

1 2011 ILLINOIS STATE SENATE REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

2 PUBLIC HEARING

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April 19, 2011  
Cicero Community Center  
2250 S. 49th Avenue  
Cicero, Illinois

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PRESENT:

- SENATOR KWAME RAOUL, Chairperson
- SENATOR MICHAEL NOLAND, Vice Chairperson
- SENATOR JACQUELINE Y. COLLINS, Member
- SENATOR DON HARMON, President Pro-Tem/Member
- SENATOR MATTIE HUNTER, Member
- SENATOR EMIL JONES, III, Member
- SENATOR EDWARD D. MALONEY, Member
- SENATOR IRIS Y. MARTINEZ, Member
- SENATOR DALE A. RIGHTER, Minority Spokesperson
- SENATOR KIRK W. DILLARD, Member
- SENATOR DAN DUFFY, Member
- SENATOR MARTIN SANDOVAL, Member
- CLERK RON HOLMES

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1                   CHAIRMAN RAOUL:  Senate Committee called to  
2           order.  
3                   Please take roll.  
4                   MR. HOLMES:  Senator Murphy?  
5                   Senator Luechtefeld.  
6                   Senator Duffy.  
7                   SENATOR DUFFY:  Here.  
8                   MR. HOLMES:  Senator Dillard.  
9                   SENATOR DILLARD:  Here.  
10                  MR. HOLMES:  Senator Cultra.  
11                  Senator Righter.  
12                  SENATOR RIGHTER:  Here.  
13                  MR. HOLMES:  Senator Martinez.  
14                  SENATOR MARTINEZ:  Here.  
15                  MR. HOLMES:  Senator Maloney.  
16                  SENATOR MALONEY:  Here.  
17                  MR. HOLMES:  Senator Lightford.  
18                  Senator Maloney.  
19                  SENATOR MALONEY:  Here.  
20                  Senator Jones.  
21                  SENATOR JONES:  Here.  
22                  MR. HOLMES:  Senator Hunter.  
23                  SENATOR HUNTER:  Here.  
24                  MR. HOLMES:  Senator Harmon.

1           SENATOR HARMON: Here.

2           MR. HOLMES: Senator Haine.

3           Senator Collins.

4           SENATOR COLLINS: Here.

5           MR. HOLMES: Senator Noland.

6           SENATOR NOLAND: Here.

7           MR. HOLMES: Chairman Raoul.

8           CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Here.

9           Thank you.

10          Meeting called to order.

11          This is the fifth Redistricting Committee

12          meeting having to do with taking input on the

13          redistricting process in the town of Cicero today.

14          I believe that there may be some motions.

15          SENATOR HUNTER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

16          I would like to make a motion to allow

17          everyone in attendance today the option to take

18          photos as long as they do not interrupt the

19          proceedings.

20          SENATOR MALONEY: I second the motion.

21          CHAIRMAN RAOUL: It has been so moved.

22          Seconded by someone, too. Granted.

23          SENATOR HUNTER: I would like to make a

24          motion to allow any media present to take still

1 photos and record the proceedings.

2 SENATOR MALONEY: I second the motion.

3 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: It has been moved and  
4 seconded. Granted."

5 SENATOR HUNTER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6 And I have one more motion.

7 I notice that we, once again, have a court  
8 reporter present.

9 I move that this hearing be transcribed by  
10 the court reporter so that the committee can have a  
11 full transcript of this hearing which the Committee  
12 can approve for future hearings once members have had  
13 time to review the transcript and make any needed  
14 corrections.

15 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Seconded and granted.

16 The court reporter will transcribe the  
17 testimony that will be given today. Senator Harmon  
18 wishes to be recognized.

19 SENATOR HARMON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20 I move that the committee adopt the written  
21 transcripts of the March 28th and April 6th  
22 Redistricting Hearings, including any parties  
23 identified by Chairman Raoul.

24 SENATOR MALONEY: I second that, Mr.

1 Chairman.

2 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Been moved and seconded.

3 We will table this motion for now to allow  
4 time to review the written transcript.

5 I am going to read the witness list. If  
6 there is anybody here who wishes to testify who has  
7 not filled out a witness list, I ask that you do so.

8 We have Christine Pope, Interfaith  
9 Leadership Project.

10 Juan Rangel, Latino Coalition for Fair  
11 Representation.

12 Yesenia Sanchez, West Suburban Action  
13 Project.

14 Peter Bensinger, CHANGE Illinois.

15 Jesse Iniguez, Committee for a Unified Back  
16 of the Yards.

17 C. W. Chan, Coalition for Better Chinese  
18 American Communities.

19 Sylvia Puente, Latino Policy Forum.

20 We will start with Peter Bensinger.

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TESTIMONY

BY

PETER BENSINGER:

Thank you very much.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. As you identified, I am Peter Bensinger.

And I am here today to testify on behalf of CHANGE, Illinois, an independent and nonpartisan coalition of diverse interests, including organizations that represent more than 2 million Illinoisans working for political reform.

My background in service to government, just briefly, has been for the State of Illinois.

I serve as the Chairman of the Illinois Youth Commission, Director of Corrections for the State of Illinois.

I am a member of the Illinois Law Enforcement Commission, and Chairman of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority.

I have also served for the Federal Government as the Administrator of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and as the U.S. Department of Justice's representative.

But I am testifying, although I have some



1 familiarity with government, on behalf of CHANGE  
2 Illinois that represents over 2 million Illinoisans  
3 who have been working for the last several years for  
4 political reform.

5 And I congratulate the Senate for holding  
6 these hearings. And I want to recognize Senator  
7 Don Harmon, who I was able to testify in front of  
8 some months ago before an election subcommittee.

9 I am thankful for the courtesy that has been  
10 extended to me and our organizations when we have had  
11 issues to present.

12 We may not always agree, but we have been  
13 certainly afforded the opportunity to appear. And I  
14 think this hearing reflects an openness that is  
15 needed and welcome.

16 The districts that are drawn in Illinois  
17 have a tremendous impact on the decisions made by the  
18 House and Senate and ultimately by the Governor as  
19 well.

20 And these hearings afford residents in the  
21 communities throughout the state to have held many  
22 hearings to express their views on the boundaries.

23 I don't have a map to present to you today.  
24 And you will hear lots about maps. But I think my

1 message is that we need to have hearings after you've  
2 drawn a map rather than before.

3 The hearings are helpful, now. But, please,  
4 our coalition urges you, and I do personally as  
5 someone who has worked in government urge you, to  
6 have hearings after you've had your map drawing,  
7 discussions with both parties, had the input from the  
8 public, present the map that you plan to vote on.

9 And then, before you vote on it, have  
10 hearings like this from the public so the  
11 constituency represented here and throughout the  
12 State of Illinois have an opportunity to provide  
13 reaction to the actual map, rather than to give you  
14 philosophy about a hypothetical structure.

15 That may be helpful. And I don't discount  
16 the value of what you have here today. But not  
17 having the map available at a future time before it  
18 is voted on would be a disservice to the state, to  
19 the voters, to the constituencies that I think you  
20 faithfully try to represent.

21 And I know you want to do that. You want to  
22 draw the best map you can. But to do it, you have  
23 got to get input from the folks in this room and in  
24 other hearing rooms after you present them with some

1 boundaries.

2 That's really my message. I would urge you  
3 to take time now before the end of this legislative  
4 session to do that, get the input you need from  
5 today's hearings and others that you held up and down  
6 the state.

7 But when you come back from the General  
8 Assemblies meetings and have a proposed map, have the  
9 public input on the map, and then vote.

10 That's my message. I thank you for the  
11 courtesy of affording me the opportunity to present  
12 it. I do so on behalf of a wide number of  
13 organizations whose identity you can see on the  
14 testimony which I have provided to you.

15 But it is testimony that I am very  
16 comfortable with personally, as someone who has  
17 served in government and very comfortable as one of  
18 three co-chairs with the CHANGE Illinois Coalition,  
19 which has approved my remarks.

20 I am happy to answer any questions, and I  
21 will be happy to step down and give way to other  
22 organizations. Some of them, in fact, are part of  
23 our coalition.

24 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Senator Righter?

1                   SENATOR RIGHTER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
2                   You've emphasized quite strongly what the  
3 organization sees as a need for public hearings after  
4 a map is presented, at least in the General Assembly.  
5                   Give me an idea of, one, if you have an  
6 idea, of how many hearings and where. I mean, would  
7 you suggest that we pattern the hearing schedule  
8 after the hearing schedule that is taking place now?  
9                   Or do you have something else in mind?  
10                  Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
11                  MR. BENSINGER: I don't have any definitive  
12 number.  
13                  I would think that you'd want to hold those  
14 hearings in a manner that is geographically  
15 representative for the state.  
16                  I don't think you need to hold 50 hearings;  
17 30 hearings, 20 hearings. But you certainly have to  
18 have perhaps a half a dozen, and do that with  
19 advanced notice, and do that with an opportunity for  
20 people from geographic regions to provide the input.  
21                  Whether it is six or eight, I don't know,  
22 Senator Righter.  
23                  CHAIRMAN RAOUL: You do know that due  
24 process, the Constitution lays out that the map would

1 be in a legislative session, right?

