



Illinois African Americans For Equitable Redistricting

September 13, 2023

Hon. Kimberly Lightford
Chairperson
Senate Special Committee
on the Chicago Elected
Representative School Board
4415 Harrison St., Ste. 550
Hillside, IL 60162

Hon. Robert F. Martwick
Vice-Chairperson
Senate Special Committee
on the Chicago Elected
Representative School Board
4349 N. Milwaukee Ave.
Chicago, IL 60641

Hon. Omar Aquino
Vice-Chairperson
Senate Special Committee
on the Chicago Elected
Representative School Board
4053 W. Armitage Ave.
Chicago, IL 60639

Dear Members of the Legislature:

First of all, we would like to thank the Illinois State Legislature for passing legislation that creates an elected representative elected school board. We want to take this time to ask you to review our proposed amendments to Public Act 102-0177 and to update you on our advocacy efforts. We respectfully request that you

1. **Create a standing Black Student Achievement Committee of the Board of Education to prioritize problems that are unique to Black children and their families.** The committee would interface with other Board committees, CPS and local stakeholders to improve academic outcomes for Black children and create an environment for CPS and its schools that is welcoming to parents and community stakeholders. The Board Committee would be chaired and co-chaired by members of the Board of Education, with advisory members who may be selected from the community, Local School Councils, Parent Advisory Councils, the faith community, the business sector, the civic sector, local universities, etc. This structure would not impact the size of the Board of Education or provide an undue expense to implement. We have attached a revised proposal for the Committee and a rationale. Please note that, in essence, the committee remains the same. We have added language that we believe is specific enough to ensure that the process is, in fact, evidence-based, while giving the Chicago Board of Education members leeway to go where the data takes them and prioritize the issues of the day, whatever they may be over the years.

The most important thing is, this work needs to be codified at the state level, so that, regardless of who is in elected office; or who leads CPS, this work continues. Our experience has shown that, if left to their own devices, the CPS CEO may or may not prioritize Black student achievement. For example, Dr. Janice Jackson was working with the Black Community Collaborative and other stakeholders to do the research to form such a committee at the operational level. When Dr. Jackson left, Mr. Pedro Martinez did not see fit to continue this work. Now that Mayor Brandon Johnson is in office, we do see an interest on the part of the Chicago Board of Education to re-visit the issue.

2. Adopt our mapping proposal, which was developed taking into account the following criteria:

- a. Each district must be compact, contiguous and substantially equal in population and consistent with the Illinois Voting Rights Act, pursuant to Public Act 102-0177.
- b. Communities of interest will be kept intact to the fullest extent possible
- c. School Board electoral districts will be aligned with other political and educational districts to the fullest extent possible. This will allow community residents and local leaders to coordinate policy advocacy efforts that may require interaction with multiple layers of government.

To this end, our map includes 10 districts, each comprised of 5 contiguous wards. To the extent possible, wards are clustered together by their majority/plurality racial composition. Our map includes 3 majority/plurality Black districts, 3 majority/plurality Latino districts and 3 majority/plurality White districts, and 1 majority-minority districts. Our map is responsive to the requests made by other ethnic groups to keep their communities intact, including the Latino communities on the Northwest and Southwest sides; the Jewish community on the North Side; the Asian communities in China Town and McKinley Park on the South Side, and the Asian communities on the Far North Side. Because ward boundaries were vetted for compliance with the VRA during the most recent redistricting process, we expect the proposed map to pass legal muster. We have attached our final proposal, with the Census data that support the district boundaries for your convenience.

Our mapping proposal includes several other tangible benefits beyond compliance with prevailing laws pertaining to the creation of election districts and voting rights. Our map

1. Encourages collaboration between elected representatives in City Council and the Chicago Board of Education
2. Increases the potential to align resources from the City of Chicago and Chicago Board of Education in a manner that creates efficiency and laser focus on the children, parents and schools within a given ERSB district
3. Creates a situation in which the ERSB districts are automatically set each time the Chicago City Council goes through its own redistricting process. Any political battles surrounding redistricting may be addressed and contained in City Council without spilling over into the Chicago Board of Education. This will allow the School Board to focus less on the political battles of the day, and more on the educational issues.

Our Advocacy

Although the Legislature adjourned in June, our advocacy continues. We have reached out to a number of elected officials at the State and local levels to share our proposal. To date, our proposal has been very positively received, with encouragement to work with the Chicago Board of Education, which we are doing.

We have met several times with Chicago Board of Education President Jianan Shi, sharing our proposal, and exchanging information regarding priorities and implementation. President Shi has indicated that the Chicago Board of Education will be unveiling a Black Student Achievement

Committee this fall. He is aware that we are working with you to codify the Black Student Achievement Committee. We view the Chicago Board of Education as a partner in this advocacy.

In closing, we thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions regarding this statement, please feel free to contact Valerie F. Leonard, Co-Founder, Illinois African Americans for Equitable Redistricting, at 773-571-3886 or valeriefleonard@msn.com. Please note the following attachments:

1. Proposed Chicago Board of Education Black Student Achievement Committee
2. IAAFER Mapping Proposal
3. Letters of Support (31 total)
4. List of IAAFER Supporters

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie F. Leonard, Co-Founder, IAAFER
Karl Brinson, Chicago Westside NAACP
Natasha Dunn, Founder and Executive Director, Black Community Collaborative
Lafayette Ford, Retired Educator
Teresa Haley, President, Illinois State Conference NAACP
Dwayne Truss, Founder of PACE and Former Member, Chicago Board of Education
Craig Wimberly, President, Coalition of African American Leaders (COAL)

cc: **Members of the Senate Special Committee On the Chicago Elected Representative School Board:**

Hon. Mattie Hunter, Senator, 3rd District
Hon. Elgie R. Sims, Jr., Senator, 17th District
Hon. Ram Villivalam, Senator, 8th District
Hon. Celina Villanueva, Senator, 12th District
Hon. Dan McConchie, Senator, 26th District
Hon. Seth Lewis, Senator, 24th District

Members of the House Executive Committee:

Hon. Robert "Bob" Rita, 28th District
Hon. Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez, 2nd District
Hon. Ryan Spain, 73rd District
Hon. Kam Buckner, 26th District
Hon. John M. Cabello, 90th District
Hon. Christopher "C.D" Davidsmeyer, 100th District
Hon. Marcus C. Evans, Jr., 33rd District
Hon. Norine K. Hammond, 94th District
Hon. Theresa Mah, 24th District
Hon. Natalie A. Manley, 98th District
Hon. Aaron M. Ortiz, 1st District
Hon. Nicholas K. Smith, 34th District



Illinois African Americans For Equitable Redistricting

Proposed Black Student Achievement Committee

I. Statement of Need

As a group, Black Chicago Public School students, who comprise nearly a third of the District's enrollment, are suffering from entrenched problems that have only been exacerbated by closing 50 schools in 2013 and shutting down from the COVID-19 pandemic from 2020-2021. They have suffered significant learning loss, trauma, isolation and reduction in social and emotional support, economic loss and health and safety concerns.

- a. In 2021, 80% of Black children graduated from high school in 5 years, as compared to 85% of Hispanic children; 91% of White children and 92% of Asian children. (Block Club Chicago, 2021)
- b. African Americans comprised 36% of Chicago Public Schools but accounted for up to 61% of the 19,799 school suspensions in 2021. (Julian Johnson, Esq., 2021) Today, Black children only comprise 29% of the CPS population.(CPS 2023)
- c. African American children accounted for 63% of the 2,244 school referrals to police. Eighty-three percent (83%) of the detainees in the Cook County Juvenile Detention Center are Black. It costs \$4,397 per year to educate a child in CPS (Julian Johnson, Esq., 2021) and \$28,196 per year to detain them in the Cook County Juvenile Detention Center (National Juvenile Justice Network 2011).
- d. Between March 8th and March 12, 2021, a daily average of 89% of White students showed up to in-person classes, compared with daily averages of 77% for Latino students and 60% for Black students during that same period. Asian students had a daily in-person attendance average of 83%. (Matt Masterson, WTTW, 2021)
- e. Approximately 88% of school actions (ie, school closings, turnarounds, removing principals, etc.) have occurred at predominantly African American Schools. (CTU, 2013) These actions alone have disrupted student learning and further destabilized Black communities that have endured decades of disinvestment.
- f. A WBEZ investigative report has found that since the pandemic, the need for mental health services has increased, particularly for students from very low income families, many of whom are Black. The state is failing to ensure thousands of children get any follow-up help after mental assessments, let alone the type of intensive behavioral health support many need. Senator Lightford has called for public hearings and the creation of a 15-member task force to better understand the problems and explore the issue, (including operational, programmatic and financial issues surrounding the program). (Sarah Karp, WBEZ, 2023)

These problems persist despite the fact that there are Chicago Board of Education committees to address the needs of all CPS students and their families.

II. IAAFER Position Statement

It is the position of IAAFER that the chronic underperformance of Black students is the result of chronically underfunded, separate, and unequal CPS schools in the Black Communities of Chicago.

III. Chicago Elected School Board of Education: Black Student Achievement Committee

The Chicago Board of Education Black Student Achievement Committee shall be a standing committee of the Board, with the purpose of providing Black students with maximum opportunity for success in areas where research shows that there has been chronic underperformance during African American students' elementary and secondary education experience in Chicago Public Schools (CPS). The Committee shall develop strategies and recommendations for:

- a) children to excel in their educational performance;
- b) providing children with the character-building tools to succeed;
- c) reducing absenteeism and truancy while increasing graduation rates;
- d) ensuring that children enjoy a fulfilling, memorable and affirming elementary and secondary educational experience;
- e) preparing Black children for post-secondary success in a global economy;
- f) facilitating educational transparency through developing channels of communication that keep the Black community informed on progress towards achieving specific educational quantitative metrics and qualitative goals, as well as barriers to progress;
- g) increasing parent engagement in ways that lead to improved academic and social outcomes for Black CPS students.

The Black Student Achievement Committee shall interface with other CBOE standing and advisory committees and task forces and local stakeholders as necessary to ensure that the interests of Black CPS students and their families are represented in the development of new CPS policies, master plans, programs and initiatives.

The Black Student Achievement Committee shall have two co-chairs who shall be members of the Chicago Board of Education (CBOE). The co-chairs shall be CBOE members and elected by other Members based upon their interest and credentials to lead this Committee. The Black Student Achievement Committee shall be composed of the two (2) co-chairs and up to eleven (11) members to form a committee of seven (13). The co-chairs shall select committee members based upon their expertise in one or more of the areas where research shows that there has been chronic under-performance of African American students. The membership shall be diverse in terms of skills and geography.

Non-CBOE members with the specific expertise needed to complete the assigned deliverables shall also be asked to serve on the Black Student Achievement Committee in an advisory capacity. CBOE shall develop eligibility criteria, and recruit members of the Black Student Achievement Committee from a broad base of CPS stakeholders, including

Local School Councils, Parent Advisory Councils, Community Action Councils; Chicago's civic, business and faith communities and community-based organizations.

The Black Student Achievement Committee shall:

- a) utilize data from CPS, the community and other sources to conduct an evidence-based needs assessment to better understand student needs and establish a baseline for Black student achievement;
- b) build upon the needs assessment to prioritize issues and develop a set of goals, objectives and outcomes designed to bring about academic and social parity between Black children and their peers;
- c) develop a strategic management plan, utilizing the Balanced Score Card approach. This includes assessing CPS' organizational capacity to meet the goals, objectives and outcomes identified by the Committee; understanding how CPS' systems, processes and protocols may best support academic and social outcomes; considering the financial impact of proposed strategies; identifying financial resources to implement the strategic management plan; and assessing the impact of proposed strategies on student academic performance, resilience and ability to successfully transition to a college environment or the workforce;
- d) identify and track a mutually agreed upon set of metrics and key performance indicators that demonstrate positive movement towards achieving the goals and objectives outlined in the strategic management plan
- e) prepare a report card and make quarterly written and oral progress reports to the CBOE and community stakeholders.

CPS shall:

- a) provide technical assistance by senior CPS staff and accomplished educational organizational development professionals;
- b) fund Black Student Achievement Committee activities at a level that will enable the Committee to function effectively;
- c) provide sufficient staff support to successfully develop and implement the strategic management plan.
- d) operationalize the strategies outlined in the strategic management plan

Respectfully Submitted,

Illinois African Americans for Equitable Redistricting (IAAFER) Strategy Committee
(Bios are attached)

Valerie F. Leonard, Chairperson, IAAFER
Karl Brinson, President, Chicago Westside NAACP
Natasha Dunn, Founder, Black Community Collaborative
Lafayette Ford, Chicago Board of Election, *retired*
Dwayne Truss, Founder, PACE
Craig Wimberly, President, Coalition of African American Leaders (COAL)

**Illinois African Americans for Equitable Redistricting (IAAFER)
Strategy Committee BIOS**

Valerie F. Leonard



Valerie F. Leonard convenes Illinois African Americans for Equitable Redistricting (IAAFER). IAAFER is an all-volunteer group formed in 2021 to serve the interests of Illinois' Black voters as the General Assembly drafted new legislative maps.

After reviewing the enabling legislation that created Chicago's first elected representative school board (ERSB), IAAFER developed a comprehensive districting proposal that protects the voting rights of all Chicagoans; facilitates collaboration between local aldermen and elected school board representatives; and encourages elected officials to align City and Board of Education resources to support academic outcomes for CPS students.

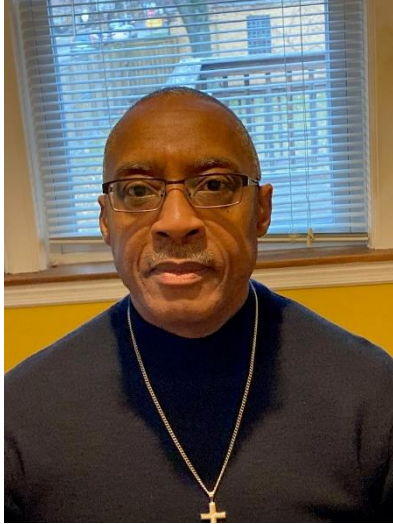
IAAFER is also recommending that the legislation creating the ESRB be amended to create a standing Black Student Achievement Committee of the Board of Education to increase accountability at all levels as CPS strives to eliminate the achievement gap and school to prison pipeline for Black CPS students.

In response to the potential of the Ogden-Pulaski TIF to displace local residents, Valerie co-founded the Lawndale Alliance in 2008. The group expanded its focus to include a number of education and community development issues, including equitable community development and implementation of TIF's; the potential for displacement as a result of the Olympics and the negative impacts of school closings and turn arounds. The group also advocated for an elected school board and provided advocacy for the creation of equitable school facilities that support learning opportunities for North Lawndale students. Under Valerie's leadership, the Lawndale Alliance spearheaded a ward wide petition drive and GOTV effort to get an advisory referendum on the ballot for Chicago's Elected Representative School Board. The measure received 87% of the vote in the 24th Ward. The Lawndale Alliance also worked with a broad range of stakeholders, including the Lawndale CAC, elected officials and nonprofit organizations to develop an alternative plan to school closures, geared to turn schools that were targeted for closure into centers of activity for students, their families and local community stakeholders.

Valerie co-founded the North Lawndale Coordinating Council (NLCCC) in 2015 and served as a member of the executive committee and chairperson of the transportation committee. She recruited and oriented a multidisciplinary leadership team to facilitate North Lawndale's first comprehensive plan since 1959. She was the lead writer for successful applications to get a technical assistance grant from Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) to develop a comprehensive community plan and funding from LISC to coordinate a Quality of Life Plan. Valerie took the lead in developing much of the group's infrastructure, including facilitating the drafting of its vision and core values statement; developing the rules of engagement and handbook; developing the organization's committee structure and recruiting leaders and members for those committees; developing the website and marketing collateral materials; fundraising and resource development; managing social media accounts and newsletters and developing content for the first North Lawndale Community Planning Conference. She also advocated for restoration of CTA service along the Pink Line, Blue Line and Ogden bus line serving North Lawndale.

Valerie is the Founder of Nonprofit Utopia, LLC, the ideal community for leaders who want to start, manage and scale nonprofits. With a mission of training the next generation of ethical nonprofit leaders, Nonprofit Utopia offers an online community, courses and coaching to help leaders strengthen their leadership skills as they build their organizations. Valerie is also a Maxwell Leadership Team Certified Member, providing leadership assessments, mastermind groups and coaching using methods developed by John Maxwell, an international authority on leadership. To date, Nonprofit Utopia has reached over 40,000 people through its podcast, YouTube videos, online community and courses.

Valerie has a bachelor's degree in economics from Spelman College and a Master of Management degree in finance and marketing from the Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University. She is an adjunct instructor for the University of Illinois at Chicago's Certificate in Nonprofit Management, teaching courses in nonprofit operations, strategic management and program design and evaluation. Valerie co-facilitates full-day grant writing workshops for the University. She is also an adjunct instructor for Roosevelt University, teaching courses in social enterprise.



