

EXHIBIT D

STATE OF CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

AUGUST 19, 2025

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1 CHAIR PELLERIN: Good morning. I'd like
2 to call the August 19th, 2025 hearing of the
3 Assembly Election Committee to order.

4 Before we proceed, let's call the roll
5 and establish the quorum. Madam Secretary.

6 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Pellerin?

7 CHAIR PELLERIN: Here.

8 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Pellerin here.
9 Macedo?

10 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Here.

11 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Macedo here.
12 Bennett?

13 Berman?

14 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Here.

15 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Berman here.
16 Solache:

17 ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: Present.

18 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Solache here.
19 Stefani?

20 ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: Here.

21 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Stefani here.
22 Tangipa?

23 CHAIR PELLERIN: He was here.

24 We have a quorum. Wonderful.

25 I'd like to welcome -- oh, there's

1 Tangipa.

2 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Madam Chair, motion
3 to adjourn.

4 UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER: Second that.

5 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: I'm asking for the
6 same amount of time to prepare for this that my
7 Democrat colleagues did.

8 CHAIR PELLERIN: Just give me one second
9 here, please.

10 The motion to adjourn is not debatable
11 and it will take a majority of those present in
12 voting.

13 Madam Secretary, please call the roll.

14 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Pellerin?

15 CHAIR PELLERIN: No.

16 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Pellerin, no.
17 Macedo?

18 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Aye.

19 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Macedo, aye.
20 Bennett?

21 Berman?

22 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: No.

23 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Berman, no.
24 Solache?

25 ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: No.

1 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Solache, no.

2 Stefani?

3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: No.

4 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Stefani, no.

5 Tangipa?

6 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Aye.

7 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Tangipa, aye.

8 CHAIR PELLERIN: The motion fails.

9 Now let me begin. I'd like to welcome
10 everyone who is here in the hearing room today
11 and who's watching the hearing online.

12 For the purpose of this hearing, we are
13 accepting witness testimony in person and we are
14 also accepting written testimony through the
15 Legislature's position letter portal, or through
16 the Committee's redistricting public comment
17 portal.

18 Both of these portals can be accessed
19 through the Committee's website at
20 aelc.assembly.ca.gov.

21 Today's hearing is going to be a little
22 different than the typical Assembly Elections
23 Committee bill hearing, so I want to set the
24 stage for what to expect.

25 The Committee is hearing two measures

1 today, ACA 8 related to congressional
2 redistricting, and SB 280 related to election
3 administration and funding.

4 As with a normal bill hearing, those
5 items will be up for a vote in Committee today.

6 In addition to voting on those two bills,
7 the Committee will also be holding an
8 informational hearing on the subject matter of
9 AB 604 related to proposed congressional
10 districts.

11 I expect that the Committee will begin by
12 discussing and voting on ACA 8.

13 After the Committee has dispensed with
14 ACA 8, in order to make the best use of the time
15 of the Committee and of the members of the public
16 who are here in the hearing room, or who are
17 watching this hearing online, the order in which
18 the Committee hears the other two bills may
19 depend on the availability of the bill authors to
20 come present in the Committee.

21 If the Committee hears AB 604 before
22 SB 280, for procedural reasons, the Committee
23 will be recessing the bill hearing and proceeding
24 to the informational hearing on AB 604. The
25 Committee would then reconvene the bill hearing

1 after completing the informational hearing on
2 AB 604. If that occurs, I will make an
3 appropriate announcement at that time.

4 When we hear the bills on the agenda,
5 including the informational hearing on AB 604, we
6 will hear from a maximum of two primary witnesses
7 in support and two primary witnesses in
8 opposition of the bill, with a limit of three
9 minutes per witness. As a reminder, primary
10 witnesses in support are those designated by the
11 author.

12 To provide additional opportunity for
13 public input, we will allow other witnesses to
14 speak for no more than 30 seconds. In order to
15 present as many people as possible to testify, I
16 will enforce that time limit strictly.

17 My 27 years as Santa Cruz County's chief
18 elections official is what I carry into these
19 conversations about mid-decade redistricting.
20 And let me be clear, what we are building in
21 California is the most transparent process in the
22 nation.

23 For example, we've launched a public
24 redistricting comment portal right on the
25 Committee's website so voters can speak directly

1 to this process. Since Wednesday it's received
2 more than 16,000 submissions.

3 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Madam Chair --

4 CHAIR PELLERIN: We aren't asking
5 Californians to --

6 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: -- I have a motion
7 based on that information.

8 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I'd ask that the
9 Vice Chair wouldn't interrupt the Chair while
10 she's speaking.

11 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: It's relevant to what
12 she's saying.

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: It would be nice
14 if the Vice Chair would let the Chair finish her
15 comments before interrupting (inaudible).

16 CHAIR PELLERIN: May I finish my
17 comments?

18 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Will I be able to
19 make my motion?

20 CHAIR PELLERIN: Yes. May I finish --

21 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Thank you.

22 CHAIR PELLERIN: -- my comments? Thank
23 you.

24 We aren't asking Californians to
25 rubberstamp maps drawn behind closed doors.

1 We're putting the maps front and center and
2 giving voters the final say.

3 This is not about cherry-picking when we
4 follow our independent redistricting process. As
5 a former elections official, I would never stand
6 for that. It would go counter to my core values
7 and my life's work.

8 This is about defending democracy itself,
9 making sure that checks and balances our kids
10 learn in government class are alive and well
11 after the 2026 elections.

12 Let's be honest, Donald Trump lit this
13 fire when he pressured Texas to change the rules
14 mid game. California is answering that attack.
15 Not by breaking democracy, but by protecting it.
16 The bills we are hearing today only take effect
17 if another state rigs the elections maps.

18 California believes in independent
19 redistricting. We want every state to adopt it.
20 And our independent redistricting commission
21 retains its authority to draw a line -- to draw
22 the map in 2020 and beyond.

23 I understand this is a fast process, but
24 we are focusing on transparency and ensuring
25 voters have the final say on whether to enact

1 temporary adjustments to our congressional
2 districts.

3 Our democracy is under attack and we
4 simply do not have the ability to delay actions
5 so our county elections officials can administer
6 a secure, transparent, accurate and accessible
7 election.

8 Because at the end of the day, this isn't
9 about partisanship. It's about principle. It's
10 about trust. And it's about making sure every
11 voter knows their voice still matters in America.

12 We will seek to protect the rights of all
13 who participate in this legislative process so
14 that we can have effective deliberation and
15 decisions on critical issues facing California.

16 In order to facilitate the Committee's
17 business and public participation in today's
18 hearing, we will not permit conduct that
19 disrupts, disturbs or otherwise impedes the
20 orderly conduct of legislative proceedings.
21 Violations of these rules may subject you to
22 removal or other enforcement action.

23 So before we move on to the agenda, I
24 have an additional announcement to make. I have
25 a letter from Speaker Rivas requesting that

1 Assembly Member Berman be permitted to present
2 ACA 8 on his behalf.

3 So with those announcements out of the
4 way, we will now move on to the Committee's
5 agenda.

6 And Madam Vice Chair, you had a comment.

7 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Yes. I am
8 motioning -- as you said, 16,000 comments were
9 submitted. I have not seen those comments. I'm
10 not sure if other members of the Committee have
11 seen those comments. But those would be
12 pertinent to the discussion that's here today.

13 So I either motion that those comments be
14 read into the record for all of us to hear, or
15 that we recess until a time that we can review
16 those comments.

17 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Second.

18 CHAIR PELLERIN: So the comments are a
19 part of the bill file, and I did not hear a
20 motion. Are you making a motion?

21 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: I'm motioning to read
22 those comments into the record here today.

23 Okay, we'll take up that motion. It will
24 be a majority of those present in voting.

25 Madam Secretary, please call the roll.

1 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Pellerin?
2 CHAIR PELLERIN: No.
3 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Pellerin, no.
4 Macedo?
5 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Aye.
6 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Macedo, aye.
7 Bennett?
8 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: No.
9 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Bennett, no.
10 Berman?
11 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: No.
12 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Berman, no.
13 Solache?
14 ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: No.
15 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Solache, no.
16 Stefani?
17 ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: No.
18 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Stefani, no.
19 Tangipa?
20 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Aye.
21 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Tangipa, aye.
22 CHAIR PELLERIN: Motion fails.
23 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Then I make another
24 motion to recess until every Member of this
25 Committee has time to review all 16,000 public

1 comments.

2 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Second.

3 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. We have a motion
4 to recess until they could read the comments.

5 Madam Secretary, please call the roll.

6 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Pellerin?

7 CHAIR PELLERIN: No.

8 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Pellerin, no.
9 Macedo?

10 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Aye.

11 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Macedo, aye.
12 Bennett?

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: No.

14 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Bennett, no.
15 Berman?

16 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: No.

17 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Berman, no.
18 Solache?

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: No.

20 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Solache, no.
21 Stefani?

22 ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: No.

23 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Stefani, no.
24 Tangipa?

25 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Aye.

1 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Tangipa, aye.

2 CHAIR PELLERIN: Motion --

3 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Sounds transparent to
4 me.

5 CHAIR PELLERIN: Motion fails two to
6 five.

7 We're now going to get on to our hearing.
8 And let's bring Assembly Member Berman up to the
9 presentation table to present ACA 8.

10 You may begin when you're ready.

11 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Madam Chair, I have a
12 point of parliamentary inquiry.

13 UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER: God help us.
14 God help us.

15 CHAIR PELLERIN: One minute, please.
16 You may proceed.

17 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: In the letter
18 Mr. Rivas wrote, did he give a reason why he
19 would not be joining us today to present his ACA?

20 CHAIR PELLERIN: It's the regular
21 business of the Committee to allow Members to ask
22 another Member to present their bill.

23 So we will begin with Assembly Member
24 Berman presenting ACA 8. You may begin.

1 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Thank you, Madam
2 Chair and colleagues. Good morning.

3 I'm pleased to present ACA 8 on behalf of
4 Speaker Rivas, Pro Tem McGuire, and dozens of
5 co-authors both here in the Assembly and in the
6 Senate. But make no mistake, I'm not happy to be
7 here.

8 One of the reasons was alluded to, which
9 I'm a new dad. My baby boy turned one month old
10 today, and I'd rather be hanging out with him and
11 his mom.

12 But ACA 8 and its companion bills are the
13 culmination of a fight that we don't want, and
14 it's a fight that we didn't choose. But with our
15 democracy on the line, we cannot run away from
16 this fight.

17 ACA 8 is before you today because
18 President Trump and Republicans in Texas and
19 other states across the country are attempting to
20 redraw congressional districts mid decade in an
21 effort to rig the upcoming election.

22 Americans and Californians deserve
23 better. And ACA 8, is our response to this
24 undemocratic and un-American power grab.

1 Known as the Election Rigging Response
2 Act, ACA 8 would allow for the temporary use of
3 voter approved, voter approved congressional
4 district boundaries contained in AB 604. First
5 and foremost, California voters will have the
6 final say on whether or not these new district
7 boundaries get used or not.

8 Should ACA 8 and its companion bills
9 pass, voters will have their say in a special
10 election on November 4th, 2025. Because here in
11 California, unlike in Texas and other Republican-
12 led states, we respect the will of the voters.

13 Second, these maps would be used through
14 the 2030 congressional term if and only if Texas
15 or another state enacts a partisan gerrymander of
16 its own congressional districts before the 2030
17 census.

18 This trigger provision is carefully
19 crafted to ensure that a mid-decade redistricting
20 required by federal court order does not result
21 in California changing the maps. It is about the
22 partisan gerrymandering that President Trump has
23 demanded of his party.

24 After the 2030 census, ACA 8 returns all
25 congressional district line-drawing powers back

1 to the Citizen Redistricting Commission. It is
2 important to note that nothing in this bill
3 package impacts the role of the Citizens
4 Redistricting Commission in drawing the Assembly,
5 the Senate or the Board of Equalization
6 boundaries.

7 Third, ACA 8 calls on Congress to pass
8 legislation and propose a constitutional
9 amendment to the US Constitution to require the
10 use of fair, independent and nonpartisan
11 redistricting nationwide. I call this the put up
12 or shut up clause.

13 I don't want to hear from you if you
14 support political gerrymandering in Republican
15 states but not Democrat states and vice versa.
16 We believe in nonpartisan redistricting for
17 California and for every state in the country.

18 The bottom line is that ACA 8 sends a
19 strong message to other states that they cannot
20 play by different rules when it comes to
21 redistricting, and it upholds California's values
22 by neutralizing partisan gerrymandering by other
23 states, all while giving California voters the
24 final say on the matter.

1 This situation is an emergency and
2 California is responding by empowering our voters
3 with transparency, with respect for our
4 independent Commission, but with a will to act.

5 I respectfully request an aye vote on
6 ACA 8.

7 And I'm joined today by Annie Chou with
8 the California Teachers Association, and Danny
9 Curtin with the California State Council of
10 Carpenters.

11 CHAIR PELLERIN: You each have three
12 minutes. Thank you.

13 MR. CURTIN: Okay. Danny Curtin with the
14 Carpenters, as you heard.

15 I'm going to sort of read a letter into
16 the record, so that's one out of 16,000.

17 It is with great reluctance but firm
18 resolve that I'm testifying on behalf of the
19 California Conference of Carpenters to strongly
20 urge your support for ACA 8.