2 MR. BENSINGER: I do.

3 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: And you realize our  
4 legislative session scheduled to be on May 31st, that  
5 the map is just but one piece of legislation that  
6 members sitting here at the table have to deal with?

7 MR. BENSINGER: I could respond to that,  
8 Senator, if I may.

9 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: You are welcome to.

10 MR. BENSINGER: I think that the current  
11 legislation is not the right way to draw maps.

12 I think that the body of expertise here is  
13 valuable, and it's representing the constituencies in  
14 your districts.

15 But our constituency and our coalition would  
16 opt for a different way of having the State of  
17 Illinois' legislative districts drawn, by perhaps an  
18 independent commission, by authorities that are not  
19 as dramatically invested in their own districts.

20 But I recognize the question you put to me  
21 is how do we get this done by May 30th?

22 And I would say you've got to draw the map  
23 by the 10th or 12th of May, and maybe sooner. But  
24 that's -- I am not in charge of your calendar.

1           But that would give ample time for you to  
2           have hearings after the maps are drawn, have time to  
3           debate it and discuss it on the floors, and make the  
4           best adjustments you can.

5           CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Assuming we get it done by  
6           the 12th of May, have you had an opportunity to look  
7           at the legislative schedule, and are you familiar --  
8           you are pretty familiar with government.

9           And you know how the legislature operates in  
10          the month of May, don't you?

11          MR. BENSINGER: I know how it does. I have  
12          been there waiting for my own budgets when I was head  
13          of corrections to get passed on the last day,  
14          sometimes at midnight.

15          But this is a pretty important issue. You  
16          have held a lot of hearings, you've had a terrific  
17          turn-out. I am very impressed by the senators that  
18          are represented here.

19          Mr. Chairman, you know better than I how to  
20          get this done. You can do it. And John and the  
21          speaker can help. So can the minority leaders.

22          CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Would you agree that  
23          education reform, worker's compensation reform,  
24          budget pension reform, a number of our issues that we

1 have been dealing with in the month of May, are  
2 pretty weighty issues?

3 MR. BENSINGER: They are very weighty.

4 But this is a session that may be held once  
5 every eight or nine years unless there is a  
6 Constitutional amendment.

7 But while we have a fiscal crisis and budget  
8 crisis and we have a lots of leads -- and I share  
9 each of those social issues that you have identified  
10 as priorities -- this is one, too.

11 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Absolutely.

12 And the other thing I wanted to just share  
13 with you is -- and I don't know whether this is your  
14 first of the hearings you have had this year.

15 But it hasn't just been speculation or  
16 anything like that. We are getting valuable input  
17 from different citizens. People have come forth with  
18 maps. They have been specific areas, and they have  
19 been the entire map.

20 People have expressed to us the desire to  
21 keep their specific communities of interest together.  
22 And, granted, some of us, some of that communication  
23 has been inconsistent with one another.

24 There have been some that keep nebulous,

1 maybe some have advocated to keep community interest  
2 together. And it is very important for us to get  
3 that information ahead of time.

4 MR. BENSINGER: I agree with that  
5 completely.

6 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Hearings afterwards rather  
7 than ahead of time.

8 I just wanted to make sure you don't  
9 disagree with me on the importance of having hearings  
10 ahead of time to inform them.

11 MR. BENSINGER: Not a bit, Mr. Chairman.

12 I think you have done well to get input.  
13 And I want to certainly associate myself with the  
14 effort by the Illinois Senate as represented by this  
15 constituent body to get that input so you can make  
16 the best decision.

17 I just think that we need another shot at it  
18 as a public body after you have come to  
19 deliberations.

20 But I think these hearings are helpful, and  
21 I am sure you get that valuable input.

22 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Senator Dillard.

23 SENATOR DILLARD: Thank you, Mr. Bensinger,  
24 for coming out here. You are a very distinguished



1 person with a lot of government service.

2 And I also thank you for coming to the  
3 hearing in Cicero, as opposed to where it would be  
4 easier for you downtown Chicago. So I appreciate you  
5 coming out here.

6 Are you aware, Mr. Bensinger, that the  
7 Constitution gives us a June 30th deadline for a map,  
8 and it has nothing to do with May or the  
9 legislature's schedule?

10 MR. BENSINGER: I am so advised by you  
11 today, Senator Dillard, which is information that is  
12 useful.

13 SENATOR DILLARD: I would store away  
14 June 30th as a deadline, not quite -- as much as I  
15 respect the Chairman, with due privilege deadline it  
16 is not May 12th or thereabouts.

17 The other thing I suggest to you, too, is  
18 that -- and I agree with you, we ought to have  
19 hearings and, once we see what a map looks like, when  
20 people really know how they are affected in our  
21 various communities.

22 You are a master, and I know that you have a  
23 very distinguished group of people you are working  
24 with.

1           If that's your position, please sing it out  
2   in their editorials. That is why we have hearings on  
3   the real map itself. And remember, June 30th is the  
4   deadline day.

5           CHAIRMAN RAOUL: And I think you have a  
6   number of groups that have actually testified, given  
7   varied opinions as to what that process should be.

8           Senator Harmon.

9           SENATOR HARMON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
10   Thank you for being here.

11          I just have one question for you.

12          One of the marquee members of CHANGE  
13   Illinois is campaign reform; and we've heard it  
14   earlier from Ms. Woodward, who similarly urged us to  
15   have hearings after a proposed map was available.

16          And I believe Chairman Raoul has pledged to  
17   do just that, to have hearings.

18          Today in your testimony there is a slight  
19   wrinkle. You are asking for hearings throughout the  
20   state.

21          Is this a case of moving the goal post?

22          Or is there a conflict between whatever the  
23   marquee member organizations and the umbrella  
24   organizations see as the objective?

1           MR. BENSINGER: I don't think that's a  
2 conflict, Senator Harmon.

3           That was my personal opinion, that I think  
4 more than one hearing would be appropriate and more  
5 than one geographic area.

6           I think it would be hard for people in  
7 St. Clair County to get to Cook County and vice  
8 versa.

9           SENATOR HARMON: Again, hypothetically, if  
10 we were to have one at the State Capital and one in  
11 the City of Chicago, would that accomplish some of  
12 your objectives?

13          MR. BENSINGER: Some of it.

14          I think probably I would feel even better if  
15 you had one maybe in the Quad Cities and maybe one  
16 downstate further.

17          But I recognize you have got time  
18 limitations. And I think the key would be to make  
19 sure that the constituencies in all of the geographic  
20 legislative districts have an opportunity to provide  
21 input after the map is drawn.

22          SENATOR HARMON: Thank you very much.

23          CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Thank you, Senator.

24          MR. BENSINGER: Thank you very much,

1 gentlemen.

2 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Sylvia Puente, Latino  
3 Policy Forum.

4

5 TESTIMONY

6 BY

7 MS. PUENTE:

8 Good afternoon, Senator and  
9 Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the opportunity to  
10 testify today.

11 I am hoping that the members have received  
12 this handout, and we did provide, they provide a  
13 sufficient number of copies. But it is mostly what I  
14 will be speaking off of today.

15 And I do have a couple of other colleagues  
16 that are here with me that I think we would all ask  
17 to testify directly after each other.

18 So my name is Sylvia Puente, and I am the  
19 executive director of the Latino Policy Forum. The  
20 Latino Policy Forum is the only organization in the  
21 Chicago area that facilitates the involvement of  
22 Latinos at all levels of public decision-making.

23 Our goals are to improve education outcomes,  
24 advocate for affordable housing, promote just

1 immigration policies, and engage diverse sectors of  
2 the community with an understanding that advancing  
3 Latinos advances a shared future.

4 A major component of the Forum's community  
5 engagement is its role as co-convenor of the Illinois  
6 Latino agenda.

7 The Illinois Latino Agenda is a 49 member  
8 coalition of Latino nonprofit organizations. And on  
9 behalf of their testimony, we have 49 member  
10 organizations who are a part of our coalition.

11 As part of the Latino Agenda, we are  
12 concerned about representation at various levels of  
13 state government.

14 And we have focused a fair amount of our  
15 time working on the new legislative district  
16 boundaries that protect the voting rights of Latino  
17 residents and strengthening their political  
18 representation.

19 In testimony that one of my colleagues  
20 submitted before you last week, we spoke of the  
21 dramatic Latino population growth.

22 I think you are all aware that the Latino  
23 community grew by 33 percent or by an additional  
24 500,000 people, totalling 2 million people now in the

1 State of Illinois.

2 And if we were to have proportionate  
3 representation equal to our numbers in the Illinois  
4 general assembly, there would be 28 legislative  
5 district boundaries whose voting blocks could contain  
6 a Latino majority, and the individuals could select a  
7 candidate of their choice instead of the 12 that we  
8 have today.