**Karl A. Brinson, President
NAACP - West side branch**

Karl A. Brinson was raised on Chicago's west side in the Austin community. At the age of 19, Karl became very involved in politics which led him to become a part of the NAACP. After years of service in the Association, he was convinced to take on more leadership roles.

Karl currently serves as president of both the Chicago West side branch of the NAACP and the MOORE Park Advisory Council. He is also a member of the St. Martin DePorres Parrish.

Wearing his many hats, Karl advocates for justice on behalf of his community while bringing in funding for community centers, programs, and services.

Karl earned both a bachelor of science degree and a masters degree from Northeastern Illinois University.



Natasha Dunn, Founder | Executive Director Black Community Collaborative

Natasha Dunn is the Founder and Executive Director of the Black Community Collaborative (BCC). BCC's mission is to close educational, economic, and health gaps that have historically disenfranchised Black communities. Grounded in research and connected by action, BCC's goal is to examine and dismantle structural racism to generate equity and parity for African Americans.

Natasha has over twenty years of experience working to empower Illinois residents. She has dedicated the majority of her life in service with Labor Unions, Chicago Public Schools, Grassroots Social Justice and Service Organizations. Natasha has organized residents and facilitated training for youth, parents, teachers and community leaders to improve conditions of Chicago neighborhood schools and parks. She is a data geek and strategist that enjoys connecting people to resources and opportunity. Natasha has been a guest speaker on *CNN*, *Expo For Today's Black Woman*, *WVON*, and *The National Consumer League's Centennial Conference*.

Natasha has a Bachelor's of Arts in Psychology from Shaw University in Raleigh, NC. She enjoys spending time with her family and friends, cooking, and traveling.



Lafayette Ford

Lafayette Ford was born and raised on Chicago's Westside and attended John Marshall HS from 1965 graduating in 1968.

Lafayette holds a B.A. degree in Communications from St. Joseph College, Ind. After college he held several positions with the City of Chicago including Department of Human Services, Department of Sewers and Director of South Austin Anti-Crime Program. The last 20 years with the Chicago Public Schools as an

administrator including an Local School Council Specialist, and Director of Youth Outreach program (now known as SAFE PASSAGE) and retiring after 34 years of public service. Most of his career was in positions where he directed programs was in community relations. Lafayette was known as 'the go to person' for issues arisen where there was great controversy between the community and administration. He was both trusted by community and respected by the administration to negotiate difficult situations. Lafayette never had a problem with speaking his mind. When there was a move to possibly close Marshall HS, at a public meeting Lafayette led his CPS supervisor on stage and then was the first person to speak against the action. He then sat across the table from his supervisor for the next three months, representing the Ward Alderman's community contingency, while negotiating the community demands on the 'turn around' of Marshall.

Lafayette also served as Director of Education Programs for Executive Service Corps of Chicago and Executive Director of City Wide Coalition of School Reform. Lafayette has worked as a Consultant, Trainer and Lobbyist on Education Reform. He Served for eight years on several Local School Councils, including elementary and secondary schools and the High School District Council for Chicago Public Schools. He was instrumental in the 1995 Chicago School Reform Act. And served for six years as the Chairman of the Chicago School Board Nomination Commission 1989 - 1995 that made recommendations to the Mayor of the City of Chicago for consideration for the Chicago Board of Education.

Currently Lafayette serves as Vice-Chair of Board of Directors for Black United Fund of Illinois (BUFI), Treasurer of Global Girls , Inc; board member of South Shore Works Preservation and Planning Coalition and served for 25 years as member of Core Group of Real Men Charities Father's Day Celebration and 8 years as President of John Marshal High School Alumni Association.

Lafayette is married to his wife Linda and has two children and now resides in Chicago in the South Shore community.

Dwayne Truss



Dwayne Truss is a life-long resident of the city of Chicago. Mr. Truss was born and raised in West Garfield Park and is a proud graduate of Chicago Public Schools. After graduating from Westinghouse Area Career Vocational High School in 1981, he joined the United States Marine Corps Reserve. After a short tenure with the USMCR, he transferred to the Army National Guard. Mr. Truss was honorably discharged in 1986.

Mr. Truss earned his Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Northeastern Illinois University in 1985.

Mr. Truss met his wife Cata while a student at Northeastern and they were married in 1986. Together they raised five sons: four are college graduates.

Mr. Truss civic career is lengthy. Mr. Truss has served his community in the following capacities: Executive Director/Coach of Austin Youth League/Austin Mandela Little League from 1990 to 2007, local school council member at Byford (now Brunson), Hitch and Ella Flagg Young schools, current member of the Columbus Park Advisory Council, former board member of Raise Your Hand for Illinois Public Education, former co-chair of the Austin Community Action Council, member of the Westside Parks Executive Advisory Council and the Westside Branch of the NAACP. Mr. Truss most recently served as a member of the Chicago Board of Education.

Mr. Truss currently resides in the Austin community. Mr. Truss is a proud grandfather of 11 grandchildren.



Craig K. Wimberly, President and Owner, Governmental Strategic Solutions

Craig K. Wimberly is President and Owner of Governmental Strategic Solutions (GSS). Mr. Wimberly's company assists public sector agencies, municipalities, schools and non-profits in reducing and managing costs, increasing revenues, streamlining operations and providing high-quality services to their customers and constituents with the overarching goals of creating an environment of superior performance and 'Good Government'. At GSS, Mr. Wimberly has established a business which values a strong work ethic, teamwork, honesty, integrity, data driven decision-making, creativity and accountability, with a laser focus on achieving results.

These values are core to the manner in which he has performed every position he has held throughout his career.

Over his forty-five plus year career in the private and public sectors, Mr. Wimberly has held a number of leadership roles; from Senior Project Manager, Chief Information Officer and Chief Financial Officer, to Chief of Staff, Vice President and President. He spent 20 years at Amoco Corporation leading large organizations, delivering complex technology solutions across diverse areas of the business and having responsibility for budgets as large as \$400 million and staffs numbering in the hundreds.

In roles as CFO and VP of I.T. at Vin DiVino, a wine importer operating in thirty states, Mr. Wimberly worked to develop solid business processes, brought discipline and rigor to existing operations including Budgeting and Planning, Local and National Sales, Back Office, Warehousing and Delivery. Under Mr. Wimberly's direct guidance, company revenues and profitability increased year over year.

In roles as Chief of Staff and CIO for the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Mr. Wimberly leveraged private sector knowledge to professionalize a large and diverse public sector agency. He worked to streamline business processes, execute and successfully deliver high cost/risk/value technology initiatives, reduce total cost of ownership (TCO), manage the growth in costs, and increase operational efficiencies across the organization.

Mr. Wimberly performs as an executive level consultant, assisting both start-ups and established businesses develop and execute strategic business plans, with an emphasis on implementing discipline and rigor across all areas of the business, positioning for strong and sustained growth, and improving bottom line profitability.

Mr. Wimberly's professional accomplishments in the areas of strategic planning, organizational effectiveness, business process improvement and information technology have been written up in several industry publications such as HP Magazine, FCW, Government Computer News and STATETECH.

Over the years, he has added community organizing to his portfolio of skills and competencies, leveraging superior communication, planning and organizing, interpersonal and motivational skills towards building coalitions focused on addressing systemic racism and other barriers to opportunity and improving the quality of life for Black Americans.

A graduate of Truman College and Roosevelt University, with an MBA from the University of Chicago, Mr. Wimberly is a member of several organizations. He is President of the Coalition of African American Leaders (COAL), is Interim-Chairman for the board of National Black Agenda Consortium Chicago (NBAC Chicago), is a member and past president of the Frogs Club, one of Chicago's historic African American Men's Clubs, is a past member of the Board of Directors of the Illinois African American Coalition for Prevention (ILAACP), and is past President of the Board of Directors for EachOneTeachOne. He has also served on Boards for Marcy-Newberry Association and Prevent Child Abuse – Illinois. Mr. Wimberly has recently accepted the position of Chairman of the Board for RBS Drone Technologies.

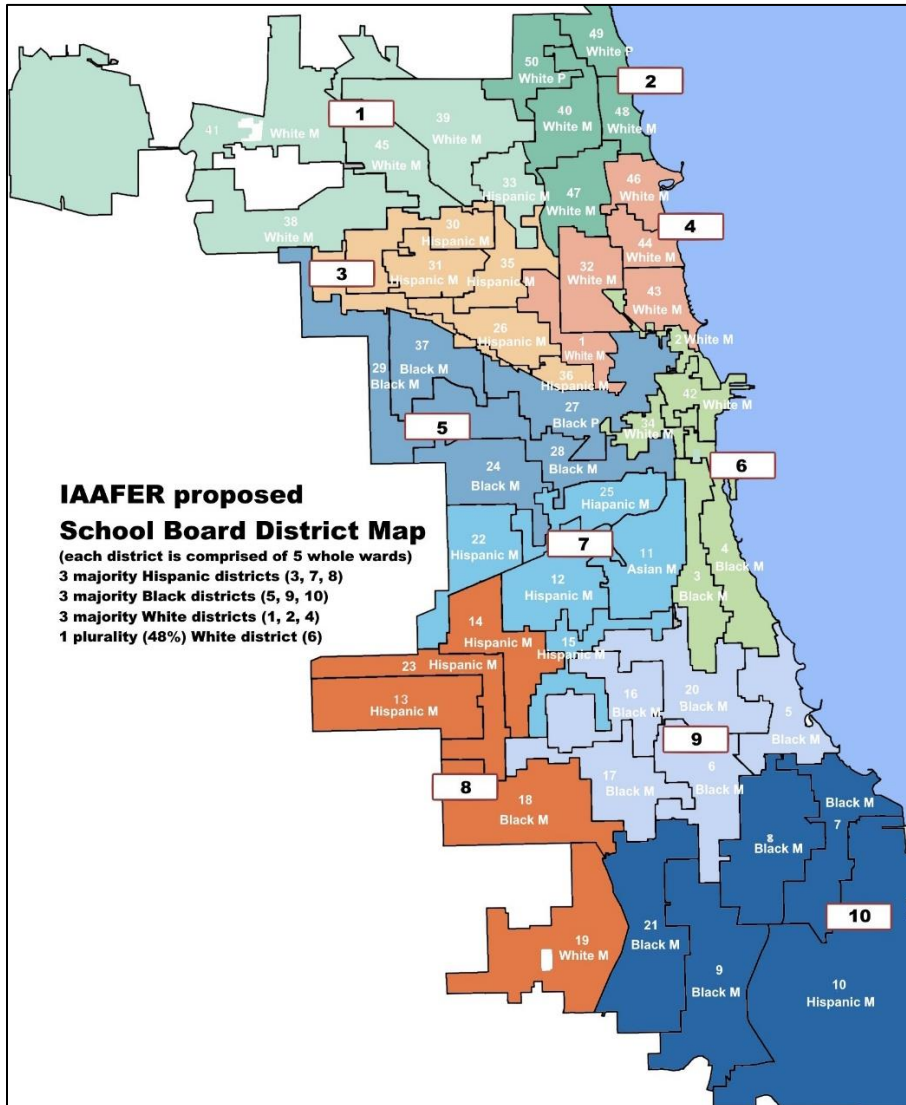
Mr. Wimberly is a 40 year resident of Chicago, however, he considers Evanston, Illinois, as home, where he was raised and where his family has resided since relocating from Little Rock, Arkansas in 1930, as part of the great black migration from the south, relocating north in search of better jobs and a better quality of life for their families.

He believes that each of us must believe in something larger than ourselves and work tirelessly to better ourselves and our communities.



Illinois African Americans For Equitable Redistricting

Proposed Elected School Board Boundaries for Chicago Public Schools



**IAAFER proposed
School Board District Map**
(each district is comprised of 5 whole wards)
3 majority Hispanic districts (3, 7, 8)
3 majority Black districts (5, 9, 10)
3 majority White districts (1, 2, 4)
1 plurality (48%) White district (6)

District 1	District 6
41 st Ward	2 nd Ward
38 th Ward	42 nd Ward
45 th Ward	34 th Ward
39 th Ward	3 rd Ward
33 rd Ward	4 th Ward
District 2	District 7
50 th Ward	22 nd Ward
49 th Ward	12 th Ward
40 th Ward	25 th Ward
48 th Ward	11 th Ward
47 th Ward	15 th Ward
District 3	District 8
30 th Ward	14 th Ward
31 st Ward	23 rd Ward
35 th Ward	13 th Ward
26 th Ward	18 th Ward
1 st Ward	19 th Ward
District 4	District 9
48 th Ward	16 th Ward
44 th Ward	20 th Ward
32 nd Ward	6 th Ward
43 rd Ward	5 th Ward
1 st Ward	17 th Ward
District 5	District 10
29 th Ward	21 st Ward
37 th Ward	8 th Ward
27 th Ward	7 th Ward
28 th Ward	9 th Ward
24 th Ward	10 th Ward

Author: Craig Wimberly, President COAL Chicago.
Data Sources: City of Chicago, U.S. Census Bureau

This map was drawn to align CPS Elected School Board districts with specific wards for greater accountability and coordination with members of the City Council while maintaining racial equity and balance. Ward boundaries were vetted for compliance with the VRA during the most recent redistricting process.

Racial Breakdown for IAAFER Mapping Proposal

Chicago Electoral School Board Districts - Race and Ethnicity
Breakdown using 2020 Census

	DISTRICT 1								
	Ward	Name	Target Population	Deviation	Total Pop	NH White	NH Black	NH Asian	Hispanic
	33	District 33	54,928	2,648 (4.82%)	57,576	17,892	2,513	6,006	29,010
	38	District 38	54,928	2,721 (4.95%)	57,649	32,749	984	2,979	19,378
	39	District 39	54,928	2,017 (3.67%)	56,945	28,177	1,913	-18.29%	13,836
	41	District 41	54,928	872 (1.59%)	55,800	41,106	748	4,177	7,942
	45	District 45	54,928	1,447 (2.63%)	56,375	33,479	1,089	5,041	14,581
	284,345					153,403	7,247	18,203	84,747
						53.9%	2.5%	6.4%	29.8%
	DISTRICT 2								
	Ward	Name	Target Population	Deviation	Total Pop	NH White	NH Black	NH Asian	Hispanic
	40	District 40	54,928	2,644 (4.81%)	57,572	27,519	5,080	9,771	12,594
	47	District 47	54,928	2,447 (4.45%)	57,375	41,502	1,505	3,836	7,510
	48	District 48	54,928	1,130 (2.06%)	56,058	30,412	7,725	7,871	7,367
	49	District 49	54,928	2,728 (4.97%)	57,656	22,731	14,664	4,034	13,022
	50	District 50	54,928	1,635 (2.98%)	56,563	22,946	6,667	14,647	9,896
	285,224					145,110	35,641	40,159	50,389
						50.9%	12.5%	14.1%	17.7%
	DISTRICT 3								
	Ward	Name	Target Population	Deviation	Total Pop	NH White	NH Black	NH Asian	Hispanic
	26	District 26	54,928	2,721 (4.95%)	57,649	12,088	4,651	1,039	38,366
	30	District 30	54,928	2,651 (4.83%)	57,579	18,687	1,478	2,729	33,217
	31	District 31	54,928	2,662 (4.85%)	57,590	9,267	1,699	1,157	44,484
	35	District 35	54,928	2,519 (4.59%)	57,447	20,444	2,191	2,337	30,507
	36	District 36	54,928	2,688 (4.89%)	57,616	18,841	3,419	1,727	32,038
	287,881					79,327	13,438	8,989	178,612
						27.6%	4.7%	3.1%	62.0%
	DISTRICT 4								
	Ward	Name	Target Population	Deviation	Total Pop	NH White	NH Black	NH Asian	Hispanic
	1	District 1	54,928	2,667 (4.86%)	57,595	36,292	2,312	3,597	12,842
	32	District 32	54,928	2,706 (4.93%)	57,634	42,784	1,468	4,002	6,474
	43	District 43	54,928	2,692 (4.9%)	57,620	45,677	1,756	3,970	3,727
	44	District 44	54,928	2,597 (4.73%)	57,525	44,004	1,817	4,288	4,716
	46	District 46	54,928	2,688 (4.89%)	57,616	32,311	10,089	5,613	6,919
	287,990					201,068	17,442	21,470	34,678
						69.8%	6.1%	7.5%	12.0%
	DISTRICT 5								
	Ward	Name	Target Population	Deviation	Total Pop	NH White	NH Black	NH Asian	Hispanic
	24	District 24	54,928	-2,723 (-4.96%)	52,205	1,695	39,782	139	9,645
	27	District 27	54,928	2,540 (4.62%)	57,468	17,122	26,446	2,933	8,822
	28	District 28	54,928	-2,314 (-4.21%)	52,614	4,948	37,505	3,006	5,670
	29	District 29	54,928	-1,293 (-2.35%)	53,635	6,672	33,624	560	11,641
	37	District 37	54,928	-1,402 (-2.55%)	53,526	852	34,140	149	17,500
	269,448					31,289	171,497	6,787	53,278
						11.6%	63.6%	2.5%	19.8%