21 The extraordinary measure of redrawing
22 our congressional district maps in mid decade
23 rather than the historically established national
24 norm of realignment following the census at the
25 end of the decade, a constitutionally required

1 census to count every person living in the
2 country for the purposes of democratic political
3 representation, part of the great democratic
4 experiment that is the United States, and quite
5 revolutionary at the time, I might add.

6 Unfortunately, these are not normal times
7 and this isn't politics as usual. Not only has
8 the Trump Administration denied disaster
9 assistance to victims of California's devastating
10 forest fires, it is also seriously damaging our
11 California economy with targeted arrests of law-
12 abiding workers without warrants, which I'm sure
13 many of you are aware of.

14 The Trump administration is now
15 unilaterally withdrawing from legally binding
16 union collective bargaining agreements with
17 federal workforce unions. The President has made
18 it clear that this is just the beginning.

19 Whatever your opinion of the Carpenters
20 Union, you all know we are willing to work across
21 the aisle to find solutions. We supported and
22 still support the bipartisan reform work of
23 Governor Schwarzenegger's administration and this
24 Legislature on redistricting to establish
25 California Citizen Redistricting Commission. We

1 believe every state should require the use of
2 fair, nonpartisan redistricting commissions. I'm
3 going to get that before I'm done. But they
4 don't.

5 Using that loophole, the Trump
6 administration is now blatantly attempting to
7 selectively change election rules in the middle
8 of the game. Everybody knows why, to ensure
9 unquestioned congressional support for his
10 unilateral political agenda.

11 For that reason and that reason alone, we
12 urge you to enact a one-time redistricting for
13 congressional districts only to give California
14 voters the ability to have their voice heard loud
15 and clear on the national level.

16 We also support the return to
17 redistricting by Commission following the census.

18 I have a couple of other items. I don't
19 know how much more time I have, but let me just
20 start with one thing.

21 CHAIR PELLERIN: Forty-five seconds.

22 MR. CURTIN: When a press conference by
23 the Governor and the political leaders to discuss
24 this topic is greeted by a mass gang of Rambo
25 wannabes in full combat gear with automatic

1 weapons just to intimidate, you know something's
2 wrong. And I mean all of you know something's
3 wrong, whatever reasons.

4 When the Speaker of the House condemns
5 California for going to a vote of the people to
6 address this blatant power grab, but ignores
7 Texas for redistricting without a vote of the
8 people, the hypocrisy is overwhelming. You know
9 something is wrong here, all of you.

10 I heard on the radio this morning,
11 President Trump told Sean Hannity that Vladimir
12 Putin said, quote, your election was rigged
13 because you have mail-in voting, quote.

14 CHAIR PELLERIN: If you could wrap up,
15 please.

16 MR. CURTIN: Putin got 88 percent of the
17 vote. His other buddy, Jim Kung, whatever his
18 name, forget that, you know something's wrong
19 here when you take advice from Putin on voting.

20 Thank you very much. Please support this
21 measure. And I know it's difficult for some of
22 you, but it needs to be done. Thank you.

23 CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you. We'll move
24 on to the next witness in support. You have
25 three minutes.

1 MS. CHOU: Good morning, Madam Chair and
2 Members. I'm Annie Chou with the California
3 Teachers Association, representing 310,000 public
4 school educators here to speak in support of
5 ACA 8.

6 The Trump Administration is waging a war
7 on every public institution we hold dear. In a
8 few short months that he's been in office, he has
9 worked to freeze funds for critical education
10 programs, including after-school teacher training
11 and migrant education program.

12 He's cut healthcare for millions of our
13 students and their families, attempted to
14 dismantle the Department of Education, and passed
15 a new voucher program designed to destroy public
16 education entirely.

17 There's also been unprecedented attacks
18 to our immigrant communities and our LGBTQIA+
19 students and families.

20 The Trump administration's removal of
21 schools as safe zones from ICE has unleashed a
22 level of trauma and fear that no one should ever
23 endure, let alone our children.

1 Just this month, a 15-year-old in
2 Los Angeles was detained by federal agents right
3 outside her high school.

4 Our students deserve better. They
5 deserve to feel safe and supported at school.
6 They deserve every tool they're afforded to
7 ensure that they are set up for success in life.

8 A majority of Americans are not with him
9 on these vicious attacks. So what does Trump do
10 Rig the next election and steal our right for
11 fair representation. He wants his Republican
12 allies to redistrict in states where they hold
13 power so that he can stack the deck to continue
14 to harm our students.

15 As my Secretary-Treasurer Erica Jones
16 said, I taught my kindergarteners to be kind and
17 help each other, not to cheat and be a bully.
18 Five-year-olds get it. Why doesn't he?

19 My members and our colleagues at NEA
20 spent months reaching out to our Republican
21 representatives in California. Several refused
22 to even meet with local teachers in their
23 district and in their Capitol offices. Some lied
24 directly to our faces and promised they wouldn't

1 vote for these draconian cuts for our schools and
2 our healthcare.

3 When the lawmakers went back to D.C.,
4 they proved that they'd rather take orders from
5 Trump, even if it was at the expense of students
6 and teachers in California.

7 We must fight back. CTA supports the
8 great work that the Redistricting Commission -- I
9 caught yours, Danny -- did in 2021, but there
10 must be some type of check and balance against
11 these federal attacks.

12 We're living in the most unprecedented of
13 times. This requires us to meet the moment to
14 protect our communities.

15 CT stands in full support of bringing the
16 Brown initiative outlined in ACA 8. We're ready
17 to do whatever it takes to stop the power grab
18 and fight back against any and all attacks
19 against our democracy, our students and public
20 education. And California has a duty to stand up
21 and take action.

22 ACA 8 simply empowers California voters
23 to support a temporary change in our
24 congressional districts until the next
25 redistricting cycle to ensure that our students

1 and families are protected. And for those
2 reasons, CTA urges your eye vote. And I'm also
3 adding support for the California Federation of
4 Teachers.

5 CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you so much.

6 We'll now move on to additional
7 witnesses. They come up to the mic.

8 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Madam Chair, I
9 make a motion to amend.

10 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Second.

11 CHAIR PELLERIN: Amend what?

12 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Amend ACA. And
13 I would like that the sergeants pass these
14 amendments out, so that way everybody could read
15 them.

16 CHAIR PELLERIN: Give me one second,
17 please.

18 Are the amendments in Leg Council form?

19 UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER: Yes. Got them
20 right here.

21 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay.

22 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Staff to reanalyze
23 the bill, constitutional amendment or resolution.

24 CHAIR PELLERIN: Just give me a second so
25 we can answer your question here.

1 So these are not author's amendments, so
2 the rule you cited is not relevant.

3 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: It says a Member.
4 Does not say the author.

5 CHAIR PELLERIN: But they are not
6 author's amendments.

7 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Once again, it's --
8 (Pause on the record.)

9 CHAIR PELLERIN: The Committee rules are
10 clear that this is related to author's amendments
11 only. These are not being offered by the author
12 of the ACA.

13 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: This is not clear.

14 CHAIR PELLERIN: The author is Rivas and
15 McGuire.

16 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: In section two it
17 says that we authored this, actually prepared
18 this ACA.

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: We prepared
20 this ACA.

21 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. Give me one
22 moment to thoroughly answer your question.

23 (Pause on the record.)

24 CHAIR PELLERIN: My ruling is the
25 amendments are not in order.

1 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: There is a motion on
2 the table.

3 CHAIR PELLERIN: And your motion is not
4 in order as well.

5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Madam Chair, I
6 ask to read the amendments into the Journal.

7 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Second.

8 CHAIR PELLERIN: I reject that. No.

9 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: On what grounds,
10 Madam Chair?

11 CHAIR PELLERIN: My decision.

12 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: So there's
13 transparency and bipartisanship --

14 (Pause on the record.)

15 CHAIR PELLERIN: Yes, Assembly Member
16 Solache.

17 ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: I would like
18 to move the bill for approval. Move it in.

19 CHAIR PELLERIN: We have a motion to
20 approve the bill.

21 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Madam, the
22 motion to read into the Journal takes precedence.

23 CHAIR PELLERIN: One second, please.

24 (Pause on the record.)

1 CHAIR PELLERIN: I'd like to recognize
2 Assembly Member Stefani.

3 Okay. There's a motion and a second to
4 amend ACA 8.

5 I'd like to recognize Assembly Member
6 Stefani.

7 ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: I move to lay
8 the amendments on the table.

9 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: So you're not going
10 to allow us to debate or present these amendments
11 for anybody to read? They're just going to vote
12 on them, correct?

13 CHAIR PELLERIN: We are going to -- the
14 motion is to lay the Amendments on the table.

15 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: So none of my
16 colleagues are going to read this before they
17 vote on it, correct? I just want to clarify.

18 ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: (Inaudible) as
19 it is, so I'm good.

20 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Madam Chair, we
21 just --

22 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: We could make them
23 better.

24 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA:

1 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- we just
2 heard --
3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: I don't think
4 they will.
5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: We just
6 heard --
7 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: You haven't seen
8 them.
9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- both
10 testimony --
11 ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: I don't need
12 to.
13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- from the
14 author and --
15 CHAIR PELLERIN: We haven't even heard
16 all the testimony, so --
17 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But we did --
18 CHAIR PELLERIN: -- let's try to get
19 through this hearing on the bill, all right?
20 Let's try to hear the bill --
21 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But we've made
22 this statement here.
23 CHAIR PELLERIN: -- in its current form.
24 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: We might be able to
25 add (inaudible) --

1 CHAIR PELLERIN: We have a motion to lay
2 the amendments on the table.

3 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: -- more that gives a
4 heads up about this.

5 CHAIR PELLERIN: Madam Secretary, please
6 call the roll.

7 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But, Madam
8 Chair, we made the statement that we're making
9 this very transparent. This is very clear.

10 CHAIR PELLERIN: We have a motion to lay
11 the amendments on the table.

12 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: And I'm just --
13 I would like --

14 CHAIR PELLERIN: We're going to proceed
15 with that motion.

16 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Wait a second. The
17 whole thing is that this is about transparency
18 and that you want fairness in this.

19 We got the language at eight o'clock.

20 All we're asking is for our input to be taken.

21 You didn't talk to me as your Vice Chair about

22 this, so here's our opportunity, Madam Chair.

23 All we're asking for is participation in this.

24 And Mr. Tangipa came prepared. The rules
25 state this. And I would be happy to bring the

1 Chief Clerk in to review this. I don't know why
2 you're shutting this down.

3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: And Madam
4 Chair, I would have presented this to you
5 sometime sooner at any other time. I had no
6 time. We didn't receive this. And yet, there
7 are authors on this before I even got to see
8 this. I didn't get this till last night because
9 we were not informed.

10 So my question is, since everybody's
11 prepared, since you're so fine with the ACA, is
12 how much time did they get to prepare before I
13 did? Why am I not deserved that same for the
14 500,000 representatives that I get to represent
15 in my district? Why am I not granted that same
16 right to defend them?

17 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I believe we
18 have a law in California that Members get 72
19 hours before final vote on any legislation to
20 review the legislation and the language of the
21 legislation before they vote.

22 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But
23 Mr. Berman --

24 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: -- on that
25 language --

1 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- did you
2 have --
3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: -- as the
4 final --
5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- did you have
6 this --
7 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: -- as the final
8 version.
9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: How early --
10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I saw this
11 language yesterday.
12 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: How -- okay.
13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I saw this
14 language yesterday.
15 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: You saw this
16 language --
17 CHAIR PELLERIN: It was in print
18 yesterday morning, correct.
19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: It was in
20 print.
21 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: And that's when
22 I -- and that's when I saw it.
23 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: It was in print.
24 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: And it was --

1 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: -- but when was it
2 seen?

3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: It was in print
4 and --

5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I saw it
6 yesterday.

7 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- you are a
8 co-author on it immediately?

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Yeah.

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: So you had seen
11 that even before it was printed, you were already
12 a co-author?

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Yeah. I
14 absolutely support the concept. I had faith in
15 the authors to get -- to draft the right
16 language. They did. And I support it.

17 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: But I did not
18 have that same --

19 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: For the concept, but
20 you didn't even read the language.

21 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: I did not have
22 that same ability.

23 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: You weren't
24 aware of the concept? You weren't aware of the
25 news that we were planning on doing that?

1 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: No, that's not
2 what I'm saying. Mr. Berman, what I'm saying --

3 CHAIR PELLERIN: Excuse me. We have --
4 we have the Chief Clerk here, Sue Parker.

5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: I am simply
6 just asking for the same amount of time, so that
7 way I can go into this just as much as everybody
8 else.

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I saw the
10 language --

11 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: And that there
12 are amendments.

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: -- when it went
14 into print yesterday morning.

15 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: And I
16 understand that. And I have a different opinion
17 on that.

18 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Yeah.

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: And that's okay
20 because I'm granted that.

21 (Speaking over each other - unintelligible.)

22 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. All right.

23 Excuse me. We're going to -- hey. Hey.

24 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: I'm asking for
25 it.