9 Obviously, what keeps us from drawing 28  
10 political boundaries is the geographic concentration  
11 of the Latino community, because it is fairly  
12 dispersed throughout the entire state.

13 And our analysis has shown that virtually  
14 all the growth in the population has occurred in the  
15 suburban areas.

16 I think it's also important to point out  
17 that, without the growth of the Latino population,  
18 Illinois would have lost a second Congressional seat.  
19 So, instead of losing one, we would have lost two.

20 As you know, under the Voting Rights Act of  
21 1965, minority voting rights cannot be diluted where  
22 a majority-minority district can be created.

23 Furthermore, under the Illinois New Voting  
24 Rights Act of 2011, minority communities are also

1 protected in the creation of influence, coalition and  
2 cross-over districts. And, as you know, the Latino  
3 community is protected under both of these laws.

4 So what I would like to share with you  
5 today -- and, as you know, we are still in the  
6 process of this -- is the potential for the suburban  
7 districts that could be created outside the Chicago  
8 metropolitan area.

9 At hearings later, before you can move the  
10 hearing process, the Illinois Latino agenda will also  
11 have maps to present to you on the House, the City  
12 districts of the North Side and the South Side.

13 I would like to thank The United Congress,  
14 for they have really been very helpful to us in  
15 drawing these maps, and to Yesenia, who is here, and  
16 this is largely a product of her work.

17 So as we look at the suburban districts --  
18 and these are, again, districts that are being  
19 endorsed by the Illinois Latino agenda, which is  
20 convened by the Latino Policy Forum and the Mexican  
21 American Legal Defense Education Fund -- we see that  
22 Aurora can grow from its present district to actually  
23 a Latino-majority district, a Voting Rights Act  
24 district, at about 66 percent of the total

1 population.

2           So we would certainly see gains in the  
3 Aurora area. We have dubbed this district Franklin  
4 Park, but it really includes Franklin Park, Melrose  
5 Park, Elmwood Park, parts of Addison, and I think a  
6 little bit of Carpentersville.

7           This would be a new suburban district that  
8 could be drawn at about 63 percent Latino, the voting  
9 age population about 56 percent.

10           A third district -- and these are what are  
11 known as the influence districts because, although  
12 the Voting Rights Act does not specifically provide a  
13 minimum threshold, it is traditionally in the area of  
14 about 65 percent.

15           So in the area of Waukegan and North  
16 Chicago, a district could be drawn that is almost  
17 56 percent Latino, and you have the boundaries of  
18 that here.

19           Beyond Waukegan is a potential district in  
20 the Elgin and Carpentersville area, and that  
21 district -- again, an influence district -- at almost  
22 56 percent Latino.

23           Then there is a district in the Joliet area.  
24 And these still are in the range of influence



1 districts, although it would only be at about  
2 32 percent Latino.

3 Beyond Joliet would be Evanston, and that is  
4 actually going into the North Side of the City of  
5 Chicago into the Evanston community at 20 percent  
6 Latino and then finally, in the Rockford Belvidere  
7 District, at about 23 percent Latino.

8 So where we have seen the greatest growth of  
9 the Latino population in the suburbs, we are  
10 currently -- I think it's a good news-bad news story.

11 Because there aren't currently enough  
12 districts that would comprise the number of districts  
13 that would be the minimum threshold of 65 percent.  
14 But we do see there could be, considering the gains  
15 in terms of influence districts.

16 And lastly, as Mr. Bensinger mentioned, the  
17 Latino Policy Forum is also part of CHANGE Illinois,  
18 and we appreciate and applaud and thank you for  
19 having these hearings.

20 We also, though, would like to argue for  
21 continued transparency of the redistricting process.

22 And, given that the advocates are sharing  
23 with you our preferred maps throughout this process,  
24 we would respectfully ask that you show us yours

1 before it is voted on as well.

2 Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Any questions of this  
4 witness.

5 Senator Righter?

6 SENATOR RIGHTER: Thank, you Mr. Chairman.

7 Ma'am, can you tell me, I am curious about  
8 how you came about drawing these lines or deciding  
9 these lines.

10 But one of the issues that has been talked  
11 talked about a little bit in these hearings is  
12 somebody saying we don't have the resources, the  
13 expertise, the knowledge of how to do this.

14 Tell me how you came to present this to us  
15 today.

16 MS. PUENTE: As I mentioned, we're very  
17 thankful to the United Congress, and then Yesenia is  
18 here.

19 United Congress is a multi-racial,  
20 multi-ethnic coalition, investing in the resources  
21 necessary to draw the maps.

22 And I understand it -- because I don't have  
23 the technical background -- the data is provided,  
24 Yesenia has worked diligently on many long nights to

1 identify where the areas are of racial composition  
2 throughout the state, and has come up with these  
3 configurations.

4 So I don't know if I did mention it in my  
5 testimony, while I am testifying on behalf of the  
6 Illinois Latino Agenda through the Illinois Congress,  
7 through the Draw the Line Coalition, for which we  
8 also are a member, that our goal is to work with the  
9 different communities of influence throughout the  
10 state so that, as we conclude this process, we are  
11 working towards a unity map. But we're not there  
12 yet.

13 But certainly with colleagues like United  
14 Congress, who are a Congress with various racial  
15 ethnic groups, as well as Draw the Line Coalition, we  
16 are laying the groundwork for that process.

17 SENATOR RIGHTER: A unity map, describe for  
18 me who would be partners in that.

19 MS. PUENTE: Well, at this point there is --  
20 it is a coalition in formation. But the Illinois  
21 Latino Agenda, as I mentioned, is 49 different member  
22 organizations.

23 In addition, the United Congress is a  
24 coalition of, a multi-ethnic coalition of nine

1 organizations in the City of Chicago.

2 Draw the Line is an emerging coalition that  
3 includes my group, includes other groups, who has the  
4 full-time staff. They have a coordinator and a map  
5 around board as well to try to get the different  
6 groups together.

7 So it is still emerging. It is in  
8 formation.

9 And we hope, by the completion of this  
10 process, we will be able to have a consensus on the  
11 map that we can show to each of you that represents  
12 all the different communities of interest that we are  
13 working with.

14 MR. RIGHTER: I am advised by our staff here  
15 that we have seen variations, or almost exactly, most  
16 of these before, except for the potential Rockford  
17 Belvidere districts, which is pretty wide and not  
18 very tall and has pretty low percentages.

19 That seems to us to be, if you will, kind of  
20 a new concept or new idea.

21 Could you elaborate a little more on this  
22 one?

23 MS. PUENTE: Sure. And it is certainly --  
24 and I don't think it would have been on the table

1 with the traditional voting rights district.

2 But I think under Illinois new state law, we  
3 are talking about the creation of the coalition; and  
4 in the influence districts, there aren't really the  
5 standards which defines those.

6 But we are suggesting that, as we look  
7 throughout the state, when you look at where you can  
8 draw districts together, this district could be drawn  
9 at about 22, 23 percent Latino.

10 It includes -- as you can see, it obviously  
11 goes into the Rockford and Winnebago area. It is  
12 across, I believe, county lines.

13 But you can see obviously the density of  
14 Latino concentration in this area.

15 SENATOR RIGHTER: Thank you very much.

16 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Thank you very much.

17 Christine Pope, Interfaith Leadership  
18 Project.

19

20 TESTIMONY

21 BY

22 CHRISTINE POPE:

23 Good afternoon. Thank you for holding these  
24 hearings and bringing one out to Cicero.

1           My name is Christine Pope. I have been part  
2 of the Cicero community as the Director of the  
3 Interfaith Leadership Project of Cicero and Berwyn  
4 for the past 10 years.

5           Interfaith is an institution based community  
6 organization, which has been working in Berwyn and  
7 Cicero for the past 20 years. Our members are mainly  
8 local churches and health organizations, whose  
9 mission is to call to collaboration communities of  
10 faith and organizations to create positive change in  
11 Berwyn and Cicero by fostering a united voice through  
12 organizing people, promoting civic engagement, and  
13 developing leadership for social justice.

14           We are also a member of the Illinois Latino  
15 Agenda, which is a 49 member coalition of Latino  
16 nonprofit organizations working on issues of concern  
17 to Latino communities in Illinois.

18           Currently, obviously we have been working on  
19 this current redistricting process in order to  
20 protect Latino voting rights and increase their  
21 ability to elect candidates responsive to their  
22 issues.

23           Through this process -- I am going to speed  
24 through a lot of this, because Sylvia mentioned some

1 of this stuff -- we have created a proposal for new  
2 representative districts based on our agreed upon  
3 interests and principals.

4 And she just showed you the maps and let you  
5 know that we are still in the process of bringing  
6 everybody around the table to make a final decision  
7 about the South side maps.

8 However, having put this much energy and  
9 thoughtful discussion into our proposals, we believe  
10 that our groups, as well as all the Illinois  
11 residents, should have the opportunity to view the  
12 maps being considered by the General Assembly and  
13 give our input on their impact on our own  
14 communities.