Chicago Electoral School Board Districts - Race and Ethnicity
Breakdown using 2020 Census

	Ward	Name	Target		Total Pop	NH White	NH Black	NH Asian	Hispanic
			Population	Deviation					
DISTRICT 6	2	District 2	54,928	2,059 (3.75%)	56,987	41,522	2,816	6,789	3,717
	3	District 3	54,928	1,048 (1.91%)	55,976	12,653	32,291	5,710	3,011
	4	District 4	54,928	-1,504 (-2.74%)	53,424	10,842	32,229	5,378	2,562
	34	District 34	54,928	-2,697 (-4.91%)	52,231	29,935	3,953	11,708	4,140
	42	District 42	54,928	-1,452 (-2.64%)	53,476	37,227	2,373	8,035	3,491
					272,094	132,179	73,662	37,620	16,921
						48.6%	27.1%	13.8%	6.2%
DISTRICT 7	12	District 12	54,928	-1,804 (-3.28%)	53,124	4,032	863	7,483	40,224
	11	District 11	54,928	-2,432 (-4.43%)	52,496	13,318	1,446	26,286	10,256
	15	District 15	54,928	-2,536 (-4.62%)	52,392	3,537	8,449	745	39,006
	22	District 22	54,928	-2,563 (-4.67%)	52,365	1,510	3,415	235	46,777
	25	District 25	54,928	-2,290 (-4.17%)	52,638	8,678	2,708	1,930	38,092
					263,015	31,075	16,881	36,679	174,355
						11.8%	6.4%	13.9%	66.3%
DISTRICT 8	13	District 13	54,928	-658 (-1.2%)	54,270	16,721	808	500	35,559
	14	District 14	54,928	-1,650 (-3%)	53,278	3,075	1,824	799	47,091
	23	District 23	54,928	-2,653 (-4.83%)	52,275	9,848	908	713	40,263
	18	District 18	54,928	1,117 (2.03%)	56,045	3,914	28,747	243	22,194
	19	District 19	54,928	-2,712 (-4.94%)	52,216	32,044	14,240	340	3,906
					268,084	65,602	46,527	2,595	149,013
						24.5%	17.4%	1.0%	55.6%
DISTRICT 9	5	District 5	54,928	-586 (-1.07%)	54,342	12,225	31,116	5,398	2,950
	6	District 6	54,928	-2,669 (-4.86%)	52,259	304	49,315	46	1,154
	16	District 16	54,928	-2,413 (-4.39%)	52,515	676	34,193	86	16,503
	17	District 17	54,928	-2,196 (-4%)	52,732	447	44,251	86	6,803
	20	District 20	54,928	-2,721 (-4.95%)	52,207	2,313	37,700	894	9,827
					264,055	15,965	196,575	6,510	37,237
						6.0%	74.4%	2.5%	14.1%
DISTRICT 10	21	District 21	54,928	-118 (-0.21%)	54,810	-0.57%	51,612	62	1,475
	7	District 7	54,928	-2,429 (-4.42%)	52,499	753	46,952	97	3,262
	8	District 8	54,928	-2,615 (-4.76%)	52,313	347	49,559	70	1,025
	9	District 9	54,928	-2,669 (-4.86%)	52,259	728	47,759	52	2,462
	10	District 10	54,928	-2,557 (-4.66%)	52,371	6,464	12,759	150	32,064
					264,252	8,292	208,641	431	40,288
						3.1%	79.0%	0.2%	15.2%



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August 28, 2023

Honorable Don Harmon
Senate President
309-G Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Honorable Emanuel "Chris" Welch
Speaker of the House
300 State House

Members of the Illinois House
Executive Committee
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Members of the Illinois Senate
Special Committee on the Chicago Elected
Representative School Board
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Dear Legislative Leaders:

I am writing this letter to express the Coalition of African American Leaders (COAL)'s support for the Illinois African Americans for Equitable Redistricting (IAAFER) proposal to, **1)** establish Elected Representative School Board (ERSB) districts using Chicago's Ward Boundaries as building blocks, and **2)** establish a standing Black Student Achievement committee of the Chicago Board of Education.

The following are strong points in favor of IAAFER's proposed ERSB map. It:

- **Leverages current ward boundaries**, thus minimizing the confusion residents/voters might experience with boundaries that are completely new and different;
- **Does not split up wards across multiple school districts**; keeping wards whole within a school board district provides for Ward residents who already work together on issues from housing and safety to city services, to also work together on education related issues and the election of a school board member; as opposed to school districts which bisect, trisect and quad-sect wards;
- **Keeps communities together** and reflects concerns taken into consideration after discussions with a number of Chicago stakeholder groups, representing Black, Hispanic, Asian, and White constituencies from South, West, North and central areas of Chicago.
- **Allows for easier collaboration and simpler lines of communication between City Council members and Chicago ERSB members**; and may increase opportunities to efficiently allocate, coordinate and direct city educational and other resources to children and their families;

- **Represents the demographic composition of the city of Chicago;** providing equal opportunity for all Chicago voters to elect candidates of their own choosing, regardless of race, where they live, or political ideology/affiliation; there are 3 majority Black districts, 3 majority Hispanic districts, 3 majority White districts, and 1 majority minority district (48% White, 52% Minority);
- **Complies with Voting Rights Acts,** recognizing that the wards were drawn in compliance with Voting Rights Acts; it follows that school districts comprised of complete wards and reflective of Chicago demographics would be in compliance;
- **Minimizes political maneuvering** which often accompany the drawing of new districts with completely new and different boundaries.

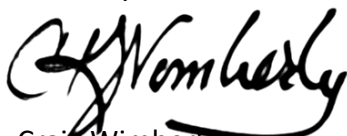
While IAAFER's proposal includes an ERSB map which equitably reflects the demographic population of Chicago, **importantly, the proposal also seeks to create a standing committee of the Board of Education charged with developing evidence-based strategies and processes to close the achievement gap for CPS' Black students.** The proposed Black Student Achievement committee, which will be comprised of individuals with deep educational expertise and experiences, would provide the focus required to develop recommendations to both close the educational achievement gap for Black students, and to sustain gains going forward. Recognizing the educational deficit Black children are burdened with, improving the education of CPS' Black students must be a priority. This Black Student Achievement Committee represents and actualizes that priority.

It is COAL's understanding that IAAFER has discussed its proposed Black Student Achievement committee with the President of the Chicago Board of Education (CBOE) who shared that CBOE is planning to establish a committee focused on the needs of Black CPS students and their families, however, to ensure that this critical work is a priority beyond any change in Chicago administrations, it is imperative that the Black Student Achievement committee is codified into state law, specifically into the legislation that established Chicago's transition to an elected representative school board.

COAL's overarching mission is to do its part towards improving the quality of life for the Black community. Closing the educational gap for our children is a core component of this endeavor.

In closing, we thank you for the consideration of this letter of strong support for the IAAFER ERSB Proposal. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Craig Wimberly at 773.350.9315 or via email at craig.wimberly@coalchicago.com.

Sincerely,



Craig Wimberly

President, Coalition of African American Leaders (COAL)

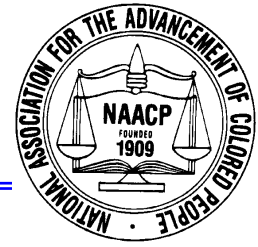
**cc: Members of the Senate Special Committee On the Members of the House Executive
Chicago Elected Representative School Board: Committee:**

Hon. Mattie Hunter, Senator, 3rd District
Hon. Elgie R. Sims, Jr., Senator, 17th District
Hon. Ram Villivalam, Senator, 8th District
Hon. Celina Villanueva, Senator, 12th District
Hon. Dan McConchie, Senator, 26th District
Hon. Seth Lewis, Senator, 24th District

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Hon. Natalie A. Manley, 98th District
Hon. Aaron M. Ortiz, 1st District
Hon. Nicholas K. Smith, 34th District

NAACP

Chicago Westside Branch



Karl A. Brinson
President

August 11, 2023

Honorable Don Harmon
Senate President
309-G Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Honorable Emanuel “Chris” Welch
Speaker of the House
300 State House
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Members of the Illinois House Executive Committee
State Capitol Building
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Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Members of the Illinois Senate
Special Committee on the Chicago Elected
Representative School Board
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Dear Legislative Leaders:

I am writing this letter to express **Chicago Westside Branch NAACP** support for of the Illinois African Americans for Equitable Redistricting (IAAFER) proposal to create Elected Representative School Board (ERSB) districts based on Chicago’s Ward Boundaries and a standing African American Academic Affairs committee of the Chicago Board of Education.

The mapping proposal

- Keeps communities together
- Encourages collaboration among Chicago ERSB members and City Council members
- Provides opportunity for efficient allocation and collaboration of public resources from the City of Chicago and the potential to focus them on children and their families
- Provides equal opportunity for all Chicago voters to elect candidates of their own choosing, regardless of race, where they live, or political ideology/affiliation
- Is based on a map that passes legal muster with respect to state and federal redistricting laws related to compactness, contiguity, population and voting rights

While IAAFER’s proposal includes an equitable map, it also seeks to create a standing committee of the Board of Education charged with developing evidence-based strategies and processes to close the achievement gap for CPS’ Black students. The proposed committee would provide Board level accountability, with alignment at the CPS administrative and school levels.

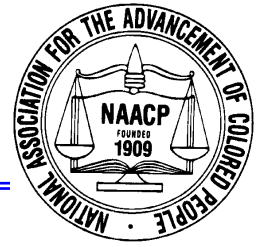
We recognize that the Chicago Board of Education is planning to launch a committee focused on the needs of Black CPS students and their families under the Johnson Administration. However, to ensure that this work is prioritized in years to come, it is imperative that the committee is codified into state law.

**5820 West Chicago Avenue, Suite #1 Chicago, Illinois 60651 Phone (773) 261-5890 Fax (773) 261-5893
Email westsidenaacp@gmail.com**

A Member of the NAACP Metropolitan Council

NAACP

Chicago Westside Branch



Karl A. Brinson
President

The Chicago Westside Branch (CWB) is a local unit of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the nation's oldest civil rights organization.

In closing, we thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (773) 261-5890.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Karl A. Brinson'.

Karl Brinson,
President

**cc: Members of the Senate Special Committee On the
Chicago Elected Representative School Board:**

Hon. Mattie Hunter, Senator, 3rd District
Hon. Elgie R. Sims, Jr., Senator, 17th District
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Hon. Dan McConchie, Senator, 26th District
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Email westsidenaacp@gmail.com**

A Member of the NAACP Metropolitan Council



NAACP Illinois State Conference - (217) 789-2721 - P.O. Box 20384, Springfield, IL 62708

August 23, 2023

Honorable Don Harmon
Senate President
309-G Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Honorable Emanuel "Chris" Welch
Speaker of the House
300 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Members of the Illinois House Executive Committee
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Members of the Illinois Senate
Special Committee on the Chicago Elected
Representative School Board
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Dear Legislative Leaders:

I am writing this letter to express the **NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) Illinois State Conference** support for of the **Illinois African Americans for Equitable Redistricting (IAAFER)** proposal to create Elected Representative School Board (ERSB) districts based on Chicago's Ward Boundaries and a standing African American Academic Affairs committee of the Chicago Board of Education.

The mapping proposal:

- Keeps communities together
- Encourages collaboration among Chicago ERSB members and City Council members
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We recognize that the Chicago Board of Education is planning to launch a committee focused on the needs of Black CPS students and their families under the Johnson Administration. However, to ensure that this work is prioritized in years to come, it is imperative that the committee is codified into state law.

The mission of the **NAACP** is to achieve equity, political rights, and social inclusion by advancing policies and practices that expand human and civil rights, eliminate discrimination, and accelerate the well-being, education, and economic security of Black people and all persons of color. We highly recommend and support the premise of the IAAFER proposal!

In closing, we thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (217) 789-2721. Email: thaley@ilinoisnaacp.org. You may also contact Dr. Sandra W. Leconte, NAACP Illinois State Conference Education Chair at (847) 445-9438. Email: sannikki@aol.com.

Cordially,



Teresa Haley, President
NAACP Illinois State Conference

**cc: Members of the Senate Special Committee On the
Chicago Elected Representative School Board:**

Hon. Mattie Hunter, Senator, 3rd District
Hon. Elgie R. Sims, Jr., Senator, 17th District
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National Black Agenda Consortium – Chicago (NBAC)

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Senator Bill Owens
*Founder and
Chairman National
Black Agenda
Convention*

August 28, 2023

Honorable Don Harmon
Senate President
309-G Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Honorable Emanuel “Chris” Welch
Speaker of the House
300 State House

Members of the Illinois House
Executive Committee
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Members of the Illinois Senate
Special Committee on the Chicago Elected
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State Capitol Building
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Dear Legislative Leaders:

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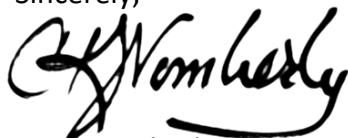
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It is NBAC's understanding that IAAFER has discussed its proposed Black Student Achievement committee with the President of the Chicago Board of Education (CBOE) who shared that CBOE is planning to establish a committee focused on the needs of Black CPS students and their families, however, to ensure that this critical work is a priority beyond any change in Chicago administrations, it is imperative that the Black Student Achievement committee is codified into state law, specifically into the legislation that established Chicago's transition to an elected representative school board.

NBAC's overarching mission is to continuously maintain and disseminate a National Black Agenda which presents strategies and actions to address, redress and resolve our most pressing issues for high priority areas impacting every aspect of Black lives. Education is one of our highest priority issue areas and strategies to close the educational gap for Black children are an important component of the National Black Agenda.

In closing, we thank you for the consideration of this letter of strong support for the IAAFER ERSB Proposal. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Craig Wimberly at 773.350.9315 or via email at craig.wimberly@coalchicago.com.

Sincerely,



Craig Wimberly

Interim Chairman, National Black Agenda Consortium – Chicago (NBAC)

**cc: Members of the Senate Special Committee On the Members of the House Executive
Chicago Elected Representative School Board: Committee:**

Hon. Mattie Hunter, Senator, 3rd District
Hon. Elgie R. Sims, Jr., Senator, 17th District
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Hon. Natalie A. Manley, 98th District
Hon. Aaron M. Ortiz, 1st District
Hon. Nicholas K. Smith, 34th District

The Overton Group Consultants

Chicago, Illinois

312-678-3370

theovertongroup@gmail.com

August 31, 2023

Honorable Don Harmon
Senate President
309-G Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Honorable Emanuel “Chris” Welch
Speaker of the House
300 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Legislative Leaders:

This letter is written to express The Overton Group Consultants' support for of the Illinois African Americans for Equitable Redistricting (IAAFER) proposal to create Elected Representative School Board (ERSB) districts based on Chicago’s Ward Boundaries and a standing Black Student Achievement Committee of the Chicago Board of Education.

The mapping proposal:

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The Overton Group Consultants is a construction management, business development firm, which provides management, technical and procurement services to African American, Disadvantaged and Women Business Enterprise firms, private, public, governmental agencies, developers, owners, and owner's representatives. We also provide start up services to small businesses and sole proprietorships. We wholeheartedly support the entire platform of IAAFER as it aligns with our mission and vision of collaboration and community.

In closing, we thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 312-678-3370.

Sincerely,

Crystal G Overton

Crystal G Overton
President

cc: Members of the Senate Special Committee On the
Chicago Elected Representative School Board:

Hon. Mattie Hunter, Senator, 3rd District
Hon. Elgie R. Sims, Jr., Senator, 17th District
Hon. Ram Villivalam, Senator, 8th District
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Hon. Aaron M. Ortiz, 1st District
Hon. Nicholas K. Smith, 34th District



CITY COUNCIL CITY OF CHICAGO

COUNCIL CHAMBER

CHRIS TALIAFERRO

Alderman, 29th Ward
6272 W. North Ave
Chicago, IL 60639
(773) 237-6460
(773) 237-6418 (Fax)
Ward29@cityofchicago.org

City Hall, Room 300
121 N. LaSalle Street
Chicago, IL 60602
Telephone (312) 744-8805

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Workforce Development

August 30, 2023

Honorable Don Harmon
Senate President
309-G Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Members of The Illinois House Executive Committee
State Capitol Building
401 S. 2nd Avenue
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Honorable Emanuel "Chris" Welch
Speaker of the House
300 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Members of The Illinois Senate
Special Committee the Chicago Elected Representative School Board
State Capitol Building
401 S. 2nd Avenue
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Dear Legislative Leaders:

Please accept this correspondence to express my support for of the Illinois African Americans for Equitable Redistricting (IAAFER) proposal to create Elected Representative School Board (ERSB) districts based on Chicago's Ward boundaries and a standing Black Student Achievement Committee of the Chicago Board of Education.