1 CHAIR PELLERIN: We're going to stop this
2 right now, this back and forth. Okay? We have
3 to have some civility in here.

4 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yes, ma'am.

5 CHAIR PELLERIN: We have our Chief Clerk,
6 Sue Parker. If you could please come on up for a
7 consult, please.

8 (Pause on the record.)

9 All right. We're going to take a
10 temporary recess. We'll be back in 10 minutes.
11 Thanks.

12 (Recess.)

13 CHAIR PELLERIN: All right. We're going
14 to bring the Committee back.

15 Thank you for giving us the time to
16 figure this out. In the spirit of transparency,
17 we're going to go ahead and allow those
18 amendments to be presented and we're going to
19 give you three minutes to do so. Thank you so
20 much.

21 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Thank you,
22 Madam Chair. That's all I'm asking for is a fair
23 and equal opportunity to talk for my
24 representatives, so I appreciate that.

1 And really, as the presenter of the bill
2 had stated, that he was assigned as a co-author
3 and there were multiple members on this
4 Committee --

5 CHAIR PELLERIN: Oh, I'm sorry. One
6 second.

7 Could we distribute the amendments?

8 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yes.

9 CHAIR PELLERIN: Sorry.

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Thank you.

11 CHAIR PELLERIN: And we'll stop the clock
12 and start it again.

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: And the
14 sergeants.

15 So as was stated, and not only that, we
16 see that there are multiple co-authors on this
17 bill that I hope don't have the same regards as
18 the presenter of this stated, that they were a
19 co-author before they even saw this bill.

20 I believe that these amendments actually
21 help make sure that we are protecting the
22 democracy, and which was stated earlier today,
23 that we're making sure that this is as
24 transparent. And if you're actually fighting for
25 the people of California, that you buy into this.

1 So there would be no reason for them to
2 deny this amendment unless they have a vested
3 interest in the maps that are being presented
4 before us and the changes in these congressional
5 districts.

6 So simply to read the amendment is: A
7 member of the Legislature who voted in favor of
8 Assembly Constitutional Amendment 8 of the
9 2025-2026 Regular Session shall not be a
10 candidate for congressional office in any
11 congressional district adopted pursuant to
12 Section 4.

13 All in an essence of, if everybody here
14 is saying that they are doing this to protect
15 democracy, to do it, to make sure that they don't
16 have a vested interest.

17 And especially when we have seen reports
18 reported by KCRA that stated that the pro temp
19 asked for a specific district to be drawn so he
20 could be included in that. That the DCCC wrote
21 these maps. And it shows that there is so much
22 political gains and political partisanship that
23 has been played, that has been lied to the
24 California people.

1 You now have the ability to prove that
2 you are in this for those same right reasons that
3 the presenter actually asked us to do. You have
4 the ability right now to say that you're doing
5 this for those specific reasons.

6 So when you cast your vote on these
7 amendments, you will declare to the California
8 people that you do believe in democracy. That
9 every statement and the amount of placating that
10 we heard earlier today, that your words are true.

11 And this gives you the chance to tell the
12 truth, to tell the California people that you
13 have no vested interest in this. That you
14 believe in everything that was stated. That the
15 author and the presenters and all of the other
16 co-authors on this say that, I'm not running for
17 this congressional seat because of my personal
18 gain. I'm doing this, these districts, because
19 it's what you believe in. So you have the chance
20 to do so. Every single person who's a co-author
21 on this who didn't read the bill.

22 Okay. If you didn't read the bill, then
23 you shouldn't have any issues adding this as an
24 amendment because you don't have any problems
25 with it. Thank you.

1 CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you very much.

2 Assembly Member Stefani.

3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: I move to lay
4 the amendments on the table.

5 CHAIR PELLERIN: We have a motion to lay
6 the amendments on the table.

7 Madam Secretary, please -- oh, is there a
8 second?

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: Can I just make
10 a comment?

11 CHAIR PELLERIN: Yes, you may.

12 ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: I'll second it.
13 I do have a comment.

14 You know, it's really hard for me to
15 consider any amendments when the first motion,
16 within seconds of starting this meeting, was to
17 adjourn this meeting.

18 So I have a question for the proposed
19 amendments. How did you plan to submit these
20 amendments if you were planning to end discussion
21 in the first couple seconds of starting this
22 meeting?

23 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Well, because I
24 spent 12 hours last --

25

1 ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: Because clearly
2 you were ready with some amendments.

3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yeah.

4 ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: So how were you
5 going to have a discussion when you were making a
6 motion and a second to adjourn?

7 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yes. Thank you
8 for the question.

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: And discussion.

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Thank you for
11 the question.

12 The main reason why that motion was made
13 in the beginning was because we just need more
14 time. I did not have as much time as the
15 majority party in this state as they've seen the
16 maps. They've had these maps, they've had these
17 bills, they've had the language significantly
18 longer.

19 We didn't even set the Committee hearing
20 on our member portfolio until yesterday. So
21 we've had less than 24 hours to even know that
22 this meeting was going to be here.

23 That's why the motion to end the meeting
24 was there, just to give us time. Shouldn't we

1 have more than 24 hours? Doesn't it worry you,
2 my friend?

3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: Thank you.

4 CHAIR PELLERIN: And the motion to lay
5 the amendments on the table is not debatable.
6 I've given you a little time --

7 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But doesn't
8 it --

9 CHAIR PELLERIN: -- to have some
10 comments.

11 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Doesn't it
12 worry you that they (inaudible) and you agreed to
13 that?

14 CHAIR PELLERIN: Madam Secretary, now
15 please call the roll.

16 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: That's all I'm
17 trying to do is read this.

18 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Pellerin?

19 CHAIR PELLERIN: Yes.

20 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Pellerin, aye.
21 Macedo?

22 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: No.

23 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Macedo, no.
24 Bennett?

25 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: Aye.

1 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Bennett, aye.
2 Berman?
3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Aye.
4 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Berman, aye.
5 Solache?
6 ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: Aye.
7 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Solache, aye.
8 Stefani?
9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: Aye.
10 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Stefani, aye.
11 Tangipa?
12 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: No.
13 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Tangipa, no.
14 CHAIR PELLERIN: So the motion to lay the
15 amendments on the table succeeded.
16 So we will now move on to the other
17 witnesses in support of ACA 8. You may come to
18 the mic.
19 And as I stated previously, we are giving
20 you 30 seconds to provide some information, your
21 name, organization.
22 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: This is on
23 support?
24 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: This is for
25 people in support of ACA 8.

1 Okay. There's folks outside. We'll give
2 you a minute. This is for support and to ACA 8.

3 MR. LAZARDI: Thank you. Elmer Lazard,
4 here on behalf of the California Federation of
5 Labor Unions and also here in support of UFCW
6 Western States Council. Thank you.

7 MS. PONTUS: Thank you. Angela Pontus on
8 behalf of Planned Parenthood Affiliates of
9 California, in support.

10 MR. KUMAR: Thank you, Chair. Keshav
11 Kumar with Lighthouse Public Affairs, on behalf
12 of Reproductive Freedom for All, in strong
13 support and appreciation.

14 MS. BARREIRO: Thank you, Chair and
15 members. Sandra Barreiro on behalf of SEIU
16 California, in support.

17 MR. MIRAMONTES: Good morning, Chair and
18 members. Bryant Miramontes with AFSCME
19 California PEOPLE, in support.

20 MS. KING: Sadalia King with UDW Local --
21 AFSCME Local 3930, in strong support.

22 MS. COLES: Good morning. Krystal Coles
23 from SEIU Local 1000, in strong support.

1 MS. QUINTERO: Good morning. Annalisa
2 Quintero with Local 1000, proud UAW member, in
3 strong support.

4 MS. HILL: Good morning, Chair. My name
5 is Constance Hill, SEIU 2015. I strongly
6 support.

7 MR. HART: Good morning. Kaden Hart on
8 behalf of Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis,
9 in support.

10 MS. DARLING: Good afternoon. Faith
11 Darling from Kern County, and support very much.

12 MR. SHAFFER: Jim Shaffer from Taft,
13 California. Support very much.

14 CHAIR PELLERIN: Any other witnesses in
15 support?

16 Seeing none, we'll now move on to the
17 primary witnesses in opposition. Please come to
18 the -- this is just for the primary right now.
19 Primary witnesses, come to the presentation
20 table. And you each will have three minutes.

21 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: And then there's
22 plenty of seats. Yeah.

23 MS. DYE: Should we both sit over there?

24 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: No, it doesn't
25 matter.

1 CHAIR PELLERIN: You may begin when
2 you're ready.

3 MS. DYE: Chair Pellerin and Members, I'm
4 Cynthia Dye, a San Francisco Democrat, testifying
5 also for fellow rotating chairs of the First
6 Citizens Redistricting Commission, Riverside
7 Republican Jodie Filkins Weber, and Claremont
8 Republican Peter Yao, San Gabriel Democrat Jeanne
9 Raya, and Oceanside Independent Connie Archbold
10 Robinson.

11 Commissioners are chosen to be impartial,
12 reflect their state's demographics, and apply
13 constitutional criteria to ensure fair districts
14 for all Californians, and commissioners cannot
15 run for office in the districts they draw.

16 The people enshrined independent
17 redistricting in our constitution, voting three
18 times against gerrymandering.

19 The Citrin Center poll released just last
20 week confirms Californians still support the CRC
21 two to one. And a national YouGov poll shows
22 that 76 percent of Americans think gerrymandering
23 is unfair, and 69 percent think it should be
24 illegal.

1 The current CRC considered over 35,000
2 public comments to develop their maps, making
3 difficult tradeoffs to protect communities. This
4 new proposed map was developed by legislators and
5 their consultants in a back room.

6 The CRC was prohibited from considering
7 partisan interests. The new map has only that
8 goal, adding safe seats.

9 CRC draft maps were posted for 14 days to
10 allow for thoughtful public input. This map was
11 released yesterday, yet you're voting today.

12 And why are you not hearing from good
13 government organizations? Because it takes time
14 for organizations to inform their members,
15 debate, formulate, and agree upon a position
16 statement. That's what democracy looks like.

17 We recognize that many believe we face an
18 existential threat, and this legislation has been
19 touted as the only way to fight back and resist
20 authoritarianism, but this is a false choice.

21 Thanks to the CRC, California has some of
22 the most competitive districts in the nation. In
23 fact, there are twice as many districts up for
24 grabs as proponents of this legislation hope to
25 eke out through gerrymandering.

1 It just means that parties have to do the
2 work of appealing -- fielding appealing
3 candidates, developing a platform that speaks to
4 the issues voters care about, and getting them to
5 the polls. That's what democracy looks like.

6 Despite the serious attacks against our
7 democracy, we cannot preserve it by torching its
8 fundamental tenet, that voters choose their
9 representatives, not the other way around.

10 At minimum, release the data and provide
11 the rationale for your lines. If you want to do
12 a midcycle redistricting right, do it the
13 California way.

14 Instead of spending over \$200 million on
15 a special election, fund the CRC to engage the
16 public, create updated districts, and pass them
17 by a cross-partisan supermajority vote.

18 We urge you to serve your constituents by
19 defending California's independent process and
20 rejecting this expensive and misguided attempt to
21 bring back partisan gerrymandering. We welcome
22 any questions.

23 CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you.

24 Next witness, three minutes.

1 MS. RAYA: Thank you, Chair Pellerin and
2 members of the committee, and I apologize for my
3 back being to some of you.

4 My name is Jeanne Raya. I was privileged
5 to serve on the first Independent Redistricting
6 Commission starting in 2010.

7 It was independent, composed of a diverse
8 pool, representative of California's diversity,
9 and it was an initiative brought by good
10 government groups to put voters first.

11 Approving that independent commission
12 effectively ended the backroom political
13 gerrymandering that had characterized
14 redistricting for decades.

15 We drew new maps with full transparency,
16 giving citizens access to the process in real
17 time through public meetings and the means to
18 submit written comments.

19 Voters had the opportunity to describe
20 their communities, their environment, their
21 infrastructure, and their economy so they could
22 be placed in a district with a fair chance of
23 electing accountable representatives.

24 And in fact, there were significant
25 changes to the Legislature over the last two

1 Commissions, including the percentage of women in
2 the Legislature doubled, AAPI representation
3 tripled, Black representation nearly doubled, and
4 Latinos increased by 8t percent.

5 If only Texas could learn from
6 California. Their current attempts to rig the
7 2026 election in favor of Republicans represents
8 the basest self-interest of officials who are so
9 fearful of losing their power that all they can
10 think to do is cheat.

11 Their determination to stack the
12 congressional deck in their favor has prompted
13 our governor to threaten this retaliatory
14 midcycle redistricting in an effort to elect more
15 Democrats by sidelining the Independent
16 Commission and holding a special election just
17 this once.

18 I'm a registered Democrat, always have
19 been, and I would celebrate replacing any
20 congressional member who has forgotten his or her
21 oath to represent their constituents and protect
22 the Constitution.

23 But this can't be at the expense of the
24 California Constitution, nor the California

1 voters who mandated fair, nonpartisan
2 redistricting.

3 Does the threat really call for
4 retaliation? We have witnessed on a daily basis
5 the chaos and mistrust that has come from revenge
6 politics in Washington. That is not a model for
7 the responsible government Californians deserve.