15 If the idea of this process is to create  
16 legislative districts that truly represent their  
17 constituencies, then the residents should have a  
18 voice in the final proposal.

19 So therefore, we ask, like everybody else,  
20 that there be an additional set of hearings and a  
21 comment period of at least two weeks before you were  
22 to take a final vote on the maps.

23 The reason that is important to us is that  
24 the Cicero Berwyn communities have seen a significant

1 growth in the Latino population actually over the  
2 last couple of decades.

3 Cicero now has a Latino population that  
4 makes up about 86.6 percent of the community. And in  
5 Berwyn, the Latino population represents 59.2  
6 percent.

7 This is an increase even from the 2007  
8 Census estimates of 83.8 percent Latinos in Cicero  
9 and 52.7 percent in Berwyn.

10 We believe this continued increase in  
11 population merits an increase in voting power and  
12 political representation for the Latino community.

13 Being separate municipalities in Cicero and  
14 Berwyn with distinct governments, political systems  
15 and community needs, we feel that it is important  
16 that, in the redrawing of the districts, these  
17 communities are afforded the opportunity to have the  
18 strongest possible political representation.

19 Both communities already struggle to attain  
20 appropriate political representation because of the  
21 high number of non-citizens in these areas.

22 Cicero and Berwyn are also really distinct  
23 from our surrounding communities, in that the  
24 majority of residents are Mexican Americans and



1 Mexican Immigrants.

2           These communities are very young, with  
3 children representing about 20 percent of the  
4 population.

5           Education levels in these communities are  
6 relatively low, with just 75 percent of Berwyn  
7 residents and 48 percent of Cicero residents that  
8 have a high school diploma.

9           The median household income in Cicero is  
10 \$42,000, while in Berwyn this figure is \$48,000. The  
11 per capita income in Cicero of just under \$14,000 is  
12 significantly lower than the per capita income of  
13 Berwyn, which is around \$21,000.

14           Over 80 percent of Cicero families speak a  
15 language other than English -- well, Spanish -- at  
16 home, and 74 percent of Cicero residents are foreign  
17 born.

18           In Berwyn, 53 percent of families speak  
19 another language at home and only 18 percent are  
20 foreign born.

21           Given that there are specific needs of  
22 growing, low income, immigrant communities, we need  
23 to make sure that any redistricting proposal takes  
24 into account the specific needs of these communities.

1                   Currently, Cicero is represented by one  
2 State Senate District and one State Legislative  
3 District. This has helped increase the attention the  
4 State of Illinois paid to the needs of this very  
5 large Latino community.

6                   On the other hand, currently Berwyn is  
7 represented by three State Legislative Districts -- I  
8 mean, Senate -- I'm sorry. Three of each. Three  
9 State Legislative Districts and three State Senate  
10 Districts. And this is for a community with a total  
11 population of 56,000 people.

12                   This poses a real challenge for residents to  
13 have sufficient voice in decisions that are made for  
14 these communities.

15                   So, in closing, we believe Cicero and Berwyn  
16 to be specific communities of interest and request  
17 that these interests be represented when you draw the  
18 legislative boundaries.

19                   Again, I would like to, once again, request  
20 that once the legislative maps are proposed by the  
21 General Assembly, that we would have an opportunity  
22 to provide additional input.

23                   We are coming here -- as Sylvia said, we are  
24 showing you our maps, and we would like to see yours

1 before they are voted on.

2 Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: I have a question.

4 You indicated that Cicero and Berwyn are to  
5 be communities of interest. Is that considered  
6 municipalities, or --

7 MS. POPE: At least, I don't know that it is  
8 possible to put them both together.

9 I am saying they have a lot of similarities.  
10 They also have two distinct municipalities, and those  
11 create specific needs in each community.

12 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: All right.

13 Are there people on both sides of the  
14 boundary between Cicero and Berwyn that have  
15 commonalities?

16 MS. POPE: Yes.

17 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Are these people on both  
18 sides of the boundary of Chicago?

19 MS. POPE: There are some.

20 As you know, obviously Chicago, the greater  
21 Chicago metropolitan area is very segregated.

22 So when you go across Cicero, out of Cicero  
23 to the east, you are in Lawndale. When you go across  
24 out of Cicero to the north, you're in Austin. When

1       you cross Berwyn to the north, you are in Oak Park.  
2       And when you go west, you are in Riverside or North  
3       Riverside.

4                So income, race, those things are very  
5       different when you get out of Cicero Berwyn.

6                CHAIRMAN RAOUL:   Depending on what part of  
7       each one of those neighborhoods you describe.

8                MS. POPE:   Yes.

9                CHAIRMAN RAOUL:   Each one of those  
10       neighborhoods are not -- or communities are not  
11       monolithic.

12               MS. POPE:   You mean between Cicero and  
13       Berwyn or outside to Chicago?

14               CHAIRMAN RAOUL:   Outside to Chicago.

15               MS. POPE:   Yeah.   There are some  
16       similarities.

17               CHAIRMAN RAOUL:   Not everybody in the City  
18       of Chicago is the same income, same race?

19               MS. POPE:   No.

20               CHAIRMAN RAOUL:   So you have diversity  
21       within the City of Chicago.

22               You have some people in the City of Chicago  
23       that have commonalities to people in Cicero and  
24       Berwyn, and --

1 MS. POPE: Certainly. I actually wish it  
2 was more.

3 It is a very segregated area with the main  
4 streets and the railroad tracks.

5 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Senator Maloney.

6 SENATOR MALONEY: You've mentioned -- I  
7 believe I got the statistics right -- 74 percent of  
8 the Cicero residents were foreign born?

9 MS. POPE: Uh-huh.

10 SENATOR MALONEY: Would that run in an age  
11 group we are talking about, mostly adults, children,  
12 everything in between?

13 MS. POPE: It runs the gambit.

14 Sylvia might be able to answer that more  
15 specifically as a researcher. It runs the gambit.

16 We have a fair amount of children that came  
17 here as, you know, as young children or now as  
18 teenagers. We have a fair amount of children that  
19 were born here to immigrant parents and grandparents.

20 SENATOR MALONEY: Okay.

21 Thank you very much.

22 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Senator Righter.

23 SENATOR RIGHTER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

24 Ms. Puente gave us a set of maps.

1           Do I understand you correctly to say that  
2 you are part of these maps or the processing of these  
3 maps or support these?

4           Is that correct.

5           MS. POPE: Yeah. We are part of that  
6 coalition that drew those maps.

7           We are also -- there is several different  
8 possibilities for the South side. So we are still in  
9 conversation with the whole coalition about our final  
10 suggestions for the representative districts for  
11 those areas, and we will present them at a future  
12 hearing.

13           SENATOR RIGHTER: And I apologize. I am  
14 feeling a little bit in need of a roster to keep  
15 track of all the groups.

16           When you say that coalition --

17           MS. POPE: I'm sorry. The Latino Agenda  
18 that is chaired by the Latino Policy Forum and the  
19 Mexican-American Legal Defense.

20           SENATOR RIGHTER: And you are part of that?

21           MS. POPE: Yes.

22           SENATOR RIGHTER: Great.

23           MS. POPE: And we are a local community  
24 organization.

1                   SENATOR RIGHTER:   Great.

2                   Thank you.

3                   CHAIRMAN RAOUL:   Senator Sandoval.

4                   SENATOR SANDOVAL:   You mentioned in your  
5                   testimony that you think that Berwyn would be better  
6                   served by -- insinuated Berwyn would be better suited  
7                   by having a sole Senator or sole legislative  
8                   district?

9                   MS. POPE:   At least less than six would be  
10                  good.

11                  I am suggesting that it's a little difficult  
12                  when you have a community that's not that big that  
13                  has three different senators and three different  
14                  representatives.

15                  SENATOR SANDOVAL:   And you also made a  
16                  comment that people, Latinos in Chicago are  
17                  significantly different from Latinos in Cicero --

18                  MS. POPE:   No.

19                  SENATOR SANDOVAL:   -- and significantly  
20                  different from Latinos in Berwyn?

21                  MS. POPE:   No.   That is not what I intended  
22                  to say.   I'm sorry if that was the perception.

23                  What I'm saying is it is a lot, with the  
24                  exception of potentially Little Village, a lot of the

1 adjacent communities to Cicero don't have some of the  
2 issues, in terms of language and immigrant status,  
3 that Cicero and Berwyn do.

4 SENATOR SANDOVAL: So over the last ten  
5 years, you've seen a lot of reports coming out of  
6 Sylvia's shop and Notre Dame University that  
7 basically has educated us that, like the suburban  
8 group, Cook County has been the new entry port for  
9 primarily Mexican immigrants -- Mexican immigrants  
10 from Mexico -- Latinos, for lack of a better word.

11 So I would think that, for myself and my  
12 assessment, that the immigrant people, Latino people  
13 in Cicero and Berwyn raised growth of Latinos.