The mapping proposal

- Keeps communities together
- Encourages collaboration among Chicago ERSB members and City Council members

- Provides opportunity for efficient allocation and collaboration of public resources from the City of Chicago and the potential to focus them on children and their families
- Provides equal opportunity for all Chicago voters to elect candidates of their own choosing, regardless of race, where they live, or political ideology/affiliation
- Is based on a map that passes legal muster with respect to state and federal redistricting laws related to compactness, contiguity, population and voting rights

While IAAFER's proposal includes an equitable map, it also seeks to create a standing committee of the Board of Education charged with developing evidence-based strategies and processes to close the achievement gap for CPS' Black students. The proposed committee would provide Board level accountability, with alignment at the CPS administrative and school levels.

We recognize that the Chicago Board of Education is planning to launch a committee focused on the needs of Black CPS students and their families under the Johnson Administration. However, to ensure that this work is prioritized in years to come, it is imperative that the committee is codified into state law.

In closing, we thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 773-237-6460.

Respectfully submitted,



Alderman Chris Taliaferro, 29th Ward

cc: Members of the Senate Special Committee On the Chicago Elected Representative School Board:

Hon. Mattie Hunter, Senator, 3rd District
 Hon. Elgie R. Sims, Jr., Senator, 17th District
 Hon. Ram Villivalam, Senator, 8th District
 Hon. Celina Villanueva, Senator, 12th District
 Hon. Dan McConchie, Senator, 26th District
 Hon. Seth Lewis, Senator, 24th District

Members of the House Executive Committee:

Hon. Robert "Bob" Rita, 28th District
 Hon. Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez, 2nd District
 Hon. Ryan Spain, 73rd District
 Hon. Kam Buckner, 26th District
 Hon. John M. Cabello, 90th District
 Hon. Christopher "C.D" Davidsmeyer, 100th District
 Hon. Marcus C. Evans, Jr., 33rd District
 Hon. Norine K. Hammond, 94th District
 Hon. Theresa Mah, 24th District
 Hon. Natalie A. Manley, 98th District
 Hon. Aaron M. Ortiz, 1st District
 Hon. Nicholas K. Smith, 34th District

DAVID MOORE
ALDERMAN, 17TH WARD
1344 WEST 79TH STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60620
PHONE: 773-783-3672
FAX: 773-783-3878



CITY OF CHICAGO
CITY COUNCIL

CITY HALL ROOM 300
121 NORTH LASALLE STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602
PHONE: 312-744-3435

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS
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(VICE-CHAIRMAN)
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FINANCE
HOUSING AND REAL ESTATE
LICENSE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
PEDESTRIAN AND TRAFFIC SAFETY
ZONING, LANDMARKS, AND BUILDINGS
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WAY

August 14, 2023

Dear Legislative Leaders:

I am writing this letter to express the 17th Ward of Chicago's support for the Illinois African Americans for Equitable Redistricting (IAAFER) proposal to create Elected Representative School Board (ERSB) districts based on Chicago's Ward Boundaries and a standing African American Academic Affairs committee of the Chicago Board of Education.

The mapping proposal

- Keeps communities together
- Encourages collaboration among Chicago ERSB members and City Council members
- Provides opportunity for efficient allocation and collaboration of public resources from the City of Chicago and the potential to focus them on children and their families
- Provides equal opportunity for all Chicago voters to elect candidates of their own choosing, regardless of race, where they live, or political ideology/affiliation
- Is based on a map that passes legal muster with respect to state and federal redistricting laws related to compactness, contiguity, population and voting rights

While IAAFER's proposal includes an equitable map, it also seeks to create a standing committee of the Board of Education charged with developing evidence-based strategies and processes to close the achievement gap for CPS' Black students. The proposed committee would provide Board level accountability, with alignment at the CPS administrative and school levels.

We recognize that the Chicago Board of Education is planning to launch a committee focused on the needs of Black CPS students and their families under the Johnson Administration. However, to ensure that this work is prioritized in years to come, it is imperative that the committee is codified into state law.

In closing, we thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at david.moore@cityofchicago.org.

Sincerely,

Alderman 17th Ward
David H. Moore
17th Ward Alderman



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Brenda Palms
 President & CEO
*North Lawndale
 Employment Network*

Founder & CEO
*Sweet Beginnings, LLC
 and the beelove café*

**North Lawndale
 Employment Network
 Sweet Beginnings, LLC
 the beelove café**

1111 S. Homan Ave.
 Chicago, IL 60624

773.638.1825

nlen.org | beelovebuzz.com

August 16, 2023

Honorable Don Harmon
 Senate President
 309-G Capitol Building
 Springfield, IL 62706

Members of the Illinois House Executive
 Committee
 State Capitol Building
 401 S. 2nd St.
 Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Honorable Emmanuel "Chris" Welch
 Speaker of the House
 300 State House

Members of the Illinois Senate
 Special Committee on the Chicago
 Elected Representative School Board
 State Capitol Building
 401 S. 2nd St.
 Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Dear Legislative Leaders:

I am writing this letter to express North Lawndale Employment Network's support for of the Illinois African Americans for Equitable Redistricting (IAAFER) proposal to create Elected Representative School Board (ERSB) districts based on Chicago's Ward Boundaries and a standing African American Academic Affairs committee of the Chicago Board of Education.

The mapping proposal:

- Keeps communities together
- Encourages collaboration among Chicago ERSB members and City Council members
- Provides opportunity for efficient allocation and collaboration of public resources from the City of Chicago and the potential to focus them on children and their families
- Provides equal opportunity for all Chicago voters to elect candidates of their own choosing, regardless of race, where they live, or political ideology/affiliation
- Is based on a map that passes legal muster with respect to state and federal redistricting laws related to compactness, contiguity, population and voting rights

While IAAFER's proposal includes an equitable map, it also seeks to create a standing committee of the Board of Education charged with developing evidence-based strategies and processes to close the achievement gap for CPS' Black students. The proposed committee would provide Board level accountability, with alignment at the CPS administrative and school levels.

We recognize that the Chicago Board of Education is planning to launch a committee focused on the needs of Black CPS students and their families under



the Johnson Administration. However, to ensure that this work is prioritized in years to come, it is imperative that the committee is codified into state law.

North Lawndale Employment Network (NLEN) is a place-based, non-profit workforce development organization whose mission is to increase the earnings potential of the North Lawndale community of Chicago through innovative employment initiatives that lead to economic advancement and an improved quality of life. NLEN directly addresses the interconnected problems of poverty, trauma, and unemployment in North Lawndale and the surrounding communities on the West Side of Chicago.

The impact of NLEN's work is recognized locally and nationally, most recently by Sinai Community Institute, which awarded NLEN with its 2023 Sinai Community Investment Award for our commitment to solving the problem of unemployment among individuals with criminal backgrounds and individuals impacted by poverty and gun violence. As an experienced practitioner and trusted subject matter expert, NLEN collaborates with community stakeholders to lift families and communities out of poverty and to reduce gun violence and recidivism. Our 24-year history of successfully managing place-based initiatives that deliver employment and supportive services to residents recovering from the effects of mass incarceration and chronic exposure to gun violence has proven to interrupt the cycle of violence.

Just as NLEN's work, IAAFER's proposed redistricting initiative aims to address the root causes of poverty. Our work is interconnected and rooted in the imperative of systemic change to close the gaps and ensure equity in every area of the social determinants of health and prosperity for Black residents.

In closing, we thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 773-638-1805.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brenda Palms".

Brenda Palms
President & CEO

**cc: Members of the Senate Special Committee On the
Chicago Elected Representative School Board:**

Hon. Mattie Hunter, Senator, 3rd District
Hon. Elgie R. Sims, Jr., Senator, 17th District
Hon. Ram Villivalam, Senator, 8th District
Hon. Celina Villanueva, Senator, 12th District
Hon. Dan McConchie, Senator, 26th District
Hon. Seth Lewis, Senator, 24th District



Members of the House Executive Committee:

Hon. Robert "Bob" Rita, 28th District
Hon. Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez, 2nd District
Hon. Ryan Spain, 73rd District
Hon. Kam Buckner, 26th District
Hon. John M. Cabello, 90th District
Hon. Christopher "C.D" Davidsmeyer, 100th District
Hon. Marcus C. Evans, Jr., 33rd District
Hon. Norine K. Hammond, 94th District
Hon. Theresa Mah, 24th District
Hon. Natalie A. Manley, 98th District
Hon. Aaron M. Ortiz, 1st District
Hon. Nicholas K. Smith, 34th District



Sankofa Safe Child Initiative

"Looking Back to go Forward"

4041 W. Roosevelt Road; Chicago, Illinois 60624

Phone: 773-542-9900 Fax: 773-542-9790 Email: wsafechild@sbcglobal.net

24-Hour Helpline: 1-844-669-5049 www.sankofasafechildinitiative.org

Annetta Wilson,
Founder / Executive
Director

August 11, 2023

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Members of the Illinois House Executive Committee
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Members of the Illinois Senate
Special Committee on the Chicago Elected
Representative School Board
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Dear Legislative Leaders:

I am writing this letter to express **Sankofa Safe Child Initiative** support for of the Illinois African Americans for Equitable Redistricting (IAAFER) proposal to create Elected Representative School Board (ERSB) districts based on Chicago's Ward Boundaries and a standing African American Academic Affairs committee of the Chicago Board of Education.

The mapping proposal

- Keeps communities together
- Encourages collaboration among Chicago ERSB members and City Council members
- Provides opportunity for efficient allocation and collaboration of public resources from the City of Chicago and the potential to focus them on children and their families
- Provides equal opportunity for all Chicago voters to elect candidates of their own choosing, regardless of race, where they live, or political ideology/affiliation
- Is based on a map that passes legal muster with respect to state and federal redistricting laws related to compactness, contiguity, population and voting rights

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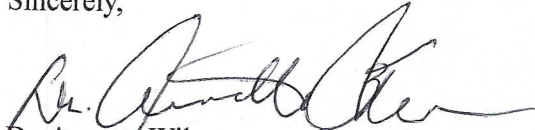
We recognize that the Chicago Board of Education is planning to launch a committee focused on the needs of Black CPS students and their families under the Johnson Administration. However, to ensure that this work is prioritized in years to come, it is imperative that the committee is codified into state law.

The mission of Sankofa Safe Child Initiative is to encourage underserved families and communities to be strong, self-sufficient, and safe and connected, when practical. This is achieved by providing evidenced-based programs and services, including trauma-informed supportive services, supportive housing and scattered site housing. Sankofa refers families to specific community resources, community and faith-based

organizations, education services, and healthcare providers that give meaningful effective solutions to their urgent needs.

In closing, we thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 773-542-9900.

Sincerely,



Dr. Annetta Wilson
Executive Director

**cc: Members of the Senate Special Committee On the
Chicago Elected Representative School Board:**

Hon. Mattie Hunter, Senator, 3rd District
Hon. Elgie R. Sims, Jr., Senator, 17th District
Hon. Ram Villivalam, Senator, 8th District
Hon. Celina Villanueva, Senator, 12th District
Hon. Dan McConchie, Senator, 26th District
Hon. Seth Lewis, Senator, 24th District

Members of the House Executive Committee:

Hon. Robert "Bob" Rita, 28th District
Hon. Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez, 2nd District
Hon. Ryan Spain, 73rd District
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Hon. Norine K. Hammond, 94th District
Hon. Theresa Mah, 24th District
Hon. Natalie A. Manley, 98th District
Hon. Aaron M. Ortiz, 1st District
Hon. Nicholas K. Smith, 34th District



**South Austin
Neighborhood
Association,
SANA
2015-2023**

Website:

<https://southaustinneighborhood.org>
[Wixsite.com/newsouthaustinneighborhood.org](https://www.facebook.com/YourSouthAustinNeighborhoodAssociation)

<https://www.facebook.com/YourSouthAustinNeighborhoodAssociation>

Gmail:
southaustinneighborhood@gmail.com

August 14, 2023

Honorable Don Harmon
Senate President
309-G Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Honorable Emanuel "Chris" Welch
Speaker of the House
300 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Members of the Illinois House Executive
Committee State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, Illinois 62701-1727

Members of the Illinois State Special
Committee on the Chicago Elected
Representative School Board
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Dear Legislative Leaders:

I am writing this letter to express South Austin Neighborhood Association's support for of the Illinois African Americans for Equitable Redistricting (IAAFER) proposal to create Elected Representative School Board (ERSB) districts based on Chicago's Ward Boundaries and a standing African American Academic Affairs committee of the Chicago Board of Education.

The mapping proposal

- Keeps communities together
- Encourages collaboration among Chicago ERSB members and City Council members
- Provides opportunity for efficient allocation and collaboration of public resources from the City of Chicago and the potential to focus them on children and their families
- Provides equal opportunity for all Chicago voters to elect candidates of their own choosing, regardless of race, where they live, or political ideology/affiliation
- Is based on a map that passes legal muster with respect to state and federal redistricting laws related to compactness, contiguity, population and voting rights

While IAAFER's proposal includes an equitable map, it also seeks to create a standing committee of the Board of Education charged with developing evidence-based strategies and processes to close the achievement gap for CPS' Black students. The proposed committee would provide Board level accountability, with alignment at the CPS administrative and school levels.

We recognize that the Chicago Board of Education is planning to launch a committee focused on the needs of Black CPS students and their families under the Johnson Administration. However, to ensure that this work is prioritized in years to come, it is imperative that the committee is codified into state law.

The South Austin Neighborhood Association is a community organization committed to directing the narrative of South Austin. And we do this by working with our community and its stakeholders; the goal being to improve the quality of life for the residents of South Austin.

In closing, we thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (312) 316-4811.

Founded in 2015, the South Austin Neighborhood Association (SANA) is a community-driven 501(c)(3) organization that brings residents together with local, city, and state resources to foster a fundamental transformation to the quality of life in our community.



**South Austin
Neighborhood
Association,
SANA
2015-2023**

Website:

[https://southaustinneighbo.
Wixsite.com/newsouthaustinneighb](https://southaustinneighbo. Wixsite.com/newsouthaustinneighb)

[https://www.Facebook.com/
YourSouthAustinNeighborhoodAss
ociation](https://www.Facebook.com/YourSouthAustinNeighborhoodAssociation)

Gmail:
[southaustinneighborhood@
gmail.com](mailto:southaustinneighborhood@gmail.com)

Sincerely,

Ms. Sharon Hartshorn
Secretary

cc: Members of the Senate Special Committee On the
Chicago Elected Representative School Board:

Hon. Mattie Hunter, Senator, 3rd District
Hon. Elgie R. Sims, Jr., Senator, 17th District
Hon. Ram Villivalam, Senator, 8th District
Hon. Celina Villanueva, Senator, 12th District
Hon. Dan McConchie, Senator, 26th District
Hon. Seth Lewis, Senator, 24th District

Members of the House Executive Committee:

Hon. Robert "Bob" Rita, 28th District
Hon. Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez, 2nd District
Hon. Ryan Spain, 73rd District
Hon. Kam Buckner, 26th District
Hon. John M. Cabello, 90th District
Hon. Christopher "C.D" Davidsmeyer, 100th District
Hon. Marcus C. Evans, Jr., 33rd District
Hon. Norine K. Hammond, 94th District
Hon. Theresa Mah, 24th District
Hon. Natalie A. Manley, 98th District
Hon. Aaron M. Ortiz, 1st District
Hon. Nicholas K. Smith, 34th District



"creating peace with presence"

Operation Neighborhood Safety

8659 South Ingleside Ave, Chicago, IL 60619

773.200.8179

info@operationsneighborhoodsafety.com

[Operation Neighborhood Safety](http://OperationNeighborhoodSafety.com)

Honorable Don Harmon
Senate President
309-G Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Honorable Emanuel "Chris" Welch
Speaker of the House
300 State House

Members of the Illinois House Executive
Committee
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Members of the Illinois Senate
Special Committee on the Chicago Elected
Representative School Board
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Dear Legislative Leaders:

I am writing this letter to express **Operation Neighborhood Safety's support** for of the Illinois African Americans for Equitable Redistricting (IAAFER) proposal to create Elected Representative School Board (ERSB) districts based on Chicago's Ward Boundaries and a standing African American Academic Affairs committee of the Chicago Board of Education. We understand the importance, the desperate need to improve the quality and focus of education for our Community's Black youths. Regularly, we provide and engage in mentoring sessions with Black male youths at:

- Paul Revere Elementary School
- Emmett Till Elementary School
- Gary Comer College Prep High School.

