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Dear President Harmon, Senator Hunter and IL State Legislators.

Illinois is home to one of the largest and most diverse populations across the nation. Redistricting across Illinois is one critical way to ensure diverse voices are heard, needs are met, and residents are represented. We appreciate your focus on this in 2021.

Senator Hunter is my home Senator, and we have spoken often about issues across the state. I am an educator, civic activist, entrepreneur- and an Illinois kid. Our Coalition team has appreciated getting to know many of you on both sides of the aisle over the last decade of advocacy. You care deeply about our state and want to know more about its people and how to serve them.

The IL Muslim Civic Coalition (Coalition) requests the opportunity to present at Redistricting meetings. We work in 10 counties, engage 150 partner and ally organizations, and include over 350 influencers and leaders across the state.

***Illinois Muslims** are incredibly **diverse and intersectional** in race, class, ethnicities, and backgrounds. In order of population, they are African American, Asian, Middle Eastern, White, Latino


* Illinois Muslim communities are **vastly different in 2020 than in 2010** – Today, they include several new communities that did not exist before as well as others that have grown in the last ten years

*Illinois has the **largest per capita** American Muslim community in the nation (see US map below)

*The Coalition works in **10 counties with diverse Muslim residents**; Sangamon, Peoria, Champaign, McLean, Winnebago, Lake, Kane, DuPage, Cook, Will

*Illinois has **large numbers of Muslim-led** businesses, healthcare professionals, and union members

In 2021, our communities are navigating through many challenges and inequities that COVID, fiscal crisis, a divisive political climate, and racial tensions have all exposed. We hope that redistricting in a fair and equitable manner will bring healing and prosperity in every way to our state.


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