14 I mean, certainly there are a greater growth  
15 of Latinos in the Cicero and Berwyn than in other  
16 surrounding communities.

17 Is that true, Sylvia?

18 MS. PUENTE: I don't know.

19 SENATOR SANDOVAL: I would think so. I  
20 would think there are a lot more Latinos in Cicero  
21 than there are in surrounding communities.

22 I am still a little -- I want to continue to  
23 questioning, here.

24 First of all, if you can kind of clarify the



1 differences of -- I certainly represent La Villita,  
2 Cicero and Berwyn. And although they have municipal  
3 governments and different cultures of governance,  
4 they have all the same needs.

5 MS. POPE: Yeah.

6 SENATOR SANDOVAL: Is that what you are --

7 MS. POPE: I wasn't disputing that, no.

8 SENATOR SANDOVAL: Your testimony seemed to  
9 indicate --

10 MS. POPE: Yes.

11 SENATOR SANDOVAL: -- that there are  
12 succinct needs between these three different  
13 geographical communities?

14 MS. POPE: The main difference I think  
15 between Cicero and Berwyn and La Villita is just one  
16 is Chicago and the others have two other governments  
17 that they are working under.

18 In terms of of the actual population of  
19 those communities, I think they are fairly similar.  
20 There is more new immigrants, I believe, in Cicero  
21 and Berwyn than in Little Village at this point.

22 But I was not trying to say I thought those  
23 two communities were very different and should be  
24 separated.

1                   SENATOR SANDOVAL: Under the last  
2 legislative remap, Cicero, Berwyn, basically, to the  
3 end, MALDEF and other organizations in the  
4 communities were involved.

5                   You've got to admit, you've got  
6 significantly more representation of Latinos serving  
7 Latinos in the legislature.

8                   You have in Chicago Latinos representing  
9 suburban Latinos, and I think fairly effectively.

10                  MS. POPE: If you do say so yourself.

11                  SENATOR SANDOVAL: So would there be a need  
12 for continuing?

13                  So I think the district that was created  
14 that encompassed the entire Latino community  
15 basically of the southwest quadrant of Cook County,  
16 which is the South side of Chicago, Little Village,  
17 Cicero, Berwyn and Stickney, is a gargantuan step  
18 that the legislature took.

19                  You're saying it just needs to go further by  
20 breaking up this district?

21                  MS. POPE: No. I was not saying that at  
22 all.

23                  I was saying that Cicero and Berwyn, these  
24 are the statistics, these are the needs, these are

1 the demographics, that we need to have a strong  
2 Latino majority district in that area.

3 Especially since, as I think Sylvia alluded  
4 to, that the noncitizen numbers, the high number of  
5 noncitizens brings it down.

6 I was not at all saying that we need to  
7 separate Cicero from Little Village or from the  
8 southwest side.

9 I believe those communities have much more  
10 in common from Cicero and Berwyn than kind of our  
11 neighbors just to the east and the north and the  
12 west.

13 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Thank you.

14 MS. POPE: Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Yesenia Sanchez, West  
16 Suburban Action Project.

17

18 TESTIMONY

19 BY

20 YESENIA SANCHEZ:

21 Hi. Good afternoon.

22 Chairman, members of the Senate, my name is  
23 Yesenia Sanchez with West Suburban Action Project. I  
24 am also a resident of Franklin Park.

1           P.A.S.O. West Suburban Action Project is a  
2 non-partisan, non-profit community organization that  
3 works to engage community members to act in their  
4 faith and values to address issues that affect them,  
5 their families, their neighbors, in order to build  
6 stronger communities.

7           P.A.S.O uses the unique model of community  
8 organizing, leadership development, and civic  
9 participation as tools for members to develop the  
10 skills to be active, engaged participants in their  
11 communities.

12           Some of the issues P.A.S.O. works on are  
13 immigrant rights, education, and public safety.

14           P.A.S.O. is an institution-based  
15 organization that includes Our Lady of Mount Carmel,  
16 St. Charles Borromeo, St. John Vianney, and  
17 St. Simeon parishes as well as Nuestra Voz Youth  
18 Council.

19           We serve the West Cook Suburbs, including  
20 the areas of Stone Park, Maywood, Bellwood,  
21 Melrose Park, Northlake and Franklin Park.

22           We are currently working with the Illinois  
23 Latino Agenda, a 49-member coalition of Latino  
24 nonprofit organizations, to protect the voting rights

1 of Latino residents and to increase their ability to  
2 elect candidates of their choice through the  
3 development of new legislative boundaries across the  
4 state.

5 I join this hearing today because of the  
6 importance of the redistricting process to the  
7 communities we serve, and specifically regarding the  
8 need for the creation of new legislative boundaries  
9 that keep key communities of interest together in a  
10 majority Latino district that includes the areas of  
11 Melrose Park, Stone Park, Maywood, Northlake,  
12 Franklin Park, Des Plaines, Mount Prospect,  
13 Bensenville and Addison.

14 Such map has been submitted by the Latino  
15 Policy Forum on behalf of the Illinois  
16 Latino Agenda.

17 The dramatic increase in Latino population  
18 growth in these areas must be accompanied by new  
19 legislative district boundaries that enable greater  
20 Latino representation in the Illinois General  
21 Assembly.

22 It is also of great importance that  
23 communities with shared interests be able to select  
24 candidates that reflect their priorities and have an

1 opportunity to hold them accountable for their  
2 actions.

3 As stated under the U.S. Voting Rights Act  
4 of 1965, minority voting rights cannot be diluted  
5 where a majority minority district can be created.

6 Furthermore, under the Illinois Voting  
7 Rights Act of 2011, minority communities are also  
8 protected in the creation of influence, coalition and  
9 cross-over districts.

10 Our community is protected under both of  
11 these laws, and we will be watching the legislature  
12 and this process to ensure that these laws are  
13 followed.

14 Currently, these communities are split  
15 amongst several legislative districts, though once  
16 these districts are connected, they can form over  
17 60 percent Latino population.

18 These regions of communities are currently  
19 divided by 4 House Districts -- 77, 78, 65 and 46.  
20 It is crucial to create a district that allows the  
21 Latino population to be compact within a district but  
22 fairly represents them and does not dilute the Latino  
23 voting power within this region.

24 Of particular significance, within these

1 residents in the last ten years, you have seen a huge  
2 increase and shift in the Latino population.

3 The recent 2010 Census data shows the  
4 percentages for Latino populations in the following  
5 communities:

6 Melrose Park is now 69.6 percent Latino.  
7 Stone Park west of us is 88.1 percent Latino.  
8 Maywood is 20.8 percent Latino, Northlake  
9 52.9 percent. Franklin Park 43.1 percent Latino,  
10 Mount Prospect 15.5 percent, Bensenville  
11 47.8 percent, and Addison 40.1 percent Latino  
12 population. As you can see, these are very sizeable  
13 populations.

14 Furthermore, these communities, key  
15 communities of interest already have shared interest  
16 in community networks.

17 For instance, our organization works with  
18 key institutions of faith in these areas, which go  
19 all the way from Melrose Park to Franklin Park.

20 They have a long history of working together  
21 on several issues significantly pertaining to  
22 immigrant rights and are currently divided into  
23 several legislative districts, as I mentioned.

24 Further, in addition, as we have done direct

1 outreach in these communities, we have found they  
2 also shared similar challenges, including access to  
3 education, language barriers, and lack of information  
4 to government agencies and access to quality  
5 services.

6 Being divided by four legislative districts  
7 does not help these communities of interest to be  
8 able to address these issues effectively.

9 Lastly, it is also very important to  
10 recognize that these communities are interconnected  
11 and especially share racial demographics that create  
12 the necessity to ensure a majority Latino district.

13 The ties communities have established  
14 include economic prosperity, as is visible in the  
15 Latino-owned businesses located in Melrose Park and  
16 Maywood along Lake Street Corridor and 19th Avenue,  
17 Stone Park along Manheim Avenue, and Franklin Park  
18 along Franklin Avenue.

19 These businesses have provided to the local  
20 prosperity of the communities where they are located  
21 and thus should be able to stay contiguous and  
22 interconnected by a district that fairly represents  
23 them.

24 In closing, it is very important to make



1       sure that the communities of interest that include  
2       the areas I mentioned are within the new boundaries  
3       of a new majority-Latino district that ensures the  
4       fair representation of this community.

5                Again, as was mentioned by my colleagues, we  
6       are looking to share our maps with you, and we are  
7       hoping to look at the maps once you have created them  
8       to ensure fair representation.

9                And then, as the last point, I do want to  
10      mention it was mentioned early, in regards to  
11      districts that have lower representation that are  
12      closer to other ones that have higher density of  
13      Latino areas, it is very important that, although  
14      there is a different representation, to continue to  
15      make sure these communities are together to address  
16      the issues that are affecting them so legislatures  
17      that do represent them can do so fairly.