8 It's not a model for which we should
9 spend millions of dollars on a gamble that
10 different districts would produce different
11 results, or that we might not lose incumbents in
12 more competitive districts and fail to elect
13 whatever magic number is needed to win this
14 electoral war against Texas and whatever other
15 states.

16 The Governor says the American people --
17 the American people need a fair chance. We have
18 a fair chance here in California. We have
19 choice. We have a voice. It's called the
20 Independent Redistricting Commission.

21 The maps that have been proposed are like
22 a menu that offers you steak, but you're a
23 vegetarian. Sorry, that's all we have.
24 California set the gold standard for --

1 CHAIR PELLERIN: If you could wrap up,
2 please?

3 MS. RAYA: Yes.

4 California set the gold standard for
5 redistricting. This is not the time to take a
6 step back from innovative democracy. Thank you.

7 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Madam Chair, before
8 we proceed --

9 CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you.

10 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: I'm sorry. You
11 weren't introduced. Who are you at sitting at
12 the table? I'm so sorry.

13 MR. SILVA: Sorry. My name is Aaron
14 Silva. I'm with the law firm Olson Remcho. I'm
15 here mainly to answer technical questions about
16 the measure.

17 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Okay. Thank you.

18 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: My technical
19 witness.

20 CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you.

21 We'll now go ahead and bring in witnesses
22 who are in opposition to ACA 8. You may come to
23 the mic.

1 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: And Madam
2 Chair, are we going to have an opp -- are we
3 going to have an opportunity to ask questions --

4 CHAIR PELLERIN: We will.

5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- to the
6 opposition?

7 CHAIR PELLERIN: Yeah, yeah. We're going
8 through our normal procedure where we hear from
9 the witnesses first.

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Okay.

11 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay.

12 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Just making
13 sure.

14 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay.

15 MR. HANNA: Thank you, Madam Chair.
16 Apologies on being late.

17 My name is J.P. Hanna, on behalf of the
18 California Nurses Association. We are in strong
19 support of this measure. Just wanted to make
20 sure I get on the record. Thank you so much.

21 CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you. You threw me
22 off there. Okay.

23 MR. HANNA: Strong support. Strong
24 support.

25 CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you.

1 UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER: Me Too is in
2 opposition.

3 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. We'll now take
4 the opposition. Please come to the mic.

5 UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER: We go row by
6 row.

7 MS. WILLIS: Linda Willis, President of
8 Bakersfield Republican Women Federated, member of
9 Greater Bakersfield Republican Assembly,
10 California Republican Assembly, Revere Resource
11 Group, and other Republican organizations, as
12 well as a church-going Christian. Strong
13 opposition to this bullying method you're using.

14 MS. DRAKE: Margaret Drake, citizen
15 California, strongly oppose this -- this bill as
16 a Santa Cruz, California resident.

17 MS. BAX: Hello. Thank you. My name is
18 Gina Bax. I'm an immigrant, and I'm also the
19 president for the Chico Evening Republican Women,
20 and I strongly oppose this. Thank you.

21 MR. BUSSEY: Thirty seconds?

22 CHAIR PELLERIN: You may take 30 seconds.

23 MR. BUSSEY: Thank you.

1 My name is Nick Bussey, and I'm here on
2 the behalf of the Placer County Republicans
3 Assembly.

4 And look, redistricting, we could just
5 have a simple blame for Trump for everything that
6 goes on. And trust me, if it was that simple, I
7 would blame the score board whenever the Niners
8 have lost.

9 Now, I'm hearing words like transparency,
10 representation and fairness, and it saddens me to
11 be here today in this chamber and the other
12 chamber and see the absolute opposite that's
13 going on.

14 Now, under a supermajority, California's
15 drowning in crime. We're not funding things like
16 Proposition 36, unfounded Prop --

17 CHAIR PELLERIN: That is 30 seconds.
18 Thank you so much.

19 MR. BUSSEY: Thank you. That was not 30
20 seconds.

21 CHAIR PELLERIN: It wasn't?

22 UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER: (Inaudible.)

23 CHAIR PELLERIN: It was.

24 MR. BUSSEY: Oh, yeah. I oppose.

25 CHAIR PELLERIN: We got that. Thank you.

1 MR. NORIEGA: It's a pleasure to be with
2 you all. My name is Nathaniel Noriega. So the
3 nine most terrifying words in the English
4 language are, I'm from the government and I'm
5 here to help.

6 The California Independent Redistricting
7 Commission was a bipartisan support, something
8 that is nearly impossible today, as a check on
9 all of you politicians.

10 There's a reason why those words were
11 spoken by Reagan. Just because they're doing it,
12 we can do it, too, is an argument that only a
13 child will make.

14 We're not Texas. We are California. We
15 are held to a different standard, or at least we
16 should be.

17 It is my first time in our state's
18 Capitol. It's beautiful. But when I see -- when
19 I look outside and see someone smoking crystal
20 meth --

21 CHAIR PELLERIN: And that is 30 seconds.
22 Thank you.

23 MR. NORIEGA: -- on our Capitol steps --

24 CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you.

25 MR. NORIEGA: -- it makes me wonder.

1 CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you.

2 MS. AGUILAR: My name is Denise Aguilar.
3 I'm a co-founder of Freedom Angels, in
4 opposition.

5 We represent thousands of families across
6 the state of California. And I'm just a little
7 confused on why the California Teachers
8 Association is one of the main witnesses as our
9 children are graduating illiterate. I think that
10 the Teachers Association should focus on our
11 children's education.

12 Thank you. And I oppose.

13 MS. THORNTON: Hi. Tara Thornton,
14 co-founder of Freedom Angels.

15 I actually didn't have anything prepared
16 to say. I'm just really shocked. We shouldn't
17 be doing this. Wrong is wrong, and the people
18 don't want this. We want independent.

19 I happen to be from one of the districts
20 that will get decimated with zero representation.
21 But even if I wasn't, this isn't the right way to
22 go. And you actually don't have the support of
23 the people on it.

24 You have a mandate to be independent and
25 to not do political gerrymandering. I oppose.

1 MS. CARSTENS: Sophia Carstens,
2 Decentralize America.

3 You can't actually redistrict without
4 changing the ten-year rule around the census, and
5 you can't do that without amending the California
6 Constitution, which is very robust on this issue.
7 And you can't do that without repealing the Equal
8 Protections Clause, which you cannot do.

9 All due respect, the argument is that we
10 want to preserve democracy. You cannot preserve
11 democracy by suspending it. I oppose.

12 MS. SHAW: Sonja Shaw, Chino Valley
13 Unified School Board President and candidate for
14 State Superintendent, trying to take back this
15 insane California.

16 You call it democratic and transparent.
17 Give me a break. California's collapsing under
18 Newsom and his cronies -- most of you are here --
19 style leadership. Just look around. Lawlessness
20 in our streets. Schools are failing. Our kids
21 can only--only 47 percent can read at grade
22 level, and the CTA is over here doing this?
23 Shame on you, CTA. You make me nauseated.

24 Anyways, pushing ideologies in the
25 classroom is something Newsom's wife -- I mean,

1 first partner in destruction is well aware of
2 because she's pocketing while our kids are
3 failing there.

4 CHAIR PELLERIN: That is 30 seconds.
5 Thank you so much.

6 MS. SHAW: Put barf bags behind the
7 seats.

8 CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you so much.

9 MS. ABDOSH: Kelly Abdosh, not only
10 citizen of this republic, but also wife and
11 campaign coordinator to a campaign -- oh,
12 goodness -- person running for State Assembly, in
13 complete opposition of this far overreach. Thank
14 you.

15 MS. MASTIN: Heather Mastin with the
16 elder -- El Dorado County Republican Party.
17 Sixty-three percent of Californians do not want
18 this. I strongly oppose.

19 MR. WILLIAMS: Doug Williams, El Dorado
20 Republican Central Committee. I strongly oppose
21 this.

22 I am from South Lake Tahoe. I don't see
23 any transparency on how these maps were drawn.

1 During the redistricting, they had
2 complete transparency. We could see where the
3 maps were.

4 I have nothing in common with Sacramento,
5 and neither does any of the people in South Lake
6 Tahoe or the Tahoe Basin.

7 MR. AVILA: Hello. My name is Oscar
8 Avila with California Movement. Totally opposed
9 to this.

10 This is election interference at the
11 highest level. You're going to use past results
12 of elections to base the new maps to rig the
13 election. This is -- this is election
14 interference at the highest level. You know,
15 it's not fair.

16 You're going to literally move around the
17 boundaries to make sure you get more votes to
18 remove Republican seats. People voted for the
19 state republic and you're going to remove those
20 seats by stealing an election.

21 You guys are trying to commit a crime.
22 It's a -- it's a -- it's a --

23 CHAIR PELLERIN: That is 30 seconds.
24 Thank you.

25 MR. AVILA: Thank you. No.

1 MS. DE JANARO: Florentina De Janaro,
2 representing moms in California with MOM Army,
3 also representing Glad Tidings Church in Yuba
4 City and Freedom Coalition in Yuba City. Oppose.

5 MS. KAY: Good morning. Shan Kay, a
6 proud wife of an International Union of Elevator
7 Constructors Local 18, and I oppose.

8 MS. CORCORAN: Yvette Corcoran, resident
9 of San Francisco, and strongly oppose this
10 redistricting.

11 MS. PATEL: Hello. My name is Priya
12 Patel, representing the Voters of Los Angeles
13 County, and I strongly oppose AB 604, and
14 recognize it as an uprooting of our
15 constitutional rights and democratic process in
16 this county -- in the State of California.

17 MS. PATEL: This bill violates state
18 constitutional law, as well as the Voters Rights
19 Act. And it seems to me that the author of the
20 bill and the co-authors that signed off on this
21 bill haven't actually read the wording and
22 verbiage of the bill.

23 So I think that the voters of Democ -- of
24 California deserve more.

1 CHAIR PELLERIN: That is 30 seconds, and
2 this is for ACA 8. Thank you.

3 MS. KONG: Jessica Kong, from an affected
4 district, in strong opposition.

5 MR. BOLOG: David Bolog, member in good
6 standing in the International Brotherhood of
7 Electrical Workers Local 18, also representing
8 the California GOP Labor Caucus, with the
9 majority of our members being represented in
10 collective bargaining by the California Teachers
11 Association.

12 California Republicans are already
13 disenfranchised with representation. We're a
14 60/40 state; 60 percent Republicans, 40 percent
15 Democrats. Excuse me, got it backwards. Sixty
16 percent Democrats, 40 percent Republican. This
17 will disenfranchise us more, and we see that in
18 the legislation already. We're 75/20 percent.

19 CHAIR PELLERIN: That is 30 seconds.

20 MR. BOLOG: Thank you.

21 CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you.

22 MR. ARIANO: Good afternoon. My name is
23 Angel Ariano. I came over six hours to--from
24 Pomona, California to say that I am in
25 opposition, and also that I am shocked to see the

1 lack of dignity in this room. And to use the
2 existing processes that we have. And that's my
3 statement.

4 MR. CARRILLO: My name is Jose Carrillo,
5 constituent of Riverside County. I'm a proud
6 member of the National Brotherhood of Electrical
7 Workers Union in good standing. So I have my
8 ticket and I don't know what unions are being --
9 are a part of this, but I'm just a union member
10 and I strongly oppose this. Yeah.

11 MS. CARRILLO: Maria Carrillo, mother,
12 representing Riverside County, all the mothers
13 that are fighting for our children's freedom and
14 protections in every school.

15 Transparency, you guys keep bringing it
16 up, but there's no transparency here.

17 TDS is a real thing. Stop hating Trump
18 and just blaming him for everything. This is not
19 right.

20 And Newsom said the people will speak.
21 We the people will speak if that thing goes on
22 the ballot on November 4th.

23 MS. BARBRO: Hi. Virginia Barbro from
24 Solano county. I'm also a California native.
25 And I strongly oppose.

1 And I'm asking all of you to support real
2 transparency and have real issues and work
3 together and listen to the people. Because the
4 people of California are being slaughtered by
5 regulations and all that you're proposing to do.
6 It's not real. Your assertions are off, and you
7 need to come up.

8 CHAIR PELLERIN: That is 30 seconds.

9 MS. BARBRO: Thank you.

10 CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you.

11 MS. NIXON: My name is Twyla Nixon. I'm
12 a native Californian from Solano county, and I
13 oppose the bill.

14 And everything is becoming very demonic.
15 We're just asking for God's guidance on this and
16 pray that the Lord will see us through this.
17 Praise the Lord. Thank you.

18 MR. GONZALEZ: Madam Chair, Oracio
19 Gonzalez on behalf of California's Business
20 Roundtable, one of the early sponsors of
21 California's independent redistricting process.
22 We urge you to reject both bills and keep our
23 process free of politics. Thank you.

24 MR. BURT: Greg Burt with the California
25 Family Council, in opposition.

1 Some people have already brought up the
2 issue of transparency. What was this I saw today
3 out in the hallway was anything but transparent.

