We didn't go right and have the
17 meeting right after the map was submitted but
18 gave communities the time and the opportunity
19 to look at those maps and then come back with
20 their -- with their input and their testimony,
21 which is what we have been spending the last
22 several hours talking about, the input from
23 Illinois residents about what they want to
24 see.

1 Senator, that is what this process --
2 that's the process that we have outlined from
3 the very beginning and the one that we
4 continue to engage in.

5 SENATOR PLUMMER: I appreciate you
6 acknowledging all of that and I appreciate you
7 highlighting the importance of some of that.
8 So I guess that just begs the obvious
9 question.

10 If all this public input and all of
11 this public review is so important after the
12 submittal of that map, will you commit to
13 having a period of time of at least two weeks,
14 as numerous witnesses have asked for, so that
15 witnesses can review and talk about the final
16 map, the actual map that is going to be voted
17 on? If there is another map, Senator Sims,
18 will there be a period of time of -- a
19 reasonable period of time between the
20 submittal of that map and the vote on that map
21 so the public can review and the public can
22 provide their input?

23 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator, as I have
24 mentioned to you on numerous occasions, the

1 fall veto session has been scheduled since the
2 end of the spring legislative session. That
3 is -- that is the calendar on the schedule
4 that we have been following and the calendar
5 on the schedule that we continue to follow.

6 SENATOR PLUMMER: And that's fine. For
7 the witnesses' benefit, obviously, there is
8 nothing at all that says that we have to vote
9 on a map during fall veto session. I mean,
10 just like we came back for a special session
11 in August. If we truly care about
12 transparency and the public input, we can
13 obviously come back later on. But that's
14 fine, if that's the calendar that you want to
15 follow.

16 I guess my likely last question would
17 be, the meeting that was supposed to take
18 place this last Friday was supposed to take
19 place in Carbondale. Carbondale is in
20 southern Illinois. That meeting was not
21 canceled, as you pointed out earlier; it was
22 changed to today in Springfield. And it
23 would be negligent of me not to point out the
24 fact that this deprives the entirety of

1 southern Illinois from hosting a hearing on
2 these maps.

3 So for the next hearing can we commit
4 to providing an avenue for the people of
5 southern Illinois to be better engaged in this
6 process?

7 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: I will certainly take
8 that up with the Chair.

9 SENATOR PLUMMER: Thank you, Senator Sims,
10 I believe that's all that I have today.

11 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Okay. Thank you so
12 much, Senator.

13 Seeing no further hands or questions,
14 again, I want to remind all of our
15 participants and anyone and all listening, if
16 you want to view the 2020 census numbers and
17 data, draw community interest or district,
18 please go to our website at
19 ILSenateredistricting.com.

20 If you have drawn a map using another
21 mapping platform and would like to submit that
22 map and share it with the Committee,
23 please email it to
24 RedistrictingCommittee@SenateDem.ILGA.gov.

1 Again, that's

2 RedistrictingCommittee@SenateDem.ILGA.gov.

3 Also if you want to submit additional
4 testimony or maps, please email them to
5 RedistrictingCommittee@SenateDem.ILGA.gov.

6 There being no further business to
7 come before the Committee, this meeting of the
8 Senate Redistricting Committee stands
9 adjourned. Thank you, everyone.

10 (End of proceedings.)

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1 STATE OF ILLINOIS

2 COUNTY OF COOK

3 I, Cheryl L. Sandecki, and a Certified
4 Shorthand Reporter of the State of Illinois, do
5 hereby certify that I reported in shorthand the
6 proceedings had at the taking of said hearing
7 and that the foregoing is a true, complete, and
8 correct transcript of my shorthand notes so
9 taken as aforesaid, and contains all the
10 proceedings given at said hearing.

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CHERYL L. SANDECKI, CSR, RPR
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