18               Any questions that you have?

19               CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Thank you.

20               Jesse Iniguez, Committee for a Unified Back  
21      of the Yards.

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TESTIMONY

BY

JESSE INIGUEZ:

Good evening, Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Redistricting Committee.

My name is Jesse Iniguez, and I am here before you as a member of Back of the Yards Community as well as a member of the Committee for a Unified Back of the Yards.

We are a group that is comprised of residents, religious institutions, social service agencies, local schools and parks.

And Back of the Yards of the communities of interest, it is Chicago's second oldest Mexican American neighborhood and has historically been an entry port of various generations of immigrants looking for work in the Chicago Stockyards.

This community area is bordered by Western Avenue to the west, Halsted Avenue to the east, 52nd Street to the south, and Pershing Avenue to the north.

The community is served by the 47th Street business corridor, and residents largely share racial, ethnic, language, cultural, and socioeconomic

1 identities.

2 Our residents are connected by a shared  
3 commitment to advance immigrant rights, create peace,  
4 accompany our youth, promote economic development,  
5 and improve our local schools.

6 Back of the Yards is a community that  
7 encompasses roughly a 2 mile by 1.5 mile area, is  
8 currently split into many districts at all areas of  
9 government.

10 In 2000, our community was drawn into the  
11 tail end of three Congressional districts, three  
12 state house districts, two state senate districts,  
13 and five city wards. That is a total of 13 political  
14 districts in our small community.

15 Having 13 districts in one community dilutes  
16 and fractures our community's vote. It has also made  
17 it difficult for residents to obtain basic government  
18 services, develop relationships with their  
19 legislators, create political empowerment, advocate  
20 for the needs of our youth, poor, and immigrants, and  
21 promote economic development.

22 Back of the Yards should be recognized as a  
23 community of interest, and it should be kept intact  
24 and unified in the Congressional, state and municipal

1 districts.

2 We have talked to community residents in our  
3 neighborhoods, block by block, and they support a  
4 unified and intact Back of the Yards.

5 We have collected signatures from our  
6 community residents who support this effort, and we  
7 will submit those petitions at a later date for your  
8 record.

9 And we are also in the process of collecting  
10 letters of support from community organizations that  
11 serve Back of the Yards.

12 We call on the Senate Redistricting  
13 Committee and the General Assembly to do the  
14 following:

15 Keep the Back of the Yards unified and  
16 intact when mapping the Congressional and state  
17 legislative districts.

18 A map of our community is offered into the  
19 record. We have shared a copy for you as well.

20 If you can, present potential redistricting  
21 maps to the public at least two weeks before a vote  
22 so that communities can provide input.

23 Ensure fair participation by protecting  
24 voting rights under the Federal Voting Rights Act and

1 the new Illinois Voting Rights Act, including  
2 influence, coalition and crossover districts.

3 Recognize and respect communities of  
4 interest by keeping them together and not fracturing  
5 or diluting their voice and their vote.

6 And I just want to reemphasize that the  
7 reason why I am here is quite simple: That we want  
8 to make sure that our community, Back of the Yards,  
9 stays intact. Having 13 legislators to work with  
10 makes it very difficult.

11 And I have also provided a second map  
12 showing the various boundaries of the different  
13 legislators so you can get an idea of the small area  
14 that we are talking about, which makes it virtually  
15 impossible to know -- for some residents, virtually  
16 impossible to know who their legislators are.

17 Thank you.

18 SENATOR SANDOVAL: Who is yours?

19 MR. INIGUEZ: Actually, Mattie Hunter, my  
20 Senator is here. I am glad she is here.

21 But a block away I have Senator Munoz from  
22 the First District. So right on the boundary.

23 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Two fine representatives.

24 MR. INIGUEZ: Yes.

1                   CHAIRMAN RAOUL:    Senator Maloney?

2                   SENATOR MALONEY:    In the area you testified,  
3                   47th Street and West Halsted, what would the  
4                   population of the Back of the Yards community be?

5                   MR. INIGUEZ:     As far as numbers or race?

6                   CHAIRMAN RAOUL:    No, no, no.    Just total  
7                   population.

8                   MR. INIGUEZ:     I don't have the Census  
9                   numbers, but we will submit that later.

10                  SENATOR MALONEY:    Thank you.

11                  MR. INIGUEZ:     Thank you.

12                  CHAIRMAN RAOUL:    Thank you so much.

13                  W. C. Chan, Coalition for a Better  
14                  Chinese-American Community.

15                  MR. CHAN:     Thank you, Senator.

16

17                                   TESTIMONY

18   BY

19   W.C. CHAN:

20                   I know I have testified before this  
21                   Committee more than one time before, so I want to  
22                   assure you that I am not going to bore you with  
23                   repeating everything I said before.    Maybe a little  
24                   bit.

1           And I make my testimony -- and also, our  
2           community profile is available. And I apologize. We  
3           may not have enough copies for -- I have two more  
4           sets.

5           And my name is W. C. Chan. I am the  
6           Chairperson of the Coalition for a Better Chinese  
7           American Community, CBCAC.

8           And CBCAC was formed ten years ago as a  
9           coalition of major service organizations in the  
10          Chinese American community in Chicago to spearhead  
11          the 2001 Redistricting campaign to have Chinatown  
12          drawn in a single district.

13          CBCAC has advocated for the community on  
14          various issues and encouraged civic participation  
15          toward building an informed and engaged citizenry.

16          In the past decade, CBCAC succeeded in more  
17          than tripling the number of registered Chinese  
18          American votes in the South side Chinatown  
19          neighborhood.

20          But our last redistricting endeavor was not  
21          as successful. The 2001 Redistricting resulted in  
22          Chinatown being split into three Congressional  
23          districts, three State Senate districts, four State  
24          Representative districts, and three city wards.

1           There were convincing documentations of  
2 neglect and unmet needs as a result of the split, and  
3 the Chinatown situation has since become a textbook  
4 case illustrating the inequity of the last  
5 redistricting and its devastating impacts on language  
6 minority communities.

7           Here we are in the middle of another round  
8 of redistricting. The community's resolve to be in a  
9 single district has not diminished, but has become  
10 ever stronger.

11           More than a year ago, CBCAC began mobilizing  
12 the community to participate in the 2010 census. We  
13 also made our presence known before the census data  
14 came out during the debate on the process of  
15 redistricting in early 2010.

16           I personally had testified before this  
17 Committee at the Springfield hearing in April 2010 on  
18 the Redistricting Reform and Fair-map proposals, and  
19 later in January 2011 at the hearing on SB 3976, the  
20 voting Right Act of Illinois 2011.

21           A few weeks ago, on March 28, 2011, my  
22 colleagues from CBCAC and other Asian American  
23 communities testified before this committee, once  
24 again presented evidence of the negative impacts of



1 past redistricting on our communities, and provided  
2 information on the integral nature of a community  
3 like Chinatown that should be kept intact.

4 We also want to convey that this community  
5 has first-hand experience of the consequence of the  
6 dilution of voting power as a result of fragmentation  
7 in redistricting. And we understand, empathize and  
8 support similar aspirations and efforts of other  
9 racial and language minorities in their quest for  
10 expanding their voting rights through equitable  
11 redistricting.

12 It is not my intention here today to repeat  
13 the testimonies of my colleagues. In fact, it is  
14 heart-warming that Chinatown's plight has drawn  
15 tremendous attention, and many legislative leaders  
16 and media believed and commented that Chinatown had  
17 made a compelling case.

18 This is also my first opportunity to thank  
19 members of this committee since your historic  
20 unanimous vote that led to the passage of the  
21 Voting Right Act of Illinois 2011. I am particularly  
22 appreciative of your attentive listening and your  
23 support and encouragement throughout these past  
24 months.

1           All the previous activities have come to  
2 this point, the moment that really counts. The  
3 Chinatown community looks up to all of you, dear  
4 Senators, to turn your political will into action,  
5 and do your very utmost to keep Chinatown together.

6           Together with my testimony, I am presenting  
7 to you a document, "The Greater Chinatown Community  
8 Area Profile." It provides boundaries of a community  
9 area with a population of 89,632 and a 30 percent or  
10 27,371 Asian Americans, an area that should be kept  
11 intact in a single district.

12           The document also provides detailed  
13 information of the community to show that language,  
14 culture, commerce, social, civic and educational  
15 institutions are all interwoven together, forming a  
16 very distinct "Community of Interest."

17           Once again, thank you for the opportunity to  
18 testify before this committee.

19           CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Thank you.

20           Are there any questions of this witness?

21           It is wonderful hearing from you, again.

22 Thank you.

23           Juan Rangel.

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TESTIMONY

BY

JUAN RANGEL:

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and members of the Committee.

And I believe all of you should have a packet, the Proposed Senate Redistricting, like this (indicating). If not, we will get you a copy.

I thank you for the opportunity to represent our position with regards to redistricting.

My name is Juan Rangel. I am the CEO. I am here on on behalf of the Latino Coalition for Fair Representation.