Therefore, Operation Neighborhood Safety supports, the mapping proposal which,

- Keeps communities together
- Encourages collaboration among Chicago ERSB members and City Council members
- Provides opportunity for efficient allocation and collaboration of public resources from the City of Chicago and the potential to focus them on children and their families



"creating peace with presence"

- Provides equal opportunity for all Chicago voters to elect candidates of their own choosing, regardless of race, where they live, or political ideology/affiliation
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We recognize that the Chicago Board of Education is planning to launch a committee focused on the needs of Black CPS students and their families under the Johnson Administration. However, to ensure that this work is prioritized in years to come, it is imperative that the committee is codified into state law.

Operation Neighborhood Safety is a collaboration of Community organizations creating safe space and safe time by building peace with presence. Our core anti-violence/peace-keeping work is centered at commercial entities, such as gas stations/grocery stores and retail strips. Further, we monitor youth activity on school campuses at dismal and events. We believe a caring and concerned presence has thwarted unwanted disruptive behavior. Currently we are a collaboration of fifteen mission aligned grassroots organizations—our mission, supporting our Community for productive growth, especially of our youths. Since 2019, the amount of acute and chronic crimes has reduced in our focus area. We believe in part, due to our consistent concern and strategic presence.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, Matt Brandon, at **773. 949. 5178**.
Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and we anticipated your support.

Respectfully and
Towards the Betterment of Society,

--Matt Brandon,
President
Operation Neighborhood Safety, nfp



"creating peace with presence"

cc: Members of the Senate Special Committee On the Chicago Elected Representative School Board:

- Hon. Mattie Hunter, Senator, 3rd District
- Hon. Elgie R. Sims, Jr., Senator, 17th District
- Hon. Ram Villivalam, Senator, 8th District
- Hon. Celina Villanueva, Senator, 12th District
- Hon. Dan McConchie, Senator, 26th District
- Hon. Seth Lewis, Senator, 24th District

Members of the House Executive Committee:

- Hon. Robert "Bob" Rita, 28th District
- Hon. Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez, 2nd District
- Hon. Ryan Spain, 73rd District
- Hon. Kam Buckner, 26th District
- Hon. John M. Cabello, 90th District
- Hon. Christopher "C.D" Davidsmeyer, 100th District
- Hon. Marcus C. Evans, Jr., 33rd District
- Hon. Norine K. Hammond, 94th District
- Hon. Theresa Mah, 24th District
- Hon. Natalie A. Manley, 98th District
- Hon. Aaron M. Ortiz, 1st District
- Hon. Nicholas K. Smith, 34th District

THE MONROE FOUNDATION



1547 South Wolf Road-Hillside, Illinois 60162

www.themonroefoundation.org

August 11, 2023

Honorable Don Harmon
Senate President
309-G Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Honorable Emanuel "Chris" Welch
Speaker of the House
300 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Members of the Illinois House Executive Committee
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Members of the Illinois Senate
Special Committee on the Chicago Elected
Representative School Board
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Dear Legislative Leaders:

I am writing this letter to express **the Monroe Foundation's** support for of the Illinois African Americans for Equitable Redistricting (IAAFER) proposal to create Elected Representative School Board (ERSB) districts based on Chicago's Ward Boundaries and a standing African American Academic Affairs committee of the Chicago Board of Education.

The mapping proposal

- Keeps communities together
- Encourages collaboration among Chicago ERSB members and City Council members
- Provides opportunity for efficient allocation and collaboration of public resources from the City of Chicago and the potential to focus them on children and their families
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We recognize that the Chicago Board of Education is planning to launch a committee focused on the needs of Black CPS students and their families under the Johnson Administration. However, to ensure that this work is prioritized in years to come, it is imperative that the committee is codified into state law.

The Monroe Foundation was formed in 1991 to provide technical assistance in starting community and economic development projects within low-income communities and provide emerging groups with seed grants through the PACT Project (Partnership For Assisting Community Transformation).

The Monroe Foundation is a publicly supported not-for-profit community and enterprise development intermediary. We seek to educate, link and fund community development projects within low-income communities in that State of Illinois. We have developed Get Cleared, a project to end the school to prison pipeline by empowering ex-offenders to obtain their "Rap Sheets" (city and state), identify opportunities to "clear", seal their records, and connect them to enabling resources that keeps "ex" from their names. We also support small business start-ups and financing through lending partnerships with Marquette Bank, and US Bank. Our current supporters are Bank of America, Citibank, Marquette Bank, PNC Bank, US Bank, Field Foundation of Illinois, and Woods Fund of Chicago. We also provide small business development seminars through the small business development "Boot Camp" Program, funded by a grant from Citibank.

In closing, we thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (773) 315-9720.

Sincerely,

Otis C. Monroe

The Reverend Otis. C. Monroe, II
President

**cc: Members of the Senate Special Committee On the
Chicago Elected Representative School Board:**

Hon. Mattie Hunter, Senator, 3rd District
Hon. Elgie R. Sims, Jr., Senator, 17th District
Hon. Ram Villivalam, Senator, 8th District
Hon. Celina Villanueva, Senator, 12th District
Hon. Dan McConchie, Senator, 26th District
Hon. Seth Lewis, Senator, 24th District

Members of the House Executive Committee:

Hon. Robert "Bob" Rita, 28th District
Hon. Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez, 2nd District
Hon. Ryan Spain, 73rd District
Hon. Kam Buckner, 26th District
Hon. John M. Cabello, 90th District
Hon. Christopher "C.D" Davidsmeyer, 100th District
Hon. Marcus C. Evans, Jr., 33rd District
Hon. Norine K. Hammond, 94th District

Hon. Theresa Mah, 24th District
Hon. Natalie A. Manley, 98th District
Hon. Aaron M. Ortiz, 1st District
Hon. Nicholas K. Smith, 34th District

August 1, 2023

Honorable Don Harmon
Senate President
309-G Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Members of the Illinois House Executive Committee
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Honorable Emanuel “Chris” Welch
Speaker of the House
300 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Members of the Illinois Senate
Special Committee on the Chicago Elected
Representative School Board
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Dear Legislative Leaders:

I am writing this letter to express Light Up Lawndale’s support for of the Illinois African Americans for Equitable Redistricting (IAAFER) proposal to create Elected Representative School Board (ERSB) districts based on Chicago’s Ward Boundaries and a standing Black Student Achievement Committee of the Chicago Board of Education.

The mapping proposal

- Keeps communities together
- Encourages collaboration among Chicago ERSB members and City Council members
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We recognize that the Chicago Board of Education is planning to launch a committee focused on the needs of Black CPS students and their families under the Johnson Administration. However, to ensure that this work is prioritized in years to come, it is imperative that the committee is codified into state law.

Light Up Lawndale started over 3 years ago as an initiative to bring about change and equality in Lawndale. Since starting we have been able to organize events that assist with helping Lawndale to learn who they are and where they come from. This aligns with our mission and vision statements that are focused on changing the narrative of the Westside with a strong focus in Lawndale. Our mission is to educate, empower, engage, and restore economic development where we live, work and worship. Light Up Lawndale is rewriting our story one person at a time.

In closing, we thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 312-459-9092.

Sincerely,



Princess Shaw
CEO & Founder Light Up Lawndale
1440 W Taylor #582
Chicago, IL 60607
www.lightuplawndale.org

**cc: Members of the Senate Special Committee On the
Chicago Elected Representative School Board:**

Hon. Mattie Hunter, Senator, 3rd District
Hon. Elgie R. Sims, Jr., Senator, 17th District
Hon. Ram Villivalam, Senator, 8th District
Hon. Celina Villanueva, Senator, 12th District
Hon. Dan McConchie, Senator, 26th District
Hon. Seth Lewis, Senator, 24th District

Members of the House Executive Committee:

Hon. Robert "Bob" Rita, 28th District
Hon. Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez, 2nd District
Hon. Ryan Spain, 73rd District
Hon. Kam Buckner, 26th District
Hon. John M. Cabello, 90th District
Hon. Christopher "C.D" Davidsmeyer, 100th District
Hon. Marcus C. Evans, Jr., 33rd District
Hon. Norine K. Hammond, 94th District
Hon. Theresa Mah, 24th District
Hon. Natalie A. Manley, 98th District
Hon. Aaron M. Ortiz, 1st District
Hon. Nicholas K. Smith, 34th District



Nonprofit Utopia

*The ideal community for leaders who want to start,
manage and scale nonprofits.*

August 30, 2023

Honorable Don Harmon
Senate President
309-G Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Members of the Illinois House Executive Committee
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Honorable Emanuel “Chris” Welch
Speaker of the House
300 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Members of the Illinois Senate
Special Committee on the Chicago Elected
Representative School Board
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Dear Legislative Leaders:

I am writing this letter to express Nonprofit Utopia, LLC’s support for of the Illinois African Americans for Equitable Redistricting (IAAFER) proposal to create Elected Representative School Board (ERSB) districts based on Chicago’s Ward Boundaries and a standing Black Student Achievement Committee of the Chicago Board of Education.

The mapping proposal

- Keeps communities together
- Encourages collaboration among Chicago ERSB members and City Council members
- Provides opportunity for efficient allocation and collaboration of public resources from the City of Chicago and the potential to focus them on children and their families
- Provides equal opportunity for all Chicago voters to elect candidates of their own choosing, regardless of race, where they live, or political ideology/affiliation
- Is based on a map that passes legal muster with respect to state and federal redistricting laws related to compactness, contiguity, population and voting rights

While IAAFER’s proposal includes an equitable map, it also seeks to create a standing committee of the Board of Education charged with developing evidence-based strategies and processes to close the achievement gap for CPS’ Black students. The proposed committee would provide Board level accountability, with alignment at the CPS administrative and school levels.

We recognize that the Chicago Board of Education is planning to launch a committee focused on the needs of Black CPS students and their families under the Johnson Administration. However, to ensure that this work is prioritized in years to come, it is imperative that the committee is codified into state law.

Nonprofit Utopia is the ideal community for ethical leaders who want to start, manage and scale nonprofits. We provide an online community, coaching, courses and consulting geared to help nonprofit managers build their leadership skills as they guide their organizations to long term sustainability. We help our clients and community members move the needle on some of their most pressing problems through organizational and leadership assessments, board governance and strategic planning. Our client base is diverse, and includes startups, emerging organizations and institutions in Chicago, multiple states and countries several countries around the world. To date, we have been able to reach over 40,000 people through our livestreams, podcasts, courses, coaching and consulting. We support the IAAFER proposal because it aligns with our core values, including diversity and equity, transparency, fairness and democracy.

In closing, we thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 773-571-3886 or valeriefleonard@nonprofitutopia.com. _____.

Sincerely,



Valerie F. Leonard
Founder, Nonprofit Utopia, LLC

**cc: Members of the Senate Special Committee On the
Chicago Elected Representative School Board:**

Hon. Mattie Hunter, Senator, 3rd District
Hon. Elgie R. Sims, Jr., Senator, 17th District
Hon. Ram Villivalam, Senator, 8th District
Hon. Celina Villanueva, Senator, 12th District
Hon. Dan McConchie, Senator, 26th District
Hon. Seth Lewis, Senator, 24th District

Members of the House Executive Committee:

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Hon. Marcus C. Evans, Jr., 33rd District
Hon. Norine K. Hammond, 94th District
Hon. Theresa Mah, 24th District
Hon. Natalie A. Manley, 98th District
Hon. Aaron M. Ortiz, 1st District
Hon. Nicholas K. Smith, 34th District



Promoting Excellence in Education

3509 S. King Drive, Suite 2B ★ Chicago, IL 60653

P: 773.285.9600 ★ F: 773.285.9602

communityinfo@blackstarproject.org

★ www.blackstarproject.org

August 11, 2023

Honorable Don Harmon
Senate President
309-G Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Honorable Emanuel “Chris” Welch
Speaker of the House
300 State House

Members of the Illinois House Executive Committee
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Members of the Illinois Senate
Special Committee on the Chicago Elected
Representative School Board
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Dear Legislative Leaders:

I am writing this letter to express The Black Star Project’s support for of the Illinois African Americans for Equitable Redistricting (IAAFER) proposal to create Elected Representative School Board (ERSB) districts based on Chicago’s Ward Boundaries and a standing African American Academic Affairs committee of the Chicago Board of Education.

The mapping proposal

- Keeps communities together
- Encourages collaboration among Chicago ERSB members and City Council members
- Provides opportunity for efficient allocation and collaboration of public resources from the City of Chicago and the potential to focus them on children and their families
- Provides equal opportunity for all Chicago voters to elect candidates of their own choosing, regardless of race, where they live, or political ideology/affiliation
- Is based on a map that passes legal muster with respect to state and federal redistricting laws related to compactness, contiguity, population and voting rights

While IAAFER’s proposal includes an equitable map, it also seeks to create a standing committee of the Board of Education charged with developing evidence-based strategies and processes to close the achievement gap for CPS’ Black students. The proposed committee would provide Board level accountability, with alignment at the CPS administrative and school levels.

We recognize that the Chicago Board of Education is planning to launch a committee focused on the needs of Black CPS students and their families under the Johnson Administration. However, to ensure that this work is prioritized in years to come, it is imperative that the committee is codified into state law.

As you may know, The Black Star Project has worked to close the racial academic achievement gap in the South and West side communities of Chicago for over 27 years. Black Star works tirelessly with families and communities to achieve these goals and that is why we support this proposal.

In closing, we thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 773-285-9600 or gloria@blackstarproject.org.

Sincerely,

Gloria Smith
Executive Director

**cc: Members of the Senate Special Committee On the
Chicago Elected Representative School Board:**

Hon. Mattie Hunter, Senator, 3rd District
Hon. Elgie R. Sims, Jr., Senator, 17th District
Hon. Ram Villivalam, Senator, 8th District
Hon. Celina Villanueva, Senator, 12th District
Hon. Dan McConchie, Senator, 26th District
Hon. Seth Lewis, Senator, 24th District

Members of the House Executive Committee:

Hon. Robert "Bob" Rita, 28th District
Hon. Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez, 2nd District
Hon. Ryan Spain, 73rd District
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Hon. John M. Cabello, 90th District
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Hon. Marcus C. Evans, Jr., 33rd District
Hon. Norine K. Hammond, 94th District
Hon. Theresa Mah, 24th District
Hon. Natalie A. Manley, 98th District
Hon. Aaron M. Ortiz, 1st District
Hon. Nicholas K. Smith, 34th District



Carey Tercentenary

African Methodist Episcopal Church

1448 S. Homan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60623
Reverend Walter C. Harris, Sr.,
708-785-9838
e-mail revwch1@yahoo.com

August 11, 2023

Honorable Don Harmon
Senate President
309-G Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Honorable Emanuel "Chris" Welch
Speaker of the House
300 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Members of the Illinois House Executive Committee
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Members of the Illinois Senate
Special Committee on the Chicago Elected
Representative School Board
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Dear Legislative Leaders:

I am writing this letter to express Carey Tercentenary A.M.E, Church's support for of the Illinois African Americans for Equitable Redistricting (IAAFER) proposal to create Elected Representative School Board (ERSB) districts based on Chicago's Ward Boundaries and a standing African American Academic Affairs committee of the Chicago Board of Education.

The mapping proposal

- Keeps communities together
- Encourages collaboration among Chicago ERSB members and City Council members
- Provides opportunity for efficient allocation and collaboration of public resources from the City of Chicago and the potential to focus them on children and their families
- Provides equal opportunity for all Chicago voters to elect candidates of their own choosing, regardless of race, where they live, or political ideology/affiliation
- Is based on a map that passes legal muster with respect to state and federal redistricting laws related to compactness, contiguity, population and voting rights

While IAAFER's proposal includes an equitable map, it also seeks to create a standing committee of the Board of Education charged with developing evidence-based strategies and processes to close the achievement gap for CPS' Black students. The proposed committee would provide Board level accountability, with alignment at the CPS administrative and school levels.

We recognize that the Chicago Board of Education is planning to launch a committee focused on the needs of Black CPS students and their families under the Johnson Administration. However, to ensure that this work is prioritized in years to come, it is imperative that the committee is codified into state law.

Carey Tercentenary African Methodist Episcopal Church is preparing to celebrate its 107th year anniversary, which includes serving the Lawndale community for over 70 of those years. Our mission is to promote the gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and to uplift the spiritual, economical, and physical nature of our neighbors. Carey does this in a number of meaningful ways.

- We house a summer Safe Haven program sponsored by CPS which serves as a summer camp for our youths offering learning experiences and recreational activities, along with several field trips. We support this program because we noticed a major drop in our black youth's academic scores and educational interest following the corona pandemic.
- We feed 80 families per week through our food pantry that has been serving the Lawndale community for over ten years. Carey has a special interest in ensuring food is available to all people.

As Carey enters its 107th year, we will continue to use the strength and resources provided by the Lord to go into the highways and byways to fill God's house and to take care of His people.

In closing, we thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 708-785-9838 revwch1@yahoo.com.