4 I'm not sure if the Republicans know
5 this, but while you were trying to get your
6 amendments laid out, they were shutting your mic
7 off, right? So if you go back and listen to the
8 recording, the mic was going off while you were
9 talking.

10 How is that transparent, right? You're
11 shutting people from just open conversation.
12 We're all talking about democracy. Let's have an
13 open debate.

14 You are not doing that, right? And then
15 you go out and have a secret conversation when
16 nobody saw what you decided.

17 CHAIR PELLERIN: That is 30 seconds.
18 Thank you.

19 MR. BURT: All right.

20 REVEREND DR. FRAZIER: Hi. Reverend
21 Dr. Angelo Frazier from Bakersfield, California.
22 I oppose the bill.

23 I'm a Christian. I'm a Republican. And
24 I just happen to be Black. This is racism 101
25 all over again.

1 MS. BURRELL: My name is Dina Burrell.
2 I'm from Tulare county, Visalia, California, and
3 I oppose this bill.

4 I am a Christian. I'm not in any kind of
5 organization, but I'm an American citizen, and I
6 want my voice to be heard that I strongly oppose
7 this bill. Thank you.

8 MS. BROKAW: I'm Ruth Brokaw. I'm from
9 Visalia, California. I'm part of the pastoral
10 staff at Legacy Church. I represent a lot of
11 people who, along with me, oppose this bill.

12 MR. BEITHER: I'm Matt Beither.
13 Appreciate you taking the time.

14 I'm a native Californian, strongly oppose
15 the bill, and we'll go down fighting for kids'
16 voice and everything. So appreciate you
17 listening to our voice.

18 MS. ANDERSON: Hi. I'm Tina Anderson.
19 I'm coming from Tulare county, Visalia,
20 California, representing Central California,
21 predominantly Republican. And we oppose this
22 bill strongly.

23 MS. WEISAR: My name is Patricia Weisar.
24 I'm from Tulare county. I'm a first-generation
25 American.

1 I do not believe that my rights or my
2 nationality, my primary nationality, is affected
3 by redistricting, so I oppose the bill.

4 MS. AGUIRRE: My name is Myrna Aguirre.
5 I'm here from Visalia, California, representing
6 Deep Rooted Church, and I stand strongly against
7 this bill.

8 MS. JIMENE: My name is Mary Jimenez from
9 Visalia, California, Tulare county. I am in the
10 pastoral ministry also, strong Christian
11 Republican, and I strongly oppose this bill.

12 MS. CAMARILLO: Good afternoon. My name
13 is Addie Camarillo from Visalia. I'm just a
14 grandma. But thank you so much for listening to
15 our voice. Thank you very, very much. And I do
16 oppose this bill. Thank you.

17 MR. WILLIAMS: My turn? Okay. My name
18 is Tim Williams -- I go by Tiki Tim -- from
19 Suisun, California. You guys have probably heard
20 a lot about us, about the California ForNever,
21 you know, scam that's going on, right, you know?

22 But I heard about this meeting today and,
23 yeah, really disturbs me. You guys could put my
24 children in jeopardy. I'm a little upset.

1 CHAIR PELLERIN: That is 30 seconds.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. WILLIAMS: I'm a little upset about
4 this.

5 CHAIR PELLERIN: We hear you. Thank you
6 so much.

7 Next speaker.

8 MR. WILLIAMS: That's all the time we
9 get?

10 CHAIR PELLERIN: Yeah. Thirty seconds,
11 yes.

12 MR. WILLIAMS: Remember, you're going to
13 get judged.

14 CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you so much.

15 MR. WILLIAMS: You're going to get
16 judged.

17 CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you so much.

18 MR. WILLIAMS: God is going to judge you.

19 CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you so much.

20 MR. WILLIAMS: It's not a laughing
21 matter.

22 CHAIR PELLERIN: I'm not laughing.

23 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, you are.

24 CHAIR PELLERIN: Next speaker.

1 MS. MUNOZ: Hi. My name is Euphemia
2 Muñoz. I was born and raised in Tulare,
3 California, and I strongly oppose this bill.

4 MR. MUNOZ: Good morning. My name is
5 Iani Munoz. I was born and raised in Tulare,
6 California also. I'm an Independent by choice.

7 My opinion on this whole redistricting
8 matter, just seems to me the old adage of monkey
9 see, monkey do. And it's unfortunate that we
10 have to go in this direction simply to oppose
11 another state that's trying to do the same thing.
12 Which, in general, I believe they had the right
13 to do.

14 However, California has already done this
15 and now is simply throwing a monkey wrench into
16 something to try to do it also. Thank you very
17 much. I strongly oppose it.

18 MS. WOITALLA: Hi. My name is Ellen
19 Woitalla. I am a citizen of Visalia, and I am
20 also an elected member of the Tulare County GOP.

21 I spent 30 years plus being an elementary
22 school teacher. And one of the basic tenets of
23 education is learning to be fair.

1 This bill is not fair, so I stand before
2 you as a retired teacher saying, let's do better,
3 let's not redistrict, let's not gerrymander.

4 CHAIR PELLERIN: That is 30 seconds.
5 Thank you.

6 MS. WOITALLA: Yeah. Thank you.

7 MS. VERDUGO: Hi. My name is Sandra
8 Verdugo. I live in Visalia, California, Tulare
9 county, and I strongly oppose this bill on behalf
10 of myself and my family. Thank you.

11 MS. BARAJAS: Hi. My name is Juventina
12 Barajas, known as Tina, born in Mexico, but a
13 U.S. citizen. I oppose this bill.

14 We need to be fair and I believe it's
15 just going to cause more problems. I oppose this
16 bill.

17 MS. VAUGHN: Hi. I'm Kirsty Vaughn. I'm
18 at Visalia, California, and I oppose this bill.

19 MS. SNYDER: My name is Valerie Snyder,
20 and I'm from Visalia, California, and I oppose
21 this bill.

22 MR. STAIB: Hi. I'm Troy Staib from
23 Exeter, California, and I oppose the waste of my
24 money, my tax dollars.

1 They seem like they keep going because
2 y'all keep taking more of them. I'd like to have
3 some of that back. And wasting that money on
4 doing these type -- this type of legislation is
5 unacceptable to me.

6 I'm opposed to it, obviously. And I
7 would like to see you guys focus on things that
8 are more pertinent to our day-to-day activities,
9 like reduce the cost of doing business in
10 California.

11 CHAIR PELLERIN: That is 30 seconds.
12 Thank you.

13 MR. BRUMLEY: My name is Tom Brumley, and
14 I'm here from Visalia, California.

15 I speak on behalf of the 30 -- 37 percent
16 of the GOP of California, and opposing this
17 legislation. And I believe it's a waste of time.

18 And I don't understand how you guys can
19 be in favor or even see it manageable where
20 you're trying to get back at what Texas is doing.
21 Thank you.

22 CHAIR PELLERIN: Next speaker.

23 MS. BRUMLEY: Hi. My name is Jessica
24 Brumley from Visalia, California, and I

1 absolutely oppose this bill as there's way better
2 ways to spend our tax dollars. Thank you.

3 MS. ESCOBEDO: Ladies and gentlemen, my
4 name is Judy Escobedo. I'm from Visalia,
5 California. I'm here as a citizen of this state,
6 and I would like to make sure that you understand
7 that I vehemently oppose this bill.

8 We chose, we voted for this bill. We
9 voted for this state to have a nonpartisan
10 commission so that we could pick our politicians,
11 not have our politicians pick our voters. So I'm
12 hoping--

13 CHAIR PELLERIN: That is 30 seconds.
14 Thank you.

15 MS. ESCOBEDO: Thank you.

16 MS. SYLVIA ESCOBEDO: Hi, ladies and
17 gentlemen. My name is Sylvia Escobedo, and I'm
18 originally from Texas. moved here back in '64.
19 and we stayed here because we love California.
20 But lately, I'm thinking I need to move back to
21 Texas. Anyway, I greatly oppose this bill.

22 MS. SANTIAGO: My name is Maria Santiago,
23 Visalia, California. Strongly oppose the bill.
24 And I tell you right now, you think you're going
25 to get away with something, but don't forget you

1 do answer -- you will answer to God and God
2 Almighty.

3 Leave the children alone and leave our
4 money alone. Use our money for the right things,
5 not your own desires. Thank you.

6 MS. MORRIS: Hi. I'm Carmen Morris from
7 Tulare County, and I strongly oppose this bill.

8 MS. PIERCE: Good morning. Thank you for
9 hearing us today.

10 My name is Rachelle Pierce. I'm from the
11 Visalia Republican Women. I'm a former member of
12 the California PTA Board of Managers. I'm a
13 retired military spouse, mother of three college
14 students, and a proud native Texan. I oppose
15 this bill.

16 Your everyday constituent is confused
17 about where their district is, who their
18 representative is. I've been working on the
19 ground. People cannot tell me these things. And
20 I think that redistricting would actually make it
21 even worse. Thank you so much for hearing us
22 today.

23 CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you.

1 MS. BABB: Hi. My name is Gail Babb.
2 I'm from Visalia, California, and I strongly
3 oppose this bill.

4 MS. MORLAKE: I am Marla Morlake. I was
5 bred and born in Southern California. Moved to
6 Visalia about 20 years ago. And I strongly
7 oppose this bill.

8 MS. ESCARSEGA: My name is Edie
9 Escarsega. I'm from Visalia, born and raised
10 there, Tulare County. I'm representing all of
11 the Central Valley also. Strongly oppose this
12 bill.

13 MR. GALVAN: My name is Gilbert Galvan
14 from Visalia, California, Tulare County. As the
15 famous words as Greta Thunberg, listen to me.
16 Listen to me.

17 How dare you. How dare every one of you
18 guys for trying to pass this bill. Shame on all
19 of you. Shame, shame, shame. I oppose this
20 bill. Thank you.

21 MS. GALVAN: Hi. My name is Evelyn
22 Galvan. I'm from Tulare, California, and I
23 oppose this bill strongly also.

1 MR. SHAFFER: Jim Shaffer, native
2 Californian, Republican taxpayer, live in Taft,
3 California, and I strongly oppose this bill.

4 MS. DARLING: Faith Darling, Bakersfield,
5 Kern County.

6 And I have been speaking with a lot of
7 Democrats that are -- I guess you call them
8 fence-riders. And so many of them are very
9 confused as the rest of us. And they are getting
10 help from a lot of us because they didn't sign up
11 for this either.

12 So just to let you know, you think you
13 have a lot of votes on your side and you really
14 don't. I strongly oppose the redistricting.

15 MR. KAUFMAN: Scott Kaufman, Howard
16 Jarvis Taxpayers Association. We supported
17 independent redistricting on the ballot and we
18 will defend it when it's on the ballot. We
19 oppose this measure. Thank you.

20 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Lance Christensen,
21 California Policy Center. The one thing I love
22 about this place is we can actually have a debate
23 when it's allowed.

1 When I started in this building 20 years
2 ago, my boss said, I may not like the results or
3 the outcome, but I appreciate the process.

4 And what we've seen today is a show -- a
5 circus and a show trial. So I hope the people of
6 California see through this. And we oppose this
7 redistricting effort. Thank you.

8 MS. RAMOS: Good morning. My name is
9 Sandra Ramos. I'm also from Visalia, California.
10 And I strongly oppose this bill because it's
11 wrong and should never have even come to this,
12 you know.

13 And also, because it's going to cost
14 taxpayer money. Use the money on something good
15 and useful. Don't waste your time on this.
16 Thank you.

17 MR. RAMOS: Good morning and God bless
18 you all. My name is Daniel Ramos from Legacy
19 Church, Visalia, California. I'd like to say
20 that I strongly oppose this bill.

21 I strongly oppose the nonsense of the
22 leadership of Gavin Newsom and all the Democratic
23 leaders, that they have nothing good to do except
24 to drive people out of California because they

1 have no substance to them. We need to have
2 common sense again in government, so I --

3 CHAIR PELLERIN: That is 30 seconds.
4 Thank you.

5 MR. RAMOS: Thank you.

6 CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you.

7 MR. FRIEND: Good morning, Madam Chair,
8 honorable Members. Michael Friend, native
9 Californian.

10 I was always brought up to believe that
11 two wrongs do not make a right. I strongly
12 oppose this bill and the blatant hypocrisy. What
13 a joke.

14 MR. JOHNSON: My name is Bernie Johnson.
15 I'm a resident here. I'm born and raised here in
16 California. And I oppose this bill.

17 MS. JACKSON: My name is Jennifer
18 Jackson. I'm from Burbank, California. And I'm
19 here to speak for the 16,000 people that wrote
20 in, took their time to write comments.

21 And you don't have the time to look at
22 them and you won't put them in as part of this
23 meeting. That's despicable. I am strongly
24 opposed to this bill. Thank you.

1 MS. SANDOVAL: Hello, I'm Lynn Sandoval
2 from Hemet in Riverside County. Strongly
3 opposing this whole measure.

4 This is my first time in Sacramento and
5 observing what goes on here, and I also am really
6 frustrated by seeing how you're silencing the
7 voices.

8 And it's a huge waste of money. How do
9 we have this kind of money to waste at a time
10 like this in California when so much is getting
11 cut? Thank you.