So again, thank you for the opportunity to contribute our position on proposed maps.

And I know this is a very long and maybe even tedious process for all of you going across the State of Illinois, but we think it is an important one for us to go through.

All of us are here today throughout the state to give you guidance and direction as to the needs of redistricting of communities.

The Latino Coalition for Fair Redistricting consists of not only UNO, but a number of major

1 organizations in the State of Illinois.

2 As you know, the Illinois Voting Rights Act  
3 creates the public hearing process in part to protect  
4 the voting rights of minorities.

5 We hope that the final map passed by the  
6 Illinois legislature will reflect our proposed maps  
7 and appropriately represent the Latino population of  
8 Illinois.

9 The Latino Coalition for Fair Redistricting  
10 is here today to, one, first to protect the gains  
11 that we have made over the years in the number of  
12 Latino Senate districts.

13 And, second, our coalition is here to demand  
14 the creation of additional Latino majority and  
15 cross-over districts in the Illinois General  
16 Assembly.

17 We wish to communicate through these  
18 proposed maps our position that it is possible -- not  
19 to tell you how to draw the maps or where, what  
20 boundaries they should have -- but simply to say that  
21 it is possible to create additional Latino and  
22 crossover districts and to ensure that we are  
23 adhering to our legal requirements for redistricting.

24 The maps presented today illustrate the

1 aptness of creating eight districts with Latino  
2 voting blocks.

3 Latino population in Illinois is up by  
4 32.5 percent since the year 2000, compared to the  
5 mere 3.3 percent growth in Illinois' general  
6 population.

7 This is particularly enlightening,  
8 considering that Illinois is growing at a slower rate  
9 than other states of its size. States in the south  
10 and west regions of the country grew at an average of  
11 about 14 percent.

12 In fact, Illinois may lose a Congressional  
13 seat based on the 2010 Census results.

14 In every district we address here today, the  
15 number of Latino residents has gone up at a  
16 remarkably higher rate than the overall population  
17 which, in most cases, has gone down.

18 The suburban districts in particular require  
19 redistricting attention.

20 In DuPage County, the overall population  
21 grew by 1.41 percent, yet its Latino population grew  
22 by 49.33 percent.

23 Lake County, the overall population grew by  
24 9.17 percent. Yet its Latino population grew by

1 50.98 percent. Clearly, the tremendous growth for  
2 the Latino population compels an adjustment of the  
3 current Latino representation in the Illinois  
4 legislature.

5 The maps we propose that you can see against  
6 the wall here directly address the growing Latino  
7 population in areas of Waukegan, Aurora, West  
8 Chicago, Elgin, Franklin Park and Chicago, among  
9 others.

10 And, in fact, it is the position of the  
11 Latino Coalition for Fair Redistricting that we  
12 should also have two Congressional districts that can  
13 and should be drawn.

14 We have also considered the interests and  
15 desires of the Chinese American communities by  
16 keeping the Chinatown communities intact under one  
17 representative and one senator.

18 The coalition has retained Reyes, Bonoma &  
19 Kurson LLC to represent them throughout all phases of  
20 this redistricting cycle. The firm's wealth of  
21 experience in redistricting matters will advance the  
22 Coalition's goal of ensuring Latinos are adequately  
23 represented in the redistricting process and any  
24 subsequent litigation.

1           Additionally, the coalition is also working  
2 with the law firm of Tristan & Cervantes, who is  
3 represented here today and sitting right next to me.

4           Again, the primary goal of the Latino  
5 Coalition for Fair Redistricting is to both maintain  
6 our current Senate districts and expand to better  
7 reflect the growing Latino population in Illinois.

8           We view our proposed maps as a starting  
9 point, simply a starting point, and welcome further  
10 discussion with members of the Illinois State  
11 Legislature and other communities.

12           We hope that, through continued exchange,  
13 the redistricting map that passes the Illinois  
14 Legislature will be one that adequately represents  
15 Latino interests and other minority communities,  
16 thereby achieving the goal of the Illinois Voting  
17 Rights Act.

18           Thank you very much for this opportunity to  
19 address the committee.

20           CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Any questions?

21           Senator Dillard?

22           SENATOR DILLARD: Thanks, Juan, for being  
23 here.

24           Of the underlying house districts, how many

1 of these on this page have a 50 percent or greater  
2 Latino population?

3 MR. RANGEL: I believe all of them, with the  
4 exception of what is being proposed in the  
5 West Chicago area, which is currently splitting up  
6 the Aurora district.

7 This redistricting has 58 percent Hispanic  
8 population. We are proposing that number be brought  
9 down to 55.06 percent, keeping a majority, but also  
10 creating an influence district that's adjoined with  
11 West Chicago, which would go up to 41.88 percent.

12 SENATOR DILLARD: Great.

13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Senator Righter.

15 SENATOR RIGHTER: Good afternoon. Good to  
16 see you, again.

17 I don't know if you recall, but I came to  
18 see one of your schools. And still, to this day, we  
19 talk about what a good job you are doing with those  
20 young men and women.

21 MR. RANGEL: Thank you.

22 SENATOR RIGHTER: I look at those maps you  
23 have up against the wall there and see what you have  
24 in your hat here.



1           And for me, not being from this area of the  
2 state, the lines don't mean that much on their face.  
3 I guess I want to ask you some questions.

4           First, tell me what it was -- you can answer  
5 this in any kind of terms you like -- what it was you  
6 were looking to do with these maps you had drawn.

7           MR. RANGEL: I think that, considering the  
8 numbers that we have seen over the last ten years,  
9 the united growth in the Latino community, it's to  
10 maximize those numbers.

11           In some cases, like I mentioned in the  
12 West Chicago, we're not going to have a majority  
13 district there, but we want to maximize the numbers  
14 that are there. So that means adjoining it with the  
15 Aurora district.

16           So purely it's maximizing the numbers and  
17 keeping the communities of interest together.

18           We were able to do that in Waukegan, but we  
19 consolidate the majority of Latino districts there.  
20 But with the Senatorial district, it would become an  
21 influence Senatorial district.

22           SENATOR RIGHTER: Now, did you draw these  
23 maps at one of the public drawing stations, or is  
24 this something you did in-house?

1                   MR. RANGEL:  No.  We were down in  
2                   Springfield many a time working on the public  
3                   stations.

4                   SENATOR RIGHTER:  In the capital building?

5                   MR. RANGEL:  In the capital building.

6                   SENATOR RIGHTER:  Were you assisted by  
7                   someone to use the technology?

8                   Or was this --

9                   MR. RANGEL:  There was staff there that  
10                  knows how to handle the computers, but it was at our  
11                  direction, myself.  One time some of our staff was  
12                  there as well.

13                  SENATOR RIGHTER:  Who was that staff?  Do  
14                  you know who they work for?

15                  MR. RANGEL:  I don't know.  I think we were  
16                  down there several times, and each time it was a  
17                  different person.

18                  SENATOR RIGHTER:  Okay.  Okay.

19                  What kind of percentages?  I mean, were you  
20                  searching for certain kinds of percentages when you  
21                  were drawing these individual districts, or was it  
22                  more a situation where you looked for areas of  
23                  concentration of Latino population and said okay, we  
24                  are just going to put them together as best we can?

1           MR. RANGEL: All of the above. I don't  
2 think there was a magic number.

3           We actually arrived to considering districts  
4 and from there trying to achieve a maximum number of  
5 interests which, in this case, happens to be the  
6 Hispanic communities.

7           In some areas, we had an over population,  
8 which meant we were to subtract as well, so it was  
9 working out the different formulas there.

10           But, again, they were trying to achieve a  
11 majority of Latinos in certain areas where they are  
12 concentrated at.

13           I think the harder one was the West Chicago  
14 area, because it wasn't necessarily adjoining Aurora  
15 and had to create a larger area. So it wasn't a  
16 majority district.

17           SENATOR RIGHTER: Of the districts which are  
18 up against the wall and the ones you came up with  
19 here, how many of them would you say provide a  
20 meaningful opportunity to elect a Latino candidate?

21           MR. RANGEL: I will say I think all of them  
22 have that potential.

23           I think if you look at -- and I will just  
24 state our position on that.

1           I don't know that we are advocating for each  
2 of these districts to elect a Latino. I think we are  
3 looking at these districts as areas of interest,  
4 common interest, so they can elect a person that can  
5 represent those communities' interests.

6           Earlier, Christine Pope was talking about  
7 Cicero Berwyn. I think that it's important to keep  
8 those communities together so they can represent a  
9 person, an elected person that represents their  
10 interests combined. Whether that is Hispanic or not,  
11 that is up to the local voters there.

12           But if the question is, is it a possibility,  
13 yes, I definitely see that. Currently, in House  
14 District 4, the population is under 50 percent, yet  
15 the representative was reelected in that district.  
16 And I think she did a fine job of representing that  
17 community.