Sincerely,

Walter C. Harris, Sr. Pastor

cc: Members of the Senate Special Committee On the Chicago Elected Representative School Board:

Hon. Mattie Hunter, Senator, 3rd District
Hon. Elgie R. Sims, Jr., Senator, 17th District
Hon. Ram Villivalam, Senator, 8th District
Hon. Celina Villanueva, Senator, 12th District
Hon. Dan McConchie, Senator, 26th District
Hon. Seth Lewis, Senator, 24th District

Members of the House Executive Committee:

Hon. Robert "Bob" Rita, 28th District
Hon. Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez, 2nd District
Hon. Ryan Spain, 73rd District
Hon. Kam Buckner, 26th District
Hon. John M. Cabello, 90th District
Hon. Christopher "C.D" Davidsmeyer, 100th District
Hon. Marcus C. Evans, Jr., 33rd District
Hon. Norine K. Hammond, 94th District
Hon. Theresa Mah, 24th District
Hon. Natalie A. Manley, 98th District
Hon. Aaron M. Ortiz, 1st District

Hon. Nicholas K. Smith, 34th District

South Merrill Community Garden/ Genesis Cooperative

August 31, 2023

Honorable Don Harmon
Senate President
309-G Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Members of the Illinois House Executive Committee
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Honorable Emanuel “Chris” Welch
Speaker of the House
300 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Members of the Illinois Senate
Special Committee on the Chicago Elected
Representative School Board
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Dear Legislative Leaders:

I am writing this letter to express A Few Good Women’s support for of the Illinois African Americans for Equitable Redistricting (IAAFER) proposal to create Elected Representative School Board (ERSB) districts based on Chicago’s Ward Boundaries and a standing African American Academic Affairs committee of the Chicago Board of Education.

The mapping proposal

- Keeps communities together
- Encourages collaboration among Chicago ERSB members and City Council members
- Provides opportunity for efficient allocation and collaboration of public resources from the City of Chicago and the potential to focus them on children and their families
- Provides equal opportunity for all Chicago voters to elect candidates of their own choosing, regardless of race, where they live, or political ideology/affiliation
- Is based on a map that passes legal muster with respect to state and federal redistricting laws related to compactness, contiguity, population and voting rights

While IAAFER’s proposal includes an equitable map, it also seeks to create a standing committee of the Board of Education charged with developing evidence-based strategies and processes to close the achievement gap for CPS’ Black students. The proposed committee would provide Board level accountability, with alignment at the CPS administrative and school levels.

We recognize that the Chicago Board of Education is planning to launch a committee focused on the needs of Black CPS students and their families under the Johnson Administration. However, to ensure that this work is prioritized in years to come, it is imperative that the committee is codified into state law.

CAUSE Teachers is a community teacher advocacy group working to close the opportunity gap for Black Students and Teachers in Illinois. We work to engage and educate teachers and the community around workers' rights and support for Black student advancement.

In closing, we thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (773)844-1374.

Sincerely,

Dianne Hodges

Printed Name Dianne Hodges

Title Team Leader South Merrill Community Garden /Board Member Genesis Cooperative

**cc: Members of the Senate Special Committee On the
Chicago Elected Representative School Board:**

Hon. Mattie Hunter, Senator, 3rd District
Hon. Elgie R. Sims, Jr., Senator, 17th District
Hon. Ram Villivalam, Senator, 8th District
Hon. Celina Villanueva, Senator, 12th District
Hon. Dan McConchie, Senator, 26th District
Hon. Seth Lewis, Senator, 24th District

Members of the House Executive Committee:

Hon. Robert "Bob" Rita, 28th District
Hon. Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez, 2nd District
Hon. Ryan Spain, 73rd District
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Hon. John M. Cabello, 90th District
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Hon. Nicholas K. Smith, 34th District



August 30, 2023

Honorable Don Harmon
Senate President
309-G Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Members of the Illinois House Executive Committee
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Honorable Emanuel “Chris” Welch
Speaker of the House
300 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Members of the Illinois Senate
Special Committee on the Chicago Elected
Representative School Board
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Dear Legislative Leaders:

I am writing this letter to express my personal support for the Illinois African Americans for Equitable Redistricting (IAAFER) proposal to create Elected Representative School Board (ERSB) districts based on Chicago’s Ward Boundaries and a standing Black Student Achievement Committee of the Chicago Board of Education.

The mapping proposal:

- Keeps communities together
- Encourages collaboration among Chicago ERSB members and City Council members
- Provides opportunity for efficient allocation and collaboration of public resources from the City of Chicago and the potential to focus them on children and their families
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While IAAFER’s proposal includes an equitable map, it also seeks to create a standing committee of the Board of Education charged with developing evidence-based strategies and processes to close the achievement gap for CPS’ Black students. The proposed committee would provide Board level accountability, with alignment at the CPS administrative and school levels.

We recognize that the Chicago Board of Education is planning to launch a committee focused on the needs of Black CPS students and their families under the Johnson Administration. However, to ensure that this work is prioritized in years to come, it is imperative that the committee is codified into state law.



In my work as Director of the Axelson Center for Nonprofit Management at North Park University, I am in contact with nonprofit leaders and their organizations from the entire Chicago area, including those who are African American and who care deeply about the way in which this elected School Board will be developed. The Axelson Center was developed at North Park University in 1999 with the purpose of enhancing the performance and effectiveness of individuals and organizations in the nonprofit sector through education, service, and resources. Our vision is to help build vibrant communities in Chicago and beyond through strengthening nonprofit leadership. To achieve that mission, the Axelson Center primarily offers workshops and webinars, an annual conference, awards for nonprofit managerial excellence, custom training, and a “BootCamp for New Nonprofit CEOs”. We serve thousands of nonprofit leaders each year, and we are always concerned about supporting those leaders in as many ways we can – so that they can do their work more effectively and efficiently and have positive impacts in their respective communities.

For those nonprofit leaders to accomplish positive impacts in their communities, what happens to the children in those communities matters greatly. What happens to Black children is of concern to all, not just with African American communities. We are all connected, and the systems that don’t work for African American students which result in less than stellar outcomes for them hurts everyone – in the loss of talent working on behalf of our whole society. Having the leadership and the systems in place that accept only the best for ALL students is key. In addition, it is imperative that since African American students fare worse on so many outcome measures, and have less investment in their success from the systems and structures and policies that are in place that are supposed to ensure their success – it is critical for more emphasis to be placed on what works best for them. The IAAFER proposal is designed with the success of African American students in mind. Singling them out for success is necessary since the systems currently in place fail them. If they are more successful, we will all benefit.

In closing, I thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 773.244.5748 or progers@northpark.edu.

Sincerely,

Pier C. Rogers, PhD

**cc: Members of the Senate Special Committee On the
Chicago Elected Representative School Board:**

Hon. Mattie Hunter, Senator, 3rd District
Hon. Elgie R. Sims, Jr., Senator, 17th District
Hon. Ram Villivalam, Senator, 8th District
Hon. Celina Villanueva, Senator, 12th District
Hon. Dan McConchie, Senator, 26th District



Hon. Seth Lewis, Senator, 24th District

Members of the House Executive Committee:

Hon. Robert "Bob" Rita, 28th District

Hon. Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez, 2nd District

Hon. Ryan Spain, 73rd District

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Hon. John M. Cabello, 90th District

Hon. Christopher "C.D" Davidsmeyer, 100th District

Hon. Marcus C. Evans, Jr., 33rd District

Hon. Norine K. Hammond, 94th District

Hon. Theresa Mah, 24th District

Hon. Natalie A. Manley, 98th District

Hon. Aaron M. Ortiz, 1st District

Hon. Nicholas K. Smith, 34th District



NEBC
4636 WEST WASHINGTON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL, 60644

September 12, 2023

Honorable Don Harmon
Senate President
309-G Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Honorable Emanuel “Chris” Welch
Speaker of the House
300 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Members of the Illinois House Executive Committee
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Members of the Illinois Senate
Special Committee on the Chicago Elected
Representative School Board
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Dear Legislative Leaders:

I am writing this letter to express NEBC’s support for of the Illinois African Americans for Equitable Redistricting (IAAFER) proposal to create Elected Representative School Board (ERSB) districts based on Chicago’s Ward Boundaries and a standing Black Student Achievement Committee of the Chicago Board of Education.

The mapping proposal

- Keeps communities together
- Encourages collaboration among Chicago ERSB members and City Council members
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While IAAFER’s proposal includes an equitable map, it also seeks to create a standing committee of the Board of Education charged with developing evidence-based strategies and processes to close the achievement gap for CPS’ Black students. The proposed committee would provide Board level accountability, with alignment at the CPS administrative and school levels.

We recognize that the Chicago Board of Education is planning to launch a committee focused on the needs of Black CPS students and their families under the Johnson Administration. However, to ensure that this work is prioritized in years to come, it is imperative that the committee is codified into state law.

NEBC was founded in 2014 as a ministry of the New Evangelical Bible Church, and became a separately-controlled tax-exempt organization in 2015. NEBC Employment Resource Services is community-focused

and committed to bringing sustainable, life-changing resources that strengthen and elevate the quality of life for adolescents and young adults. We serve the Westside of Chicago, with an emphasis on Austin, East Garfield Park, West Garfield Park, North Lawndale, Little Village and Humboldt Park.

Our flagship out-of-school program, You Got Served, provides teens ages 14-18 with culinary and hospitality training, along with soft skills training and career readiness throughout the school year and summer. To date, we have provided opportunities to over 200 Chicago teens. We believe and will keep believing that the hope for Chicago lies in nurturing young minds!

In closing, we thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Evelyn Ross
Executive Director

**cc: Members of the Senate Special Committee On the
Chicago Elected Representative School Board:**

Hon. Mattie Hunter, Senator, 3rd District
Hon. Elgie R. Sims, Jr., Senator, 17th District
Hon. Ram Villivalam, Senator, 8th District
Hon. Celina Villanueva, Senator, 12th District
Hon. Dan McConchie, Senator, 26th District
Hon. Seth Lewis, Senator, 24th District

Members of the House Executive Committee:

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Hon. Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez, 2nd District
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Hon. Norine K. Hammond, 94th District
Hon. Theresa Mah, 24th District
Hon. Natalie A. Manley, 98th District
Hon. Aaron M. Ortiz, 1st District
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415 S. Kilpatrick Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60644

2023

ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF LIFE SINCE 1978

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of Health Services Executives (NAHSE)

PRESIDENT/CEO
Donald J. Dew

August 29, 2023

Honorable Don Harmon
Senate President
309-G Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Honorable Emanuel "Chris" Welch
Speaker of the House
300 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Members of the Illinois House Executive
Committee
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Members of the Illinois Senate
Special Committee on the Chicago Elected
Representative School Board
State Capitol Building
401 S. 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Dear Legislative Leaders:

I am writing this letter to express Habilitative Systems, Inc.'s support for the Illinois African Americans for Equitable Redistricting (IAAFER) proposal to create Elected Representative School Board (ERSB) districts based on Chicago's Ward Boundaries and a standing Black Student Achievement Committee of the Chicago Board of Education.

The mapping proposal

- Keeps communities together
- Encourages collaboration among Chicago ERSB members and City Council members
- Provides opportunity for efficient allocation and collaboration of public resources from the City of Chicago and the potential to focus them on children and their families
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While IAAFER's proposal includes an equitable map, it also seeks to create a standing committee of the Board of Education charged with developing evidence-based strategies and processes to close the achievement gap for CPS' Black students. The proposed committee would provide Board level accountability, with alignment at the CPS administrative and school levels.

We recognize that the Chicago Board of Education is planning to launch a committee focused on the needs of Black CPS students and their families under the Johnson Administration. However, to ensure that this work is prioritized in years to come, it is imperative that the committee is codified into state law.

Web Site: www.habilitative.org

773/261-2252 Phone • 773/854-1843 TDD • 773/854-8300 Fax



415 S. Kilpatrick Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60644

2023

ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF LIFE SINCE 1978

August 29, 2023
Page 2

Habilitative Systems, Inc. (HSI) is a nationally recognized human services agency that uses a continuum of care approach to provide much-needed programs to underserved populations and people living with an array of health and human service needs. Headquartered on the west-side of Chicago, **HSI** has offered supportive programs to Chicago's most disadvantaged and vulnerable residents since 1978 and provides services to over 7,000 people annually in the North Lawndale, West Garfield, Austin, Humboldt Park and Englewood communities in Chicago.

HSI has been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities since 1991, licensed by the Illinois Department of Human Services; Divisions of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Use Prevention and Recovery, Medicaid Certified and contracts with the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services as well as numerous MCOs.

HSI specializes in assisting individuals with developmental disabilities, mental illness and substance use disorders, youth and families at risk, veterans, seniors, ex-offenders, and those who are unemployed.

In closing, we thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 773-854-1830.

Sincerely,

Donald J. Dew, MSW, ACSW
President/CEO

**cc: Members of the Senate Special Committee On the
Chicago Elected Representative School Board:**

Hon. Mattie Hunter, Senator, 3rd District
Hon. Elgie R. Sims, Jr., Senator, 17th District
Hon. Ram Villivalam, Senator, 8th District
Hon. Celina Villanueva, Senator, 12th District
Hon. Dan McConchie, Senator, 26th District
Hon. Seth Lewis, Senator, 24th District



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Chicago, Illinois 60644

2 0 2 3

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August 29, 2023
Page 3

Members of the House Executive Committee:

Hon. Robert "Bob" Rita, 28th District
Hon. Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez, 2nd District
Hon. Ryan Spain, 73rd District
Hon. Kam Buckner, 26th District
Hon. John M. Cabello, 90th District
Hon. Christopher "C.D" Davidsmeyer, 100th District
Hon. Marcus C. Evans, Jr., 33rd District
Hon. Norine K. Hammond, 94th District
Hon. Theresa Mah, 24th District
Hon. Natalie A. Manley, 98th District
Hon. Aaron M. Ortiz, 1st District
Hon. Nicholas K. Smith, 34th District



August 31, 2023

Honorable Don Harmon
Senate President
309-G Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Honorable Emanuel “Chris” Welch
Speaker of the House
300 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Members of the Illinois House Executive Committee
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Members of the Illinois Senate
Special Committee on the Chicago Elected
Representative School Board
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Dear Legislative Leaders:

I am writing this letter to express the Christian Association of Businesses’ support for of the Illinois African Americans for Equitable Redistricting (IAAFER) proposal to create Elected Representative School Board (ERSB) districts based on Chicago’s Ward Boundaries and a standing Black Student Achievement Committee of the Chicago Board of Education.

The mapping proposal

- Keeps communities together
- Encourages collaboration among Chicago ERSB members and City Council members
- Provides opportunity for efficient allocation and collaboration of public resources from the City of Chicago and the potential to focus them on children and their families
- Provides equal opportunity for all Chicago voters to elect candidates of their own choosing, regardless of race, where they live, or political ideology/affiliation
- Is based on a map that passes legal muster with respect to state and federal redistricting laws related to compactness, contiguity, population and voting rights

While IAAFER’s proposal includes an equitable map, it also seeks to create a standing committee of the Board of Education charged with developing evidence-based strategies and processes to close the achievement gap for CPS’ Black students. The proposed committee would provide Board level accountability, with alignment at the CPS administrative and school levels.

We recognize that the Chicago Board of Education is planning to launch a committee focused on the needs of Black CPS students and their families under the Johnson Administration. However, to ensure that this work is prioritized in years to come, it is imperative that the committee is codified into state law.

CAB was to create a network of businesses, organizations and agencies committed to supplying quality goods and services in our communities. Through these collaborations we will bring sound economic development and growth by establishing businesses, develop training and create much needed jobs. Our

goal is to help educate, advise and bring resources to these businesses so that we can reach our full potential and become self-sustainable.

We plan to continue to foster relationships with those who are committed to helping us train those in our community for job readiness and entrepreneurial excellence to reassure that we pass on these principles to future generations. That's why this proposal is important to us.

In closing, we thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Eric Knowles Sr.

*President of the **Christian Association of Businesses C.A.B.***

The Marketplace, GQ Gentlemen & One Stop Print Shop

*7143 - 7151 S. State St * Chicago, IL 60619*

*708.845.2889 * eknowles100@gmail.com*

**cc: Members of the Senate Special Committee On the
Chicago Elected Representative School Board:**

Hon. Mattie Hunter, Senator, 3rd District
Hon. Elgie R. Sims, Jr., Senator, 17th District
Hon. Ram Villivalam, Senator, 8th District
Hon. Celina Villanueva, Senator, 12th District
Hon. Dan McConchie, Senator, 26th District
Hon. Seth Lewis, Senator, 24th District

Members of the House Executive Committee:

Hon. Robert "Bob" Rita, 28th District
Hon. Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez, 2nd District
Hon. Ryan Spain, 73rd District
Hon. Kam Buckner, 26th District
Hon. John M. Cabello, 90th District
Hon. Christopher "C.D" Davidsmeyer, 100th District
Hon. Marcus C. Evans, Jr., 33rd District
Hon. Norine K. Hammond, 94th District
Hon. Theresa Mah, 24th District
Hon. Natalie A. Manley, 98th District
Hon. Aaron M. Ortiz, 1st District
Hon. Nicholas K. Smith, 34th District

7149 So. State Street * Chicago, IL 60619 773-966-4383

August 11, 2023

Honorable Don Harmon
Senate President
309-G Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Honorable Emanuel “Chris” Welch
Speaker of the House
300 State House

Members of the Illinois House Executive Committee
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Members of the Illinois Senate
Special Committee on the Chicago Elected
Representative School Board
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Dear Legislative Leaders:

I am writing this letter to express Community Renewal Society’s support for of the Illinois African Americans for Equitable Redistricting (IAAFER) proposal to create Elected Representative School Board (ERSB) districts based on Chicago’s Ward Boundaries and a standing African American Academic Affairs committee of the Chicago Board of Education.