12 MR. SANDOVAL: Hi, Mr. Berman.

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Good to see you.

14 MR. SANDOVAL: Hello. My name is Rudy
15 Sandoval, and I'm from Hemet, California, a
16 native Californian.

17 And I drove all the way from Hemet just
18 to see what a rig operation you guys run over
19 here in Sacramento, and I just want to thank you
20 for proving me right. Thank you. And I do
21 totally oppose this bill.

22 MR. KROLL: Good morning. My name is
23 David Kroll. I am from San Diego, California.
24 And I strongly oppose this bill.

1 And this is highly, highly unpopular.
2 And you guys are actually doing us a favor, so
3 thank you, because people are going to come out
4 en masse against this. Have a great day. God
5 bless.

6 MS. KIRKENDALL: Hi. My name is Deborah
7 Kirkendall. I'm from Hilmar, Merced County.

8 And I first want to thank you for this
9 honor. My dad and my husband, a disabled army
10 veteran -- sorry -- with brain damage because
11 they fought for our country, I get to come and
12 speak before you, and I thank you for that.
13 That's an honor.

14 But I want to tell you, my husband with
15 brain damage, he knows this is wrong, and I'm
16 here to say no for me and for him. Thank you for
17 the honor to give my word.

18 MS. MINOR: Bella Minor with Central
19 Valley Republican Party. And I strongly oppose
20 this bill. And shame on everyone who is a
21 support for this bill.

22 MS. LAU: Hi. I'm Catherine Lau from
23 Tracy, California in San Joaquin County, and I
24 represent Central Valley Impact Republicans, as
25 well as Jim Shoemaker for Congress.

1 And as a native Californian, fourth
2 generation, I am just appalled that you would
3 take this opportunity to try to redistrict and
4 not even -- in less than 24 hours, and not even
5 read the bill. It's really, truly appalling, and
6 I'm really saddened to hear this. And I strongly
7 oppose this.

8 CHAIR PELLERIN: That's 30 seconds.
9 Thank you.

10 MS. LAU: Thank you.

11 MR. BONILLA: Good evening, Committee.
12 My name is Max Bonilla. I'm from Sacramento,
13 California.

14 I'm a taxpayer who would definitely love
15 to see our money going to better things. Two
16 hundred and thirty million could definitely do
17 things like helping rebuild the Palisades, or
18 communities that have been impacted by recent
19 fire -- wildfires, but not this.

20 Not this political gerrymandering. Not
21 this political posturing. Not these ridiculous
22 talking points by Governor Gavin Newsom. Thank
23 you very much.

24 DONNELLA: My name is Donnella, and I
25 oppose.

1 MR. GREGORY: Good morning. I'm Dennis
2 Gregory. I'm from Eastvale, here in California.

3 And if you people weren't suffering so
4 much from Trump derangement syndrome, you'd see
5 the right thing and you'd understand what needs
6 to be done in this state and this country. Open
7 your eyes before it's too late.

8 MS. ANGELI: Good morning. Olivia Angeli
9 from Elk Grove. Strongly oppose this.

10 MS. PLENT: Good afternoon. My name is
11 Lena Plent from Chino Hills, California. I
12 strongly oppose this bill.

13 MR. KNUTSEN: Good morning. Lars
14 Knutsen, El Dorado County.

15 There's no political solution to this
16 spiritual problem. And I've been praying for
17 Gavin Newsom since he was the mayor.

18 And I'd encourage all of us to take a
19 look at our own hearts. Be led by the true
20 spirit of the living God. And I just ask God to
21 bless you. May his wisdom flow, and tell the
22 devil to get out in Jesus' name.

23 MR. NIIMI: My name is Riley Niimi. I'm
24 from Temecula, California.

1 And I want to tell you to oppose this
2 because Republicans in California are already
3 greatly underrepresented. We only have nine
4 congressional seats out of 52, which means we
5 have less than 20 percent representation in
6 Congress, although Republicans make up 40 percent
7 of the State of California. So thank you.

8 MS. ALLERS: Good morning. I'm Priscilla
9 Allers from Montrose, California in Los Angeles
10 county, and I strongly oppose this Bill.

11 MR. PANTOJA: My name is Adan Pantoja
12 from Riverside, and I strongly oppose this Bill.

13 MS. SOPHIA PANTOJA: My name is Sophia
14 Bell from -- my name is Sophia Pantoja from
15 Riverside. California, and I strongly oppose
16 this Bill.

17 MS. CECILIA PANTOJA: My name is Cecilia
18 Pantoja, and I strongly oppose this Bill.

19 MS. ANNETTE PANTOJA: My name is Annette
20 Pantoja, and I'm from Riverside, and I strongly
21 oppose this Bill.

22 MR. JOHNSON: My name is Timothy Johnson
23 from Fontana. There is no wisdom and no
24 understanding and no counsel against the Lord. I
25 strongly oppose this bill.

1 MR. SHOEMAKER: I'm Jim Shoemaker, and
2 I'm a candidate for the 9th Congressional
3 District, so I do oppose this Bill.

4 I see that -- what's happening. We need
5 to go back and let the Commission handle all
6 these things. I'd appreciate you guys to vote
7 no.

8 MR. SCHULTZ: Hello, Dave Schultz,
9 Bakersfield, California. I oppose this bill.

10 I don't understand why we are so involved
11 that we have to redistrict our districts because
12 something that is happening halfway across the
13 country.

14 I oppose this bill. I think we should
15 pay attention to what is really important to the
16 people of California.

17 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. Seeing no
18 witnesses in opposition, we'll bring it back to
19 the dais.

20 Members, any questions, comments?

21 Assembly Member Bennett.

22 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: Thank you very
23 much, Madam Chair. I appreciate the indulgence.
24 I have nine points. I'm going to read them. I'd

1 like to speak them all, but I want to make sure I
2 actually get this said properly.

3 And the first point is, the fundamental
4 question I think in front of us is who should
5 have control of the power, the vast power of the
6 federal government.

7 And our founding fathers agreed hundreds
8 of years ago on a special form of democracy
9 designed to protect our democracy from power
10 grabs. They created the rules and norms for how
11 we compete for power. That's the fundamental
12 problem that democracies are created to solve.

13 We could have it just be military might.
14 Whoever's strongest, they get the power. Not in
15 the United States. We created these rules, and
16 we're a rule of law, not men. We have checks and
17 balances. We have a free press. And we created
18 all kinds of historical norms that kept us all
19 agreeing we would follow those rules rather than
20 go to war with each other over power.

21 Democracy requires many of these critical
22 components to work. Not just one of them, but
23 all of these critical components need to work for
24 democracy to thrive.

1 Autocrats around the world today have
2 learned to grab power by weakening these
3 democratic institutions, rules, and norms.
4 Weakening democracy by attacking and ignoring
5 those rules and norms by intimidation, by deceit,
6 by militarization of our civilian life. Those
7 are all ways you weaken those norms that we have
8 to have if we want to transfer power peacefully,
9 and here in the United States.

10 Autocrats count on democratic advocates
11 to play by the old rules while they grab power
12 using their new rules. And I want to repeat
13 that. Autocrats count on democracy advocates to
14 play by the old rules while they grab power using
15 their new rules.

16 It's a false scenario to say we can win
17 simply by working harder, right? While autocrats
18 grab power using their old rules.

19 A few decades ago, Russia was a
20 democracy. Today, democratic advocates, no
21 matter how hard they work, have no chance of
22 voting Putin out of power. He will kill off any
23 of the stronger opponents that he has.

24 Many of us prefer the old rules. We
25 prefer the agreement we all had to play by those

1 rules, right? But when autocrats change the
2 rules and the norms that we are using to decide
3 who has power, we can either fight back or we can
4 potentially permanently lose the ability ever to
5 fight back again in the future.

6 That is the question in front of us, in
7 spite of all kinds of other distractions we will
8 have. What are the rules and norms for how we
9 transfer power?

10 This is an attempt to grab control of the
11 power of the House of Representatives with
12 redistricting and permanently potentially grab
13 that control.

14 That is too big of a risk for us to say,
15 well, we like doing it the other way. We like
16 the more get along, everybody follow democratic
17 way. We simply don't have that choice today.

18 I strongly support this bill. I
19 appreciate the Speaker's leadership. I
20 appreciate the Chair's leadership in bringing
21 this forward. Thank you very much.

22 CHAIR PELLERIN: Assembly Member Tangipa.

23 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Okay. I hope
24 you bear with me because I spent a lot of time
25 trying to catch up, trying to read, trying to

1 inform myself as much as possible. Because we've
2 had so little time, so little time that even the
3 presenters stated that they didn't even read the
4 bill.

5 And I would hope that the authors or --
6 don't hold -- or the other co-authors on this
7 bill, I hope they don't hold the same sentiment
8 that the people of California don't even deserve
9 a read on a bill.

10 I have a few technical questions,
11 actually. And first and foremost, I do want to
12 say thank you to the opposition testimony. I can
13 say this, what we've seen today is, I know I'm a
14 conservative, I know I'm a Republican, I know
15 that we have differences, but the maps that both
16 of you worked on, especially in the beginning,
17 too, did give representation.

18 Now, I can say that I did not vote on the
19 fair Commission mainly because I was 12 years old
20 at the time, but I respected it. I truly
21 respected it. And a lot of the work and the
22 deliberation -- because I was one of those kids
23 that was overly, overly into, you know, our
24 elected leaders. And a big portion of that is
25 because I grew up right down the street from the

1 Capitol, you know, in one of the poorest
2 communities in the entire state of California.

3 And actually one of the roughest gang-
4 affiliated communities. And it was those gang
5 members that actually protected me, paid for me
6 to get into this position.

7 And now I can proudly say, as the first
8 Polynesian individual ever elected to the State
9 of California, you know, t was done by an
10 Independent Redistricting Commission that
11 actually believed in the efficacy of what this
12 state can be.

13 And there's a lot that we've heard today
14 of testimony, you know, and we've seen a true
15 bipartisan coalition here just trying to protect
16 because California should lead the way.

17 When other states decide to do something
18 else, we shouldn't react to them. We should
19 prove by example that we can do this better.
20 That we create the foundations for the rest of
21 the nation. Because it's supposed to go, as
22 California goes, the nation. That's -- we've
23 lost that. And that's what we've seen and heard
24 today.

1 I mean, we can't even read our own bill,
2 but we'll decide to present it and vote on it,
3 too. That's insanity. And that's heartbreaking
4 to the rest of Californians.

5 Because, again, I was one of those kids
6 who just obsessed that the policymakers in this
7 building actually cared about the people of
8 California.

9 But how can you say you actually care
10 about the people of California if you didn't even
11 read it, you know? And that breaks my heart
12 because I spend so much time on this. Because
13 I'll work myself to death trying, trying, trying
14 to make sure -- I didn't ask a question, but I
15 just wanted to make sure --

16 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: No. But you're
17 misrepresenting what I said, Mr. Tangipa. And
18 you're doing it over and over and over again.

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: And simply --

20 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: And I will
21 correct the record when it's my time.

22 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: I'm just
23 asking --

24 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. Assembly Member
25 Tangipa, let's let --

1 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yeah.

2 CHAIR PELLERIN: -- Assembly Member
3 Berman speak.

4 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But I was --
5 no.

6 CHAIR PELLERIN: Tangipa, let's --

7 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Go ahead. Just
8 know that --

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But I just
10 wasn't --

11 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: -- Tangipa is
12 absolutely misrepresenting what I said over and
13 over again.

14 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Okay. Do you
15 want me to (inaudible)?

16 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Which he needs
17 to do to try to justify his position on this
18 bill.

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: I can.

20 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: And I understand
21 that.

22 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But you
23 stated --

24 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Go ahead.

1 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- you
2 supported it prior to seeing it. Is that not
3 what you said verbatim?

4 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: What I said is
5 that there were discussions about the concept of
6 the bill and I absolutely support those concepts.

7 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Prior to
8 reading them, right?

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: The bill is five
10 pages long. I'm sorry it took you so long to
11 read it.

12 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Okay.

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I'm sorry
14 that --

15 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: And I
16 understand.

17 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: -- yesterday
18 morning was too long --

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: That's okay.

20 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: -- for you to be
21 able to read a five-page bill.

22 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: That's all
23 right.

24 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: But we discuss
25 as legislators, right?

1 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yeah. Uh-huh.

2 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: We discuss
3 concepts. We discuss ideas. We decide whether
4 or not we're going to support things.

5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Well, because
6 this bill is attached to so many --

7 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: So I don't
8 understand why that's a new concept for you.

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: That's okay.

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: But I'm glad
11 that you took 36 hours to --

12 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yeah.

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: -- read a five-
14 page bill.

15 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: It does.

16 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: And --

17 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: It does take me
18 time.

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: And I welcome a
20 debate.

21 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: It does take me
22 time because I will take 36 hours to read a five-
23 page bill for 40 million people in this state
24 because they deserve it. Because they deserve
25 it.

1 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: It's five pages,
2 Mr. Tangipa.

3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: That's okay.
4 And those five pages --

5 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. We're not
6 debating the length of the time it takes to read
7 five pages. Let's stick to the substance of the
8 bill, please.

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Exactly. Thank
10 you, Madam Chair. So, truly, I appreciate it
11 all.

