

To: Honorable Members of the Senate Redistricting Committee

From: Isaac Leal, Representing Self, Independent of any Organization

Subject Matter On: Proposed Congressional Maps

Date: Tuesday, October 19th, 2021

Committee: Senate Redistricting Committee Hearing on October 20th, 2021 at 12:00

Position: Opponent of Current Maps

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Email Address: [REDACTED]@icloud.com

Address: [REDACTED], Springfield, IL 62703

Members of the Redistricting Committee,

With regards to these first drafts, I would first like to thank you for including my location in a congressional district that would likely be represented by a Democrat. I am happy by this change and would like to see a district like it in the future.

That being said, I believe that the maps create needlessly competitive maps. While I do believe that 14-3 is fair, especially considering the importance of ensuring national party vote preference to seat parity, I would prefer if it was a 14-3, 15-2, 16-1, or 17-0 (in increasing order of preference in terms of partisan composition), this map has unfortunately thin margins.

If ensuring national party vote preference to seat parity through redistricting is a goal of the members of this committee, then maps that increase the margins in favor of the incumbent party is ideal. The DCCC nor the NRCC should not have to spend significant amounts of money in Illinois, as Illinois can easily create seats that are not competitive. Keeping the seats relatively safe would also allow for incumbents to develop long-standing relationships with their communities that they represent.

Additionally, as someone who is Latino, and observing the changes in demographic composition in the Chicago area, I would prefer to have a second Latino-plurality district in the Chicago area, to better reflect the diversity of the state and of the Chicagoland region.

I believe that this map is insufficient for the goals of the Illinois redistricting committee and for the country. I recommend redrawing them to maximize margins for each party, prioritize incumbent protection, and adding a Latino-plurality seat to better reflect the state.

Regards,

Isaac Leal