The mapping proposal

- Keeps communities together
- Encourages collaboration among Chicago ERSB members and City Council members
- Provides opportunity for efficient allocation and collaboration of public resources from the City of Chicago and the potential to focus them on children and their families
- Provides equal opportunity for all Chicago voters to elect candidates of their own choosing, regardless of race, where they live, or political ideology/affiliation
- Is based on a map that passes legal muster with respect to state and federal redistricting laws related to compactness, contiguity, population and voting rights

While IAAFER’s proposal includes an equitable map, it also seeks to create a standing committee of the Board of Education charged with developing evidence-based strategies and processes to close the achievement gap for CPS’ Black students. The proposed committee would provide Board level accountability, with alignment at the CPS administrative and school levels.

We recognize that the Chicago Board of Education is planning to launch a committee focused on the needs of Black CPS students and their families under the Johnson Administration. However, to ensure that this work is prioritized in years to come, it is imperative that the committee is codified into state law.

Community Renewal Society informs and brings people of faith and congregations together, in partnership with communities, coalitions, interfaith organizations and civic leaders, to intentionally and decisively transform society toward greater social justice at the intersection of racism and poverty. We collaborate across racial, ethnic, geographic and socioeconomic lines to advocate for just public policies that foster hope and create opportunity on the city, state and federal levels for all Illinois residents.

We provide organizing and advocacy training, mentoring and guidance, political context and opportunities to take action for our network of member congregations throughout the Chicago metropolitan area. Some of the accomplishments of this network include ending money bond in Illinois and building police accountability within Chicago through the establishment of the Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability and by monitoring the enforcement of the 2019 consent decree. We support the mapping proposal as it aligns with our work to become a region free of race and class barriers and where all God’s children flourish and live in dignity.

KNOWLEDGE > ACTION > CHANGE

In closing, we thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at wmiddleton@communityrenewalsociety.org.

Sincerely,



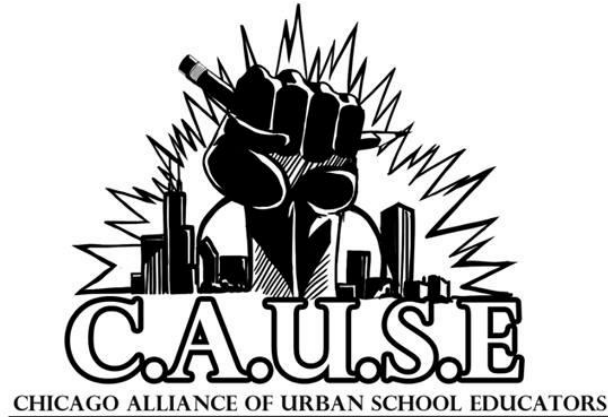
Rev. Dr. Waltrina N. Middleton
Executive Director, Community Renewal Society

**cc: Members of the Senate Special Committee On the
Chicago Elected Representative School Board:**

Hon. Mattie Hunter, Senator, 3rd District
Hon. Elgie R. Sims, Jr., Senator, 17th District
Hon. Ram Villivalam, Senator, 8th District
Hon. Celina Villanueva, Senator, 12th District
Hon. Dan McConchie, Senator, 26th District
Hon. Seth Lewis, Senator, 24th District

Members of the House Executive Committee:

Hon. Robert "Bob" Rita, 28th District
Hon. Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez, 2nd District
Hon. Ryan Spain, 73rd District
Hon. Kam Buckner, 26th District
Hon. John M. Cabello, 90th District
Hon. Christopher "C.D" Davidsmeyer, 100th District
Hon. Marcus C. Evans, Jr., 33rd District
Hon. Norine K. Hammond, 94th District
Hon. Theresa Mah, 24th District
Hon. Natalie A. Manley, 98th District
Hon. Aaron M. Ortiz, 1st District
Hon. Nicholas K. Smith, 34th District



August 31, 2023

Honorable Don Harmon
Senate President
309-G Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Members of the Illinois House Executive Committee
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Honorable Emanuel “Chris” Welch
Speaker of the House
300 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Members of the Illinois Senate
Special Committee on the Chicago Elected
Representative School Board
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Dear Legislative Leaders:

I am writing this letter to express A Few Good Women’s support for of the Illinois African Americans for Equitable Redistricting (IAAFER) proposal to create Elected Representative School Board (ERSB) districts based on Chicago’s Ward Boundaries and a standing African American Academic Affairs committee of the Chicago Board of Education.

The mapping proposal

- Keeps communities together
- Encourages collaboration among Chicago ERSB members and City Council members
- Provides opportunity for efficient allocation and collaboration of public resources from the City of Chicago and the potential to focus them on children and their families
- Provides equal opportunity for all Chicago voters to elect candidates of their own choosing, regardless of race, where they live, or political ideology/affiliation
- Is based on a map that passes legal muster with respect to state and federal redistricting laws related to compactness, contiguity, population and voting rights

While IAAFER’s proposal includes an equitable map, it also seeks to create a standing committee of the Board of Education charged with developing evidence-based strategies and processes to close the

achievement gap for CPS' Black students. The proposed committee would provide Board level accountability, with alignment at the CPS administrative and school levels.

We recognize that the Chicago Board of Education is planning to launch a committee focused on the needs of Black CPS students and their families under the Johnson Administration. However, to ensure that this work is prioritized in years to come, it is imperative that the committee is codified into state law.

CAUSE Teachers is a community teacher advocacy group working to close the opportunity gap for Black Students and Teachers in Illinois. We work to engage and educate teachers and the community around workers' rights and support for Black student advancement.

In closing, we thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (773)844-1374.

Sincerely,

Rosita Chantonda

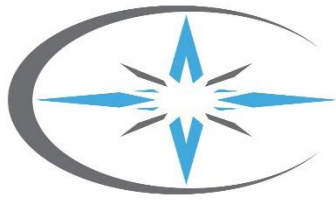
Founder and President CAUSE and Teach for the Future

cc: Members of the Senate Special Committee On the Chicago Elected Representative School Board:

Hon. Mattie Hunter, Senator, 3rd District
Hon. Elgie R. Sims, Jr., Senator, 17th District
Hon. Ram Villivalam, Senator, 8th District
Hon. Celina Villanueva, Senator, 12th District
Hon. Dan McConchie, Senator, 26th District
Hon. Seth Lewis, Senator, 24th District

Members of the House Executive Committee:

Hon. Robert "Bob" Rita, 28th District
Hon. Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez, 2nd District
Hon. Ryan Spain, 73rd District
Hon. Kam Buckner, 26th District
Hon. John M. Cabello, 90th District
Hon. Christopher "C.D" Davidsmeyer, 100th District
Hon. Marcus C. Evans, Jr., 33rd District
Hon. Norine K. Hammond, 94th District
Hon. Theresa Mah, 24th District
Hon. Natalie A. Manley, 98th District
Hon. Aaron M. Ortiz, 1st District
Hon. Nicholas K. Smith, 34th District



BRIGHT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

August 29, 2023

Honorable Don Harmon
Senate President
309-G Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Honorable Emanuel “Chris” Welch
Speaker of the House
300 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Members of the Illinois House Executive Committee
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Members of the Illinois Senate
Special Committee on the Chicago Elected
Representative School Board
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Dear Legislative Leaders:

I am writing this letter to express **Bright Leadership Institute, Inc’s** support for of the Illinois African Americans for Equitable Redistricting (IAAFER) proposal to create Elected Representative School Board (ERSB) districts based on Chicago’s Ward Boundaries and a standing Black Student Achievement Committee of the Chicago Board of Education.

The mapping proposal

- Keeps communities together
- Encourages collaboration among Chicago ERSB members and City Council members
- Provides opportunity for efficient allocation and collaboration of public resources from the City of Chicago and the potential to focus them on children and their families
- Provides equal opportunity for all Chicago voters to elect candidates of their own choosing, regardless of race, where they live, or political ideology/affiliation
- Is based on a map that passes legal muster with respect to state and federal redistricting laws related to compactness, contiguity, population and voting rights

While IAAFER’s proposal includes an equitable map, it also seeks to create a standing committee of the Board of Education charged with developing evidence-based strategies and processes to close the achievement gap for CPS’ Black students. The proposed committee would provide Board level accountability, with alignment at the CPS administrative and school levels.

We recognize that the Chicago Board of Education is planning to launch a committee focused on the needs of Black CPS students and their families under the Johnson Administration. However, to ensure that this work is prioritized in years to come, it is imperative that the committee is codified into state law.

Insert a paragraph about your organization, its mission, what it does, what community it serves; how many people it serves per year; organizational accomplishments; why you support the proposal and/or how it aligns with the work that you do.

In closing, we thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at phone number 773.350.5700 and email churchyone@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Vera Davis

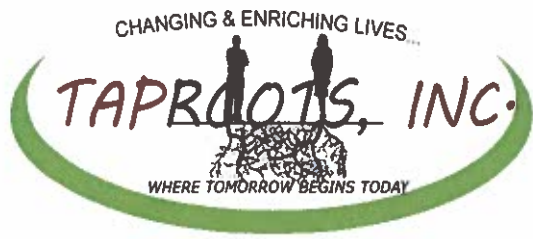
Vera G. Davis
President

**cc: Members of the Senate Special Committee On the
Chicago Elected Representative School Board:**

Hon. Mattie Hunter, Senator, 3rd District
Hon. Elgie R. Sims, Jr., Senator, 17th District
Hon. Ram Villivalam, Senator, 8th District
Hon. Celina Villanueva, Senator, 12th District
Hon. Dan McConchie, Senator, 26th District
Hon. Seth Lewis, Senator, 24th District

Members of the House Executive Committee:

Hon. Robert "Bob" Rita, 28th District
Hon. Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez, 2nd District
Hon. Ryan Spain, 73rd District
Hon. Kam Buckner, 26th District
Hon. John M. Cabello, 90th District
Hon. Christopher "C.D" Davidsmeyer, 100th District
Hon. Marcus C. Evans, Jr., 33rd District
Hon. Norine K. Hammond, 94th District
Hon. Theresa Mah, 24th District
Hon. Natalie A. Manley, 98th District
Hon. Aaron M. Ortiz, 1st District
Hon. Nicholas K. Smith, 34th District



2718 W. Adams, 2nd Floor (EAST GARFIELD PARK)
Chicago, IL 60612
5840 W. Madison, Unit 1C (AUSTIN)
Chicago, IL 60644
P: 773.722.1677
taprootsinc@sbcglobal.net
www.taprootsinc.org

August 25, 2023

Honorable Don Harmon
Senate President
309-G Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Members of the Illinois House Executive Committee
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Honorable Emanuel "Chris" Welch
Speaker of the House
300 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Members of the Illinois Senate
Special Committee on the Chicago Elected
Representative School Board
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Dear Legislative Leaders:

I am writing this letter to express **Taproots'** support for of the Illinois African Americans for Equitable Redistricting (IAAFER) proposal to create Elected Representative School Board (ERSB) districts based on Chicago's Ward Boundaries and a standing African American Academic Affairs committee of the Chicago Board of Education.

The mapping proposal

- Keeps communities together
- Encourages collaboration among Chicago ERSB members and City Council members
- Provides opportunity for efficient allocation and collaboration of public resources from the City of Chicago and the potential to focus them on children and their families
- Provides equal opportunity for all Chicago voters to elect candidates of their own choosing, regardless of race, where they live, or political ideology/affiliation
- Is based on a map that passes legal muster with respect to state and federal redistricting laws related to compactness, contiguity, population and voting rights

While IAAFER's proposal includes an equitable map, it also seeks to create a standing committee of the Board of Education charged with developing evidence-based strategies and processes to close the achievement gap for CPS' Black students. The proposed committee would provide Board level accountability, with alignment at the CPS administrative and school levels.

We recognize that the Chicago Board of Education is planning to launch a committee focused on the needs of Black CPS students and their families under the Johnson Administration. However, to ensure that this work is prioritized in years to come, it is imperative that the committee is codified into state law.

Taproots, Inc. is an effective grassroots, non-profit community-based organization. Our organization was originally founded in 1978 and has provided services primarily to Chicago's west side communities of East/West Garfield Park, Austin, North Lawndale, West Humboldt Park, and Near West Side for nearly 44 years. We have often extended our boundaries to include some of Chicago's south and north side community areas as well. Since Taproots' beginning, thousands have been reach and served.

TAPROOTS, INC.

Teens, Adolescents and Parents Realizing Ongoing Orientation Towards Success

Taproots' mission is to provide social and educational outreach prevention, life skills, parenting and cultural arts programs to promote positive life and health choices among at risk youth, adults and families. Taproots strives to improve the quality of life by empowering youth, adults and families with knowledge and skills that promote responsible decision making, healthy life style choices, positive family systems, non-violent conflict resolution and problem solving strategies to counter cycles of abuse, violence, poverty, disease and victimization. Each year, 800-1,000 are reached and benefit from Taproots' services provided through our Education for Life Prevention & Life Skills Programs, Imani Nia Cultural Arts Programs and our Family Life Outreach Parenting Programs.

A significant amount of work we do is in partnership with, and support of Chicago Public Schools' students, parents and staff. Therefore, we applaud and support the efforts of the Illinois African Americans for Equitable Redistricting (IAAFER) proposal.

In closing, we thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 312-282-8100. You may also email me at taprootsinc@sbcglobal.net.

Sincerely,



Ruby Taylor
Executive Director
Taproots, Inc.

**cc: Members of the Senate Special Committee On the
Chicago Elected Representative School Board:**

Hon. Mattie Hunter, Senator, 3rd District
Hon. Elgie R. Sims, Jr., Senator, 17th District
Hon. Ram Villivalam, Senator, 8th District
Hon. Celina Villanueva, Senator, 12th District
Hon. Dan McConchie, Senator, 26th District
Hon. Seth Lewis, Senator, 24th District

Members of the House Executive Committee:

Hon. Robert "Bob" Rita, 28th District
Hon. Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez, 2nd District
Hon. Ryan Spain, 73rd District
Hon. Kam Buckner, 26th District
Hon. John M. Cabello, 90th District
Hon. Christopher "C.D" Davidsmeyer, 100th District
Hon. Marcus C. Evans, Jr., 33rd District
Hon. Norine K. Hammond, 94th District
Hon. Theresa Mah, 24th District
Hon. Natalie A. Manley, 98th District
Hon. Aaron M. Ortiz, 1st District
Hon. Nicholas K. Smith, 34th District



*Honorable Don Harmon
Senate President
309-G Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706*

*Honorable Emanuel "Chris" Welch
Speaker of the House
300 State House
Springfield, IL 62706*

*Members of the Illinois Senate Special
Committee on the Chicago Elected
Representative School Board
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727*

*Members of the Illinois House Executive
Committee
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727*

August 22, 2023

Dear Legislative Leaders:

Educators for Excellence stands in support of the Illinois African Americans for Equitable Redistricting (IAAFER) proposals to (1) create Elected Representative School Board (ERSB) districts based on Chicago's Ward Boundaries and (2) establish a standing African American Academic Affairs committee of the Chicago Board of Education.

The mapping proposal:

- Keeps communities together
- Encourages collaboration among Chicago ERSB members and City Council members
- Provides opportunity for efficient allocation and collaboration of public resources from the City of Chicago and the potential to focus them on children and their families
- Provides equal opportunity for all Chicago voters to elect candidates of their own choosing, regardless of race, where they live, or political ideology/affiliation
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We recognize that the Chicago Board of Education is planning to launch a committee focused on the needs of Black CPS students and their families under the Johnson Administration. However, to ensure that this work is prioritized in years to come, it is imperative that the committee is codified into state law.

Signed,

The E4E-Chicago Elected School Board Teacher Action Team Members representing our 8,000 teacher members:

Mark Franklin
Teacher, CPS
Constituent, IL Sen District 17; IL House District 33

Mea Robinson-Davis
Teacher, CPS
Constituent, IL Sen District 5; IL House District 10

Corinne Lydon
Teacher, CPS
Constituent, IL Sen District 5, IL House District 10

Anna Phillips
Dean of Instruction, CPS
Constituent, IL Sen District 7, IL House District 14

Nancy Rayo
Teacher, CPS
Constituent, IL Sen District 10, IL House District 19

Brent Hamlet
Elementary Program Manager, Horizons for Youth
Constituent, IL Sen District 3, IL House District 5





Hey Benji Foundation
6508 S. Ashland Ave. Chicago, IL 60636
312-487-2953/www.HeyBenji.org

August 11, 2023

Honorable Don Harmon
Senate President
309-G Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Members of the Illinois House Executive Committee
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Honorable Emanuel "Chris" Welch
Speaker of the House
300 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Members of the Illinois Senate
Special Committee on the Chicago Elected
Representative School Board
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Dear Legislative Leaders:

I am writing this letter to express **Hey Benji Foundation** support for of the Illinois African Americans for Equitable Redistricting (IAAFER) proposal to create Elected Representative School Board (ERSB) districts based on Chicago's Ward Boundaries and a standing African American Academic Affairs committee of the Chicago Board of Education.

The mapping proposal

- Keeps communities together
- Encourages collaboration among Chicago ERSB members and City Council members
- Provides opportunity for efficient allocation and collaboration of public resources from the City of Chicago and the potential to focus them on children and their families
- Provides equal opportunity for all Chicago voters to elect candidates of their own choosing, regardless of race, where they live, or political ideology/affiliation
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While IAAFER's proposal includes an equitable map, it also seeks to create a standing committee of the Board of Education charged with developing evidence-based strategies and processes to close the achievement gap for CPS' Black students. The proposed committee would provide Board level accountability, with alignment at the CPS administrative and school levels.

We recognize that the Chicago Board of Education is planning to launch a committee focused on the needs of Black CPS students and their families under the Johnson Administration. However, to ensure that this work is prioritized in years to come, it is imperative that the committee is codified into state law.





Hey Benji Foundation
6508 S. Ashland Ave. Chicago, IL 60636
312-487-2953/www.HeyBenji.org

Hey Benji Foundation, is a Chicago based 501c3 nonprofit organization that serves children and families in underserved neighborhoods through summer programming. Serving over 125 children and families each year, the IAAFER proposal helps us to continue to grow partnerships and relationships with City Council members and collaboration with public resources for the families we serve. This allows us to grow as an organization so we can be able to expand our reach with helping those in need.

In closing, we thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at BarbaraGraham@heybenji.org.

Sincerely,



Barbara Graham
Founder / President

**cc: Members of the Senate Special Committee On the
Chicago Elected Representative School Board:**

Hon. Mattie Hunter, Senator, 3rd District
Hon. Elgie R. Sims, Jr., Senator, 17th District
Hon. Ram Villivalam, Senator, 8th District
Hon. Celina Villanueva, Senator, 12th District
Hon. Dan McConchie, Senator, 26th District
Hon. Seth Lewis, Senator, 24th District

Members of the House Executive Committee:

Hon. Robert "Bob" Rita, 28th District
Hon. Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez, 2nd District
Hon. Ryan Spain, 73rd District
Hon. Kam Buckner, 26th District
Hon. John M. Cabello, 90th District
Hon. Christopher "C.D" Davidsmeyer, 100th District
Hon. Marcus C. Evans, Jr., 33rd District
Hon. Norine K. Hammond, 94th District
Hon. Theresa Mah, 24th District
Hon. Natalie A. Manley, 98th District
Hon. Aaron M. Ortiz, 1st District
Hon. Nicholas K. Smith, 34th District





August 28, 2023

Honorable Don Harmon
Senate President
309-G Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Members of the Illinois House Executive Committee
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Honorable Emanuel “Chris” Welch
Speaker of the House
300 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Members of the Illinois Senate
Special Committee on the Chicago Elected
Representative School Board
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Dear Legislative Leaders:

I am writing this letter to express **Chicago-Lawndale AMACHI Mentoring Program** support for the Illinois African Americans for Equitable Redistricting (IAAFER) proposal to create Elected Representative School Board (ERSB) districts based on Chicago’s Ward Boundaries and a standing Black Student Achievement Committee of the Chicago Board of Education.

The mapping proposal

- Keeps communities together
- Encourages collaboration among Chicago ERSB members and City Council members
- Provides opportunity for efficient allocation and collaboration of public resources from the City of Chicago and the potential to focus them on children and their families
- Provides equal opportunity for all Chicago voters to elect candidates of their own choosing, regardless of race, where they live, or political ideology/affiliation
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We recognize that the Chicago Board of Education is planning to launch a committee focused on the needs of Black CPS students and their families under the Johnson Administration. However, to ensure that this work is prioritized in years to come, it is imperative that the committee is codified into state law.

In closing, we thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at baglamp16@gmail.com. or by phone at 708-288-7070.

Sincerely,



Dr. Betty Allen-Green, Executive Director
Chicago- Lawndale AMACHI Mentoring Program

**cc: Members of the Senate Special Committee On the
Chicago Elected Representative School Board:**

Hon. Mattie Hunter, Senator, 3rd District
Hon. Elgie R. Sims, Jr., Senator, 17th District
Hon. Ram Villivalam, Senator, 8th District
Hon. Celina Villanueva, Senator, 12th District
Hon. Dan McConchie, Senator, 26th District
Hon. Seth Lewis, Senator, 24th District

Members of the House Executive Committee:

Hon. Robert "Bob" Rita, 28th District
Hon. Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez, 2nd District
Hon. Ryan Spain, 73rd District
Hon. Kam Buckner, 26th District
Hon. John M. Cabello, 90th District
Hon. Christopher "C.D" Davidsmeyer, 100th District
Hon. Marcus C. Evans, Jr., 33rd District
Hon. Norine K. Hammond, 94th District
Hon. Theresa Mah, 24th District
Hon. Natalie A. Manley, 98th District
Hon. Aaron M. Ortiz, 1st District
Hon. Nicholas K. Smith, 34th District



August 29, 2023

Honorable Don Harmon
Senate President
309-G Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Honorable Emanuel “Chris” Welch
Speaker of the House
300 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Members of the Illinois House Executive Committee
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Members of the Illinois Senate
Special Committee on the Chicago Elected
Representative School Board
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Dear Legislative Leaders:

I am writing this letter to express Chicago West Side Chamber of Commerce’s support for of the Illinois African Americans for Equitable Redistricting (IAAFER) proposal to create Elected Representative School Board (ERSB) districts based on Chicago’s Ward Boundaries and a standing Black Student Achievement Committee of the Chicago Board of Education.

The mapping proposal

- Keeps communities together
- Encourages collaboration among Chicago ERSB members and City Council members
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We recognize that the Chicago Board of Education is planning to launch a committee focused on the needs of Black CPS students and their families under the Johnson Administration. However, to ensure that this work is prioritized in years to come, it is imperative that the committee is codified into state law.

Chicago West Side Chamber’s mission is to connect the nine west side communities, including Austin, North & South Lawndale, East & West Garfield Park, and Humboldt Park, by offering resources that will help decrease the wealth gap among the Black and Latino communities while building a safer and peaceful neighborhood. We have partnered with the Illinois State Black Chamber of Commerce to offer contract opportunities to Black small businesses with state and local entities, we have also provided small businesses networking opportunities, as well as capacity building programs. The Chicago West Side



Chamber support the proposal as it aligns with the work that we do, building businesses, empowering youth and their families, and the communities to become self-reliant.

In closing, we thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (773) 931-2145.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tina Augustus".

Tina Augustus
Co-Founder & President

**cc: Members of the Senate Special Committee On the
Chicago Elected Representative School Board:**

Hon. Mattie Hunter, Senator, 3rd District
Hon. Elgie R. Sims, Jr., Senator, 17th District
Hon. Ram Villivalam, Senator, 8th District
Hon. Celina Villanueva, Senator, 12th District
Hon. Dan McConchie, Senator, 26th District
Hon. Seth Lewis, Senator, 24th District

Members of the House Executive Committee:

Hon. Robert "Bob" Rita, 28th District
Hon. Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez, 2nd District
Hon. Ryan Spain, 73rd District
Hon. Kam Buckner, 26th District
Hon. John M. Cabello, 90th District
Hon. Christopher "C.D" Davidsmeyer, 100th District
Hon. Marcus C. Evans, Jr., 33rd District
Hon. Norine K. Hammond, 94th District
Hon. Theresa Mah, 24th District
Hon. Natalie A. Manley, 98th District
Hon. Aaron M. Ortiz, 1st District
Hon. Nicholas K. Smith, 34th District



A LBRA Project
Chicago, Illinois 60619

Dear

Honorable Don Harmon
Senate President
309-G Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Honorable Emanuel “Chris” Welch
Speaker of the House
300 State House

Members of the Illinois Senate
Special Committee on the Chicago Elected
Representative School Board
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Members of the Illinois House Executive Committee
State Capitol Building
401 S 2nd St.
Springfield, IL 62701-1727

Dear Legislative Leaders:

I am writing this letter to express **Operation Neighborhood Safety’s TALKING TRASH’S** support for of the Illinois African Americans for Equitable Redistricting (IAAFER) proposal to create Elected Representative School Board (ERSB) districts based on Chicago’s Ward Boundaries and a standing African American Academic Affairs committee of the Chicago Board of Education.

The mapping proposal

- Keeps communities together
- Encourages collaboration among Chicago ERSB members and City Council members
- Provides opportunity for efficient allocation and collaboration of public resources from the City of Chicago and the potential to focus them on children and their families
- Provides equal opportunity for all Chicago voters to elect candidates of their own choosing, regardless of race, where they live, or political ideology/affiliation
- Is based on a map that passes legal muster with respect to state and federal redistricting laws related to compactness, contiguity, population and voting rights

While IAAFER’s proposal includes an equitable map, it also seeks to create a standing committee of the Board of Education charged with developing evidence-based strategies and processes to close the achievement gap for CPS’ Black students. The proposed committee would provide Board level accountability, with alignment at the CPS administrative and school levels.

We recognize that the Chicago Board of Education is planning to launch a committee focused on the needs of Black CPS students and their families under the Johnson Administration. However, to ensure that this work is prioritized in years to come, it is imperative that the committee is codified into state law.

Insert a paragraph about your organization, its mission, what it does, what community it serves; how many people it serves per year; organizational accomplishments; why you support the proposal and/or how it aligns with the work that you do.

In closing, we thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at **708 446 2065**.

With Community Affinity and Peace

J. A. Norfleet

junenorfleet@yahoo.com

708.446.2065

Living Beautifully in Real America-LIBRA

TALKING TRASH -Anti Litter Campaign

Chicago, IL 60619

708 446 2065

cc: Members of the Senate Special Committee On the Chicago Elected Representative School Board:

Hon. Mattie Hunter, Senator, 3rd District
Hon. Elgie R. Sims, Jr., Senator, 17th District
Hon. Ram Villivalam, Senator, 8th District
Hon. Celina Villanueva, Senator, 12th District
Hon. Dan McConchie, Senator, 26th District
Hon. Seth Lewis, Senator, 24th District

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Hon. Theresa Mah, 24th District
Hon. Natalie A. Manley, 98th District
Hon. Aaron M. Ortiz, 1st District
Hon. Nicholas K. Smith, 34th District

August 30, 2023



Subject: Letter of Support for Elected School Board Map and Black Student Achievement Committee

Dear Natasha,

I am writing on behalf of the Root2Fruit Youth Foundation to express our wholehearted support for the Elected School Board Map and the Black Student Achievement Committee. As an organization deeply committed to promoting equitable educational opportunities and advocating for the academic success of underserved students in Chicago Public Schools, we are delighted to endorse these critical initiatives.

Our perspective is deeply informed by our personal experiences as graduates of underserved CPS schools on the Westside of Chicago. We understand firsthand the challenges faced by Black students in these communities, and we recognize the urgent need for policies and programs that address these disparities. The Elected School Board Map, with its focus on equitable representation and resource allocation, aligns perfectly with our mission to provide every student with a fair chance to succeed.

Furthermore, the establishment of the Black Student Achievement Committee is a monumental step towards ensuring that the academic progress of Black students is not only supported but actively measured and advocated for. This committee has the potential to create an environment where every student's potential is nurtured, and where their achievements are celebrated.

We believe that our support for these initiatives is not just an endorsement of policy changes, but also a reflection of our gratitude for the opportunities that could have immensely benefited us as former students. By endorsing the Elected School Board Map and the Black Student Achievement

Committee, we hope to contribute to the positive transformation of the educational landscape in Chicago, giving current and future students the chance to thrive.

In support of these initiatives, we proudly sign our names:

Aisha Oliver

Founder/Strategy Lead

Darian German

Class of 2020

Davonte Dudley

Class of 2020

Devin Williams

Class of 2020

Demarius Gillespie

Class of 2020

Jacquez Beasley

Class of 2020

Thank you for your commitment to enhancing the educational experiences of Black students in Chicago Public Schools. We are confident that your efforts will have a lasting and meaningful impact on the lives of countless students.

Sincerely,

Aisha Oliver

Founder/Strategy Lead

Root2Fruit Youth Foundation

IAAFER Supporters

1. Tina Augustus, Member, Illinois African Americans for Equitable Redistricting
2. Clifton Ballard, Founder, Dreamchasers United, NFP
3. Matt Brandon, President, Operation Neighborhood Safety
4. Karl Brinson, President, Chicago Westside NAACP
5. Apriel Campbell, Founder, The Ivy Group
6. Michael Cannon, Founder, C.A.N.D.O.R. Enterprises, NFP
7. Rosita Chatonda, Founder, CAUSE
8. Bernard Clay, Executive Director, Introspect Youth Services
9. Willie Cole, Member, Illinois African Americans for Equitable Redistricting
10. Cecile DeMello, Executive Director, Teamwork Englewood
11. Michelle Dinneen-White, Founder, Play Smart Literacy
12. Audrey Dunford, Founder, Be Aud
13. Natasha Dunn, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Black Community Collaborative
14. Christyn S. Freeman
15. Mary Russell Gardner, President, Urban Technicians, LLC, Resident, Austin Community
16. Rev. Walter C. Harris, Pastor, Carey Tercentenary AME Church
17. Nicole Jeanine Johnson, The Lotus Lair
18. Joyce Lane, Resident, Bronzeville
19. Valerie F. Leonard, Co-Founder, Illinois African Americans for Equitable Redistricting
20. Essie Leonard, Retired Educator, Chicago Public Schools
21. Brian Mullins, Founder, Brian Mullins, Citizens for Civic Education, Co-Founder, Black Community Collaborative
22. Nonprofit Utopia, LLC
23. Crystal Overton, The Overton Group Consultants
24. Dr. Carmen Palmer, PhD, Founder, Educational Village Keepers (EDVK)
25. Tanesha Peeples, Executive Director, The Roots Initiative, Co-Founder, Black Community Collaborative
26. Mattie J. Phillips, BA, MACM, DD, Senior Pastor, Jesus Word Center Church
27. Nachele Pugh, Co-Founder, John Walt Foundation
28. Tumia Romero, Resident, Austin Community
29. Queen V. ShaRize, Executive Director, BLACK - Building Leadership And Community Knowledge
30. Gloria Smith, Executive Director, the Black Star Project
31. Ruby Taylor, Executive Director, Taproots
32. Cata Truss, Resident, Austin Community
33. Dwayne Truss, Resident, Austin Community
34. Karen Cecile Wallace, Kenwood Oakland Community
35. Tawana Watts, Founder, BeBe's Ark
36. Kenneth Wesbrooks Founder and Chairman A Work of Faith Ministries, Inc.
37. Audrey L. Woodley, Founder, Changing Oasis, Inc.
38. Wanda Wright, President South West Area Civic League

Letters of Support

1. Black Star Project
2. Bright Leadership Institute
3. Carey Tercentenary AME Church
4. Chicago Alliance of Urban School Educators (CAUSE)
5. Chicago LAMP
6. Chicago Westside Branch NAACP
7. Chicago Westside Chamber of Commerce
8. Christian Association of Business (CAB)
9. Coalition of African American Leaders (COAL)
10. Community Renewal Society (CRS)
11. Educators For Excellence (E4E)
12. Habilitative Systems, Inc. (HSI)
13. Hey Benji Foundation
14. Illinois State Conference NAACP
15. Lawndale AMACHI Mentoring Program (Chicago LAMP)
16. Light Up Lawndale
17. The Monroe Foundation
18. Alderman David Moore
19. National Black Agenda Consortium – Chicago (NBAC)
20. NEBC Employment Resources Services (NEBC-ERS)
21. Nonprofit Utopia, LLC
22. North Lawndale Employment Network (NLEN)
23. Operation Neighborhood Safety (ONS)
24. The Overton Group Consultants
25. Pier C. Rogers, PhD
26. Root 2 Fruit
27. Sankofa Safe Child Initiative
28. South Austin Neighborhood Association (SANA)
29. South Merrill Community Garden/ Genesis Cooperative
30. Alderman Christopher Taliaferro
31. Taproots, Inc.