12 Some of my technical questions, too. The
13 lawyer that is here, so you have gone through the
14 bill, right? You have read the language. It
15 probably took you -- you got through it a lot
16 faster than I did, I assume.

17 Can I ask you who is -- and actually,
18 we're going to become really good friends. I
19 hope you know that. Because who is paying your
20 retainer?

21 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Excuse me, Madam
22 Chair. The Assembly Member seems to be making
23 veiled threats to my witness, which I don't
24 appreciate. Well, I don't know why he's talking

1 about becoming really good friends. Let's just
2 ask some questions and get some answers.

3 CHAIR PELLERIN: If we could definitely
4 stick to just asking the questions --

5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yes.

6 CHAIR PELLERIN: -- through the Chair.
7 Thank you.

8 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Well, because
9 he is here to answer the legal question --

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Doesn't mean
11 he's going to be your friend.

12 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Okay. That's
13 fine.

14 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Madam Chair, are we
15 just going to -- are we going to allow my
16 colleague to ask questions, or is this going to
17 be drawn out even longer?

18 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: But I just would
19 like to --

20 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I don't know.
21 You did this (inaudible).

22 CHAIR PELLERIN: It's kind of going back
23 and forth there. Let's have one person speak at
24 a time.

1 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Mr. Berman, I
2 asked you to respect us to ask these questions.

3 CHAIR PELLERIN: Assembly Member Tangipa,
4 please ask your question to the witness.

5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: As long as you
6 don't make veiled threats to my witnesses, that's
7 no problem at all.

8 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: A threat to
9 (inaudible).

10 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. Let's just let a
11 Assembly Member Tangipa ask his question, please.

12 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Well, who is
13 funding the retainer for you to be here, and how
14 long have you seen the language in this bill?
15 When did you first get it and when did you start
16 seeing it? Because I did not get it till
17 yesterday. So how much time did you have to
18 review this?

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Go ahead.

20 MR. SILVA: Mr. Tangipa, I'm here to
21 answer technical questions about how the bill
22 works. I'm not here to talk -- reveal attorney-
23 client privileged information about the
24 representation I provide, or anything that went

1 into the work product. I can answer questions
2 about the face of the measure.

3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Well, just for
4 me, since it takes me so long to read, I just
5 wanted to know how long you had to read it, and
6 if you as a representative --

7 CHAIR PELLERIN: Let's stick to the
8 merits of the bill. Let's ask questions about --

9 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Isn't there -- this
10 is back for comment.

11 CHAIR PELLERIN: How long it takes
12 somebody to read a bill is not --

13 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: (Inaudible) covered
14 by attorney-client privilege.

15 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: (Inaudible.) We
16 consult with people before we introduce those
17 bills.

18 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay.

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: This isn't a
20 foreign concept. This isn't a lack of
21 transparency.

22 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: So you admitted
23 that --

24

1 CHAIR PELLERIN: Assembly Member Tangipa,
2 if you have a question about the merits of the
3 bill, please ask it.

4 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Okay. Then
5 we'll go into even more of the merits.

6 So under the new redistricting proposal,
7 in a lot of these -- and the main reason why I'm
8 asking for so much time is because the questions
9 that I prepped yesterday when I saw this all
10 changed because the maps changed at 8:00 p.m.
11 last night.

12 And I think that it's well within the
13 process to say like I should know -- the maps
14 changed at eight o'clock, at 8:00 p.m. last
15 night.

16 CHAIR PELLERIN: The maps were released
17 on Friday, I believe, and they have not changed.

18 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: They change per
19 the census tract.

20 Madam Chair, the fact that you don't know
21 that should cause worry to everybody.

22 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Assembly Member
23 Tangipa --

1 CHAIR PELLERIN: I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

2 8:00 a.m. yesterday. Sorry. Sorry. Not

3 8:00 p.m. 8:00 a.m. yesterday.

4 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: They changed at

5 8:00 p.m. last night. There was a change at

6 8:00 p.m.

7 CHAIR PELLERIN: My understanding, it was

8 8:00 a.m. But --

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I am eager to

10 hear your questions --

11 CHAIR PELLERIN: What are your

12 questions --

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: -- in regards to

14 whatever changes there were to the maps.

15 CHAIR PELLERIN: Regardless, what is your

16 question to the merits of the bill?

17 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Okay. Well,

18 that Clovis would be split into three different

19 congressional districts. Not anymore, because

20 the last change that I got as of 2 hours ago on

21 the new maps, now they are kept into one

22 district.

23 Can you explain the rationale for

24 splitting up Clovis residents, thus weakening

25 their voice?

1 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I think that
2 would be a better question for the authors of the
3 bill that actually has to do with the maps.

4 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Well --

5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: My bill has to
6 do with putting -- or the Speaker's bill --
7 constitutional amendment has to do with giving
8 voters the opportunity to have their voices heard
9 and whether or not we will have a special
10 election on November 4th.

11 So I am not prepared to speak to the
12 specific iterations of the maps, but I believe
13 somebody will be presenting that bill after this
14 ACA, who hopefully will be better prepared to
15 discuss individual line drawing of communities.

16 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Well, the maps
17 are pertinent to this ACA because they're all
18 synonymous.

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: But the ACA is
20 to give voters the voice and an opportunity to
21 have their voices heard on whether or not they
22 want to have a mid-decade redistricting.

23 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Can you speak
24 to the cost of the ACA and how much it's going to
25 cost the taxpayers of California, then?

1 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: About the same
2 as the recall --

3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: How much is
4 that?

5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: -- that
6 Republicans put forward.

7 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: How much is
8 that?

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I believe
10 it's --

11 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Well, but that
12 recall was done by the citizens' initiative. It
13 wasn't done by this body. Fundamentally
14 (inaudible).

15 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: But the answer
16 remains the same, that it's the same cost. Your
17 question was what's the cost, and I said it's the
18 same as the recall. Doesn't matter who put it on
19 the ballot.

20 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But how could
21 you say its the same as the recall --

22 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: (Inaudible)
23 answer.

24 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- since
25 2021 -- or 2021 to where we're at now, we've seen

1 40 percent inflation rates. So is it 40 percent
2 more with the tariffs?

3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Well, I mean,
4 with the tariffs that Trump just put into effect,
5 it's probably more than 40 percent inflation
6 rates.

7 But I believe the cost of the special
8 election is --

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Mr. Berman, I'd
10 ask you to speak the merits --

11 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: -- approximately
12 \$200 million.

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- of the
14 question that I asked. Just how much does it
15 cost?

16 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: (Inaudible.)

17 CHAIR PELLERIN: Mr. Tangipa, excuse me.
18 Could you just let him answer the question? He's
19 doing so. Just close your mouth, open your ears,
20 listen to him for a second.

21 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Did you
22 (inaudible)? I just said I believe it's
23 approximately \$200 million.

1 CHAIR PELLERIN: We all need to listen to
2 each other. So when someone else is speaking,
3 let's have one speaker at a time.

4 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: So why do I
5 have to close my mouth when somebody else
6 interrupts me?

7 CHAIR PELLERIN: I'm just saying -- no.
8 I'm saying it to both of you.

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Do you not find
10 that --

11 CHAIR PELLERIN: I'm going to say that to
12 both of you. I'm going to say that to both of
13 you. Please refrain from speaking when the other
14 person is speaking.

15 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Thank you, Madam
16 Chair.

17 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Ask the
18 question.

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: How much does
20 this cost?

21 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Is there a
22 actual fiscal analysis on how much this will cost
23 the State of California in its current 2025-2026
24 cost. Not to the 2021. You can't -- it doesn't
25 make sense.

1 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Well, I think
2 the recall was approximately \$200 million, so
3 this will be over \$200 million.

4 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Okay.

5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I think
6 somewhere between 200 and \$250 million.

7 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Okay. And so
8 with a rolling and looming \$20 billion deficit
9 predicted by the LAO all the way until 2028, you
10 believe that it's within the right that the State
11 of California and this legislative body, not the
12 people who put it on the initiative -- when it
13 came to the recall election, that was done
14 through a citizens' initiative. Nobody here did
15 that.

16 This is being done by us, the legislators
17 here. Hang on.

18 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: By all means,
19 please.

20 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: So --

21 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I'll let you
22 pontificate as long as you want.

23 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yeah. Thank
24 you. I appreciate that.

1 Is, do you believe that that 200 -- and
2 we can adjust cost for inflation -- \$300 million
3 is what a state in a massive deficit and a
4 rolling deficit year over year predicted by the
5 LAO is what this state should be spending money
6 on?

7 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Can I answer?

8 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yes, sir.

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Thank you,
10 Mr. Tangipa.

11 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Thank you.

12 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: So, absolutely.
13 And the reason for that is because the damage
14 that this Republican Congress has done to the
15 State of California makes \$250 million looks like
16 couch cushion change.

17 One of my communities that I represent,
18 Santa Clara county, is going to voters -- to the
19 ballot to try to recoup some of the over
20 \$1 billion, over \$1 billion just to the County of
21 Santa Clara, to their health system because of
22 Trump's big, beautiful bill and the decimation
23 that that is having that all nine Republican
24 Members of California's congressional delegation
25 voted on like a bunch of feckless followers.

1 No matter the damage that is doing to
2 their communities, the billions of dollars that
3 the Republican Congress is taking away, and the
4 cost that that's having for Californians and
5 California taxpayers.

6 And so that's just Santa Clara county,
7 two million people, and it's over a \$1 billion
8 hit that their healthcare system is taking that
9 the poorest residents of Santa Clara county rely
10 on just to get their basic healthcare. Over
11 \$1 billion. Imagine the cost that this
12 Republican Congress is costing the entire State
13 of California.

14 So do I think that we should spend
15 \$200 million for the opportunity to avoid
16 billions of dollars in Republican hits to our
17 budget? I absolutely do. And I'm curious to see
18 if voters will agree with me.

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA:

20 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Thank you.

21 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: The biggest
22 thing that I'm looking at -- and, again, we've
23 had very, very little time, very little time.

24 The question for the Members that were on
25 the Citizens Redistricting Commission, how much

1 time on average did you spend when it comes to
2 developing maps?

3 MS. RAYA: Well, we were the first
4 Commission. And because the Voters Act for
5 Congress -- voted First Act for Congress passed
6 pretty late, we got the congressional map along
7 with the state legislative maps, and then we had
8 to do it one month earlier. So I think in total
9 we had seven-and-a-half months.

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Seven-and-a-
11 half months.

12 MS. RAYA: Yeah. Which we worked pretty,
13 pretty long hours to meet the deadlines.

14 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: How many
15 meetings do you think you can estimate around?

16 MS. RAYA: We had about a hundred
17 meetings. Some of them were dedicated public
18 input hearings and some of them were business
19 meetings. We always had public input available
20 at those meetings.

21 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Thank you. And
22 how many hours do you think?

23 MS. DYE: It would be the same.

24 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yeah.

25 MS. RAYA: Yeah.

1 MS. DYE: The Commission was very
2 diligent in all Members participating to the
3 fullest.

4 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: What do you
5 think were some of the best protections that the
6 independent redistricting, you know, really
7 implemented, you know, some of the rules and
8 stipulations? Can you go over that?

9 Because when -- you know, I just have
10 very, very large, very large worries, especially
11 with this ACA, that not only does it open us up
12 for litigation just simply in the way that it's
13 written, but that we're going to do this and
14 then -- you know, some of us believe that we
15 should spend hundreds of millions of dollars for
16 something that will be sued and will be
17 challenged, or could be implemented, and then --
18 I mean, we don't even, it won't even work by
19 getting this onto the ballot.

20 And the big reason why I say that is
21 because when it states here that redistricting in
22 all the other states, so there's a portion of the
23 bill that talks about that this won't kick into
24 effect unless Texas, Florida and all the other
25 states, you know, don't redistrict unless court

1 ordered. Unless court ordered. That's in the
2 bill.

3 Texas on the 7th of July got a DOJ
4 notice, stated that they had a -- they had to do
5 something different. So if they eventually get a
6 court order, and we come back to this, we're
7 going to do this ACA and it's not even going to
8 be able to be implemented because the rules and
9 stipulations under this ACA change that.

10 So the protections under the Independent
11 Redistricting Commission, can you speak to the
12 merits of that?

13 MS. DYE: So when we talk about the CRC,
14 we talk about its independence, its transparency
15 and the fact that it's community centered. So
16 the independence is that it's a multipartisan
17 Commission consisting of five Democrats, five
18 Republicans and four Independents.

19 And as you may have heard me mention, we
20 rotated the chair and the vice chair, so that
21 every meeting we switched it up so that no party
22 was in control at any time.

23 For transparency, everything we did was
24 in the light of day. We drew lines in real time
25 when we could, especially during the refinement

1 period. Every map that we asked -- we directed
2 our line drawing consultants to create was
3 immediately shared with the public.

4 People were allowed to comment as these
5 maps are being presented, and we would receive
6 that input and put it in the public input file.

7 The current Commission, by the way, has a
8 very nice dashboard showing all of the public
9 comment they got and interactive. Wish we had
10 that technology back in 2011.

11 And then, finally, that it's a very
12 community centered process. So the fact that we
13 had a hundred meetings that anyone could come and
14 testify, or they could email. We were getting,
15 you know, tweets at the time, and, you know,
16 letters, hand-drawn maps, all kinds of different
17 public testimony that we all worked really hard
18 to read.

19 We had over, I think, 22,000 public
20 comments in our cycle. I think the current
21 Commission had about 35,000 public comments,
22 thanks to new technology. So that was a very
23 critical part, was this collaboration and
24 interaction with the public.

1 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yeah. I spent
2 a lot of time just listening into these
3 commissions, and I could tell you that I truly,
4 truly thank you for the sacrifice that you made
5 to sit on there. Because, I mean, I did it from
6 a phone and I got to listen because I cared about
7 my community. This is before any political
8 aspirations, any, any goals, just to listen into
9 the Commission.

10 And it's something that I can say, you
11 know, as they drew the maps in real time, that's
12 a process, right? That the maps have to be drawn
13 in public view and you can see the lines. That's
14 part of the Redistricting Commission, right?

15 MS. DYE: Yeah. Just to be clear, the
16 initial maps, you know, we would give direction
17 in public to our line drawing consultants because
18 took a lot of computer crunching.

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Uh-huh.

20 MS. DYE: And they would come back and
21 present them to make sure it was consistent with
22 our direction. And those were available for the
23 public to view and comment on.

1 And when they were official draft maps,
2 they had to be posted for 14 days with no
3 changes.

4 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: One of the
5 coolest things that I got to see is like which
6 communities would come out, and they'd all say,
7 keep us together and do all this. And just to
8 see like the people of California really to just
9 say, like, have a vested interest.

10 CHAIR PELLERIN: Yeah. I think there's
11 no doubt that we support the work of the
12 Independent Redistricting Commission.

13 But if we could bring the conversation
14 back to the merits of the bill, that would be
15 great.

16 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Could you
17 continue on some of the transparency portions of
18 that and how the transparency is different
19 compared to the bill that we're seeing today?

20 MS. DYE: Well, so live map drawing,
21 interactive map drawing, we were not allowed to
22 discuss redistricting matters outside of a public
23 meeting, so commissioners were barred from
24 discussing anything not in public.

1 CHAIR PELLERIN: And I'd like to bring in
2 a Assembly Member Bennett. You have a question?

3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: Yeah, I just
4 have a question, and that is that, you know, when
5 you watch committees at the national level, and
6 oftentimes committees have some kind of time
7 limit on each member in terms of the amount of
8 time they get to talk, or else literally we could
9 keep going and asking more questions about
10 transparency and more questions about
11 transparency.

12 I'm just raising the question. I would
13 propose that this issue may be one of those ones
14 where we need to have some kind of time limit. I
15 want it to be fair, want everybody to have -- but
16 there's -- it is appropriate for legislative
17 bodies to at some point in time identify so a
18 Member can focus on their most important
19 questions before their time limit is up.

20 CHAIR PELLERIN: Absolutely. We're
21 trying to bring the conversation back to the
22 merits of the bill.

23 There's no doubt that we honor and
24 appreciate the work that you've done for our
25 state, but these are very uncertain and different

1 times now, and we're no longer governing in a
2 democracy. So we are having to move quickly in
3 order to meet the timelines of doing this work
4 and giving the voters an opportunity to vote on
5 whether they support these maps or not.

6 Does any other Member have a question on
7 the content of the bill?

8 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But, Madam
9 Chair, I'm not done yet.

10 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. Okay.

11 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: And so I
12 know --

13 CHAIR PELLERIN: What is your question
14 about the merits of the bill?

15 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yeah, yeah.
16 It's mainly I'm just trying to highlight the
17 transparency differences between the ACA and
18 that, so -- and I think it's --

19 CHAIR PELLERIN: Let's focus on the
20 merits of this bill, on what's being proposed
21 today.

22 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Is a comparison
23 to the current iteration of what we do now to
24 what we're trying to do not to the merits of this
25 bill? Is that what you're saying?

1 CHAIR PELLERIN: I think you've made your
2 point on that. And if we can ask any other
3 questions about ACA 8, please do so.

4 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: And I
5 completely agree, and I understand. And, you
6 know, I mean, I just tried to get a time limit on
7 me for something that we just heard had thousands
8 of hours of negotiation, thousands and thousands
9 and thousands of hours, and community meetings,
10 hundreds of meetings. And now I'm being
11 attempted to stop with 20 minutes of questioning.

12 CHAIR PELLERIN: I'm just --

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Does that not
14 worry us?

15 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: Madam Chair --

16 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But when it
17 comes to the transparency --

18 CHAIR PELLERIN: Excuse me.

19 Assembly Member Bennett.

20 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: It is always
21 appropriate for the Chair to identify when an
22 appropriate time limit has come. That's normal
23 procedure. So, yes, at some point in time. I'm
24 not saying it's 20 minutes. It's up to the
25 Chair.

1 But the issue should be how much time is
2 too much time for anybody to take to dominate so
3 that we can go on and do the legislative
4 business.

5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yeah.

6 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: So that
7 somebody doesn't abuse this privilege that we all
8 have to speak here.

9 CHAIR PELLERIN: Yes. We have a lot of
10 work to do and we want to keep the questions to
11 the content and merits of the bill.

12 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Okay. Well,
13 then I will continue, hopefully, Mr. Berman.

14 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: It's up to the
15 Chair.

16 CHAIR PELLERIN: Do you have another
17 question?

18 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: I do.

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Oh, perfect.

20 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay.

21 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Under the new
22 redistricting proposal, Fresno would be split
23 into four different congressional districts. How
24 does that benefit the City of Fresno?

1 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. Again, we're not
2 doing the content of the districts. This is
3 about the ACA 8. That is, putting the measure
4 before the voters to do a constitutional
5 amendment. That is what we're talking about
6 here.

7 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: ACA 8 is --

8 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: (Inaudible) the
9 other bill is going to be presented.

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: The contents of
11 the bill in ACA 8, it states AB 604 and the maps.

12 CHAIR PELLERIN: Uh-huh.

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: How is that not
14 pertinent to this?

15 CHAIR PELLERIN: Because I think we need
16 to be speaking to the author of that bill as far
17 as the map and the lines and what they're doing.

18 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: There's a
19 direct line between what can be done. So if --

20 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: Sorry. I guess
21 I was just --

22 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- if AB 604
23 doesn't pass, then ACA 8 no longer moves forward.
24 Because it can't, because it's written into the
25 legislation. I'm trying to understand.

1 CHAIR PELLERIN: Let's see if Assembly
2 Member Berman has a response.

3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I'll defer to
4 the authors of that bill when they present that
5 bill in front of this Committee, I'm guessing
6 around midnight, to give an opportunity to
7 discuss the specific line drawing of different
8 communities, like I mentioned about half an hour
9 ago.

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Okay.

11 CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you.

12 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: So when will
13 the public comments be released to the Members of
14 the Committee and -- okay.

15 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I'm sorry?

16 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: When will the
17 public comments be released to the members of the
18 public?

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: That's not a
20 question for me. That's up to the chair of the
21 Committee, so ...

22 CHAIR PELLERIN: We're following the
23 typical procedures for comments, and those will
24 be -- they're not -- they're public to our

1 Members, and then they will be made public after
2 the bill is processed.

3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Okay. How are
4 we supposed to vote on this, like when we haven't
5 even seen those public comments?

6 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Well, you have
7 the five-page bill in front of you, and so I
8 think the -- what you are voting on is the bill.
9 It is not the public comments.

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: So on that
11 five-page bill it states AB 604 and SB 280.

12 Okay. Yeah. It took me a little while
13 because. Those are longer than this one. It is.
14 Yeah.

15 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: So on that
16 five-page bill it states AB 604 and SB 280.
17 Those bills are hundreds of pages long. Since
18 they're attached to each other, have you read
19 those?

20 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I have not read
21 every page of those bills.

22 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Okay.

23 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Yeah.

24 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: It took me a
25 little while because --

1 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I bet. Those
2 are longer than this one.

3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: It is.

4 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Yeah.

5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: So, you know,
6 I'm just -- since they're attached to each
7 other --

8 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Yeah.

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- they cannot
10 pass without the other one not passing. I really
11 do think the merits of one or the other are very
12 important to that.

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Uh-huh.

14 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: And so is it
15 possible that these maps are struck down in
16 court, and we're about to spend hundreds of
17 millions of dollars because of the way that we've
18 done this with such urgency?

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I'm not prepared
20 to predict what the courts might do.

21 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: Point of order.
22 Point of order.

23 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. Yes.

1 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: Could I make a
2 motion that every Member's time speaking here is
3 limited to 25 minutes?

4 (Pause on the record.)

5 CHAIR PELLERIN: I'm trying to provide
6 opportunity for people to speak to the measures
7 and ask the questions that they have.

8 I know this is a very fast-moving
9 process. I've already explained the reason why
10 we are moving quickly on this issue. And I don't
11 want people to be abusing this opportunity to ask
12 pertinent questions related to the bills.

13 So give me one second here.

14 (Pause on the record.)

15 CHAIR PELLERIN: So I believe the
16 questions you've asked so far have been answered.
17 Do you have additional questions?

18 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yes, ma'am.

19 CHAIR PELLERIN: You may go ahead and ask
20 another one.

21 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Thank you.

22 Is there a work into the bill with the
23 fiscal cost of legal challenges?

24 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I'm sorry, say
25 that one more time.

1 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Is there a work
2 into the bill for legal challenges that are --
3 that I presume are going to show up left and
4 right?

5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Is there work in
6 the bill?

7 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Is there a --
8 when lawsuits --

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Happen.

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- happen --

11 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Yeah.

12 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- do we
13 have -- are we prepared for that with this ACA?

14 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: We have a very
15 robust Department of Justice that is prepared to
16 defend new laws that are passed by the
17 Legislature, yes.

18 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: The way that
19 the districts are drawn, you know, it really
20 worries me that it makes it possible for us to
21 not just spend the \$300 million to get this onto
22 the ballot, but then to open up our communities
23 and the State of California into more litigation.

1 So when the lawsuits happen at the local
2 county level as well, because they're split up,
3 who's going to pay for that?

4 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Well, actually,
5 a big distinction between these maps that were
6 drawn in California and the maps that are
7 currently being passed by the State of Texas, for
8 example, are California's maps strictly abide by
9 the Federal Voting Rights Act, which the Texas
10 maps don't.

11 And so we've actually put ourselves in a
12 very good position to defend the maps that have
13 been drawn because the Voting Rights Act and the
14 principles of the Voting Rights Act were taken
15 into very high consideration when those maps were
16 drawn.

17 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Well, that's
18 interesting. The statement that you made is that
19 Texas did not follow that.

20 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Correct.

21 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Okay.

22 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: It's bad.

23 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: So does that
24 mean that Texas has to redraw?

1 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: It depends on
2 what the courts do. I'm not a judge.

3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Okay.

4 CHAIR PELLERIN: Again, can we bring the
5 conversation back to the merits of ACA 8?

6 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: This bill is
7 written specifically triggering if Texas
8 redistricts.

9 CHAIR PELLERIN: Right.

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: So it's in the
11 bill. The name Texas is in the bill.

12 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: So is the
13 question if Texas -- if Texas's maps are thrown
14 out, would this move forward? Is that your
15 question?

16 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Well, maybe I
17 can ask -- I can ask your legal --

18 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I'll go ahead
19 and ask.

20 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- legal
21 counsel anyway.

22 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: But -- so the
23 question is, if -- just so I understand the
24 question --

25 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Uh-huh.

1 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: -- if Texas's
2 maps are determined to be unconstitutional by the
3 courts --

4 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Uh-huh.

5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: -- then would
6 California -- would that trigger, actually
7 trigger for the ACA? I think that's the
8 question.

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Well, it
10 actually states if they get a court order, it
11 doesn't trigger it.

12 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Well, that -- so
13 that was put in there, I believe, in regards to
14 some other states. Maybe Ohio, is it --

15 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yeah.

16 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: -- that --

17 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Florida.

18 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: -- has --

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yeah, Florida.

20 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: -- has some
21 different situations.

22 For Texas, that's the Legislature.
23 There's no court.

24 And I know you alluded earlier to the
25 federal Department of Justice. They're not a

1 court, even though I know Trump wants them to be.
2 And so that is not -- actually, when the DOJ
3 sends a letter to Texas, that's not a court
4 order.

5 But if -- I believe your question is, if
6 the Texas maps are thrown out by the courts,
7 would California -- and no other state has passed
8 a partisan gerrymander --

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yeah.

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: -- would
11 Texas -- would Californians move forward? Am I
12 understanding just the crux of the question?

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yes.

14 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Great.

15 Do you have thoughts on that?

16 MR. SILVA: The way the -- as you point
17 out, the way that the trigger works in the
18 measure is that it's only triggered if -- or it
19 would not be triggered if another state,
20 including Texas, is forced to redistrict -- is
21 required to redistrict by a federal court order,
22 so that's correct.

23 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: So Texas
24 decided to stop and then they got a court order.
25 We would put this on the ballot, spend

1 300 millions of dollars, and then we couldn't
2 even redistrict because of that work in, right?

3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