



HYDE PARK-KENWOOD COMMUNITY CONFERENCE

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Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference
Illinois State Senate Redistricting Sub-Committee Hearing
March 25, 2021 at 3:00 PM
Position: Support Redistricting
Contact: Ali Ammoura, 773-844-8075, president@hydepark.org

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Parks Committee
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WhistleStop/Safety

March 24, 2021

Honorable Omar Aquino, Illinois State Senator
Chair of Illinois State Senate Redistricting Committee

Re: Testimony for Illinois State Senate Redistricting Sub-Committee
Hearing for Chicago South

Dear Senator Aquino:

My name is Ali Ammoura and I am the President of the Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference (HPKCC). On behalf of HPKCC, I thank you for inviting us to participate in the Illinois State Senate Redistricting Sub-Committee Hearing for Chicago South on March 25, 2021 at 3:00 PM. I am submitting this written testimony to be considered by the Redistricting Sub-Committee and read during the Hearing.

Description of the Communities that HPKCC Represents

Founded in 1949, HPKCC is an independent community organization, connecting people in a diverse, green and safe community. We convene individuals and groups to network, and build community around multigenerational activities, community resources, and major issues that affect our future. HPKCC serves the interests of the Hyde Park-Kenwood community and the surrounding South Side communities, including but not limited to Bronzeville, North Kenwood, South Shore, Washington Park, and Woodlawn.

Concerns Regarding Existing Congressional, Legislative, Representative, or Judicial boundaries that Affect Communities that HPKCC Represents

HPKCC is concerned that the congressional, legislative, and representative boundaries have been intentionally drawn to split communities as a strategy to diffuse the political strength of the communities that we serve ("service area"). This is detrimental to the

cohesion of the communities in our service area. The communities served by HPKCC are diverse along ethnic, racial, economic, and many other lines. HPKCC's service area represents diversity and we submit this testimony to express our strong belief that diversity must be maintained by drawing the congressional, legislative, and representative boundaries to keep the communities in our service area intact.

HPKCC is also concerned about judicial boundaries which currently and traditionally represent our communities well. We are concerned that any adverse changes to those boundaries would effectively remove the community representation that those boundaries are intended to keep intact.

HPKCC wants our service area to be reunited as congressional, legislative, and representative districts. These boundaries have effectively split the Hyde Park and Kenwood communities, for example, into separate districts. This division is detrimental to our communities' feeling of unity. HPKCC members must often communicate with different elected officials due to the congressional, legislative, and representative boundaries that have been drawn. One resident, for example, has lived at the same residential address for 40 years but has had elected officials from different legislative districts over the years.

Suggestions for the Placement of New Congressional, Legislative, Representative, or Judicial boundaries that Affect HPKCC Communities

We understand that the current legislative boundaries have been drawn from North to South, but such boundaries have created arbitrary dividing lines across HPKCC's service area from East to West. All congressional, legislative, representative, and judicial districts should keep the HPKCC's service area intact.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding this testimony. Thank you again you for inviting us to participate in the Illinois State Senate Redistricting Sub-Committee Hearing for Chicago South.

Sincerely,

Ali Ammoura, HPKCC President