18           But it's still over 50 percent.

19           SENATOR RIGHTER: One thing I notice about  
20 the maps there and the ones you came down with -- and  
21 I am not an expert in this -- there aren't any  
22 streets, there is no boundaries. I mean, you see  
23 lines.

24           And why is that?

1           MR. RANGEL: That's doable. I think that is  
2 for the convenience of the smaller maps.

3           If you look at that program, you can get  
4 very detailed, in terms of streets, rivers,  
5 expressways, landmarks.

6           And after a while, it starts getting too  
7 cluttered, that you can't really read the map  
8 anymore. So we were just trying to keep it simple.

9           SENATOR RIGHTER: So it's almost an issue of  
10 magnification?

11          MR. RANGEL: Yeah. I think for the purposes  
12 of your -- and if you have a computer in front of  
13 you, it is easier to use.

14          SENATOR RIGHTER: But in order to come up  
15 with the percentages you came up with, I mean, that  
16 number is based on Census block information, right?

17          MR. RANGEL: That is correct.

18          SENATOR RIGHTER: So the lines are drawn  
19 along Census lines, correct?

20          MR. RANGEL: Correct.

21          SENATOR RIGHTER: But that's just not  
22 depicted here?

23          MR. RANGEL: Correct.

24          SENATOR RIGHTER: Do you have that

1 information?

2 In other words, if we wanted to see the  
3 underlying data of exactly what street, what block is  
4 encompassed in that, you would be willing to provide  
5 that?

6 MR. RANGEL: Certainly, I would.

7 SENATOR RIGHTER: Would you be willing to  
8 provide that to us?

9 MR. RANGEL: Yes, certainly.

10 SENATOR RIGHTER: Great.

11 That is all I have, Mr. Chairman.

12 Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Any questions?

14 SENATOR NOLAND: Sir, what was your magic  
15 number?

16 MR. RANGEL: I believe the magic number for  
17 the House District is 108 -- it is 108,700 something.  
18 I can't remember, exactly.

19 But by law, the variance is only by one. So  
20 it was a tough thing to put together.

21 SENATOR NOLAND: What was your percentage?

22 MR. RANGEL: I'm sorry.

23 What was that?

24 SENATOR NOLAND: What was your percentage?

1                   MR. RANGEL: I don't know that we had a  
2 percentage magic number.

3                   I think we are looking, again, at maximizing  
4 the numbers that are there.

5                   In some cases, other Hispanic areas, the  
6 Census track were not put in within the existing  
7 district.

8                   So it was trying to maximize the numbers.

9                   CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Senator Noland, do you have  
10 any other questions you would like to add?

11                   Senator Sandoval?

12                   SENATOR SANDOVAL: Give me a little bit of  
13 your thoughts. I didn't ask this of the other  
14 speaker.

15                   But some of you can come back up and speak  
16 if you'd like.

17                   Congressional district, the two Latino  
18 Congressional districts.

19                   What are your thoughts? Where are you  
20 coming from?

21                   What are you proposing?

22                   MR. RANGEL: Sure. I don't have a map in  
23 front of me that would depict that, and I think that  
24 would be the next step we do on that end.

1           But clearly UNO ten years ago was advocating  
2 for two Congressional districts, and I think we as an  
3 organization were in the minority opinion there.

4           Clearly, the last ten years have seen an  
5 outstanding growth in the Latino community on the  
6 North side as well as the Southwest side.

7           SENATOR SANDOVAL: Do you see the 4th  
8 Congressional District remaining intact or this being  
9 divided?

10          MR. RANGEL: It certainly wouldn't be what  
11 it is today. I think we would create two districts  
12 out of the 4th Congressional District.

13          SENATOR SANDOVAL: And is there greater  
14 Latino population on the north end or the south end?

15          MR. RANGEL: It depends on what you mean by  
16 the north end, because I think you can go into the  
17 Bensenville areas and all that.

18          So it depends on where you would cut the  
19 map, Rosemont and all that.

20          So I would say the greater population is on  
21 the South side. But just looking at it from the  
22 City's standpoint, the suburban areas are completely  
23 different.

24          So it depends on where you draw those lines.



1                   SENATOR SANDOVAL: Has anyone at MALDEF  
2 taken an official position on whether they support  
3 two Congressional positions?

4                   MR. RANGEL: I don't know their position.

5                   SENATOR SANDOVAL: Chairman, has MALDEF  
6 indicated that on the record anywhere yet?

7                   CHAIRMAN RAOUL: No.

8                   Sylvia, do you have any thoughts on this?

9                   MS. PUENTE: I would only say --

10                  CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Speak into the microphone,  
11 please.

12                  MS. PUENTE: Sylvia Puente, Latino Policy  
13 Forum Co-chair.

14                  I would only say the Latino agenda is  
15 working with MALDEF, and we expect to have  
16 Congressional maps that we will submit.

17                  But we do not have anything to add to that  
18 conversation at this point and time.

19                  MR. SANDOVAL: Do you represent two Latino  
20 voting districts?

21                  MS. PUENTE: We have not looked at the data  
22 and done a full analysis yet. We are still in the  
23 process.

24                  MR. SANDOVAL: Wouldn't you think that, by

1 now, that all the Latino advocates would have that  
2 data by now?

3 MS. PUENTE: Well, I'll tell you, the data  
4 is very difficult to access and very difficult to  
5 identify.

6 And you've heard Mr. Rangel say they  
7 actually used the computers, the local map in  
8 Springfield.

9 We have to depend on the good graces of our  
10 groups that have maps, the map making capacity to  
11 actually ascertain that.

12 SENATOR SANDOVAL: So we've got all kinds of  
13 data for all kinds of legislative districts  
14 throughout the entire state, but you haven't been  
15 able to have a chance to look at the data from the  
16 4th Congressional District?

17 Is that what you are telling me?

18 MS. PUENTE: Senator, I do expect by the  
19 conclusion of the Senate hearings we will have an  
20 answer for you. Just not today.

21 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Thank you.

22 I should -- Mr. Rangel's testimony has  
23 indicated that public workstation was used for  
24 anybody in this room in any organizations that wants

1 to use a public workstation.

2 There is both the public workstation in  
3 Springfield as well as in the City of Chicago at the  
4 Bilandic Building.

5 You can contact 217-558-3036 to access the  
6 public workstation. That is 217-558-3036. And we  
7 will give access to the technology.

8 From our first hearing, it was requested  
9 that we make available a public workstation both in  
10 Chicago as well as in Springfield.

11 And so we have accommodated that request  
12 from our first hearing. And so anybody who wishes to  
13 use that is able to do so.

14 And I thank you for the testimony today.

15 Is there any other witnesses who wish to  
16 testify today?

17 SENATOR RIGHTER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18 First, we have no objection to the motion  
19 with regards to the corrections. We have looked at  
20 those.

21 Also, we have also a public drawing station.  
22 For those who are interested in doing that, it is in  
23 the Thompson Center. You can contact a gentleman by  
24 the name of Ed Marshall, and his phone number is

1 778-844-6016 -- 773, excuse me.

2 We will also have that information posted on  
3 our website, the Senate --

4 SENATOR HUNTER: Could you repeat that  
5 telephone number?

6 SENATOR RIGHTER: The fellow's name is Ed  
7 Marshall. The telephone number is 773-844-6016.

8 Senator Hunter, we would love to have you  
9 come to the Thompson Center to draw your own map. We  
10 would love to have you so we have bipartisan access  
11 to mapping technology.

12 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: All right. So we've been  
13 given a motion for the adoption of, a motion to  
14 approve the minutes.

15 So they shall be so approved.

16 SENATOR SANDOVAL: Mr. Chairman, I move to  
17 adopt the written transcripts, including any  
18 corrections identified by Chairman Raoul.

19 SENATOR RIGHTER: Second.

20 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: It has been moved and  
21 seconded by Senator Righter.

22 So leave will be granted and the motion so  
23 adopted.

24 Our next hearing will be Thursday,

1 April 21st. There will be one hearing in Carbondale  
2 at 10:30 a.m., Southern Illinois University Student  
3 Center, Fourth Floor.

4 And there will be a hearing in Elmhurst at  
5 3:00 p.m. at Elmhurst City Hall Council Chamber.

6 On April 26, there will be a 10:00 a.m.  
7 hearing, City Hall Chambers, in the City of  
8 Yorkville.

9 And there being no further business, the  
10 Illinois State Senate Redistricting Committee meeting  
11 is hereby adjourned.

12

13 (Whereupon, the above-entitled  
14 proceedings were adjourned at  
15 6:07 p.m.)

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1 STATE OF ILLINOIS )  
 ) SS  
2 COUNTY OF LAKE )

3

4 I, LYNNE M. SKIFFINGTON, CSR/RPR do hereby  
5 certify that I reported the Proceedings held for the  
6 Illinois State Senate Redistricting Committee taken  
7 on April 19, 2011 at the hour of 4:00 p.m. and that  
8 the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate  
9 record of the said proceedings.

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Notary Public

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17 CSR. No. 084.002717  
Expiration Date: May 31, 2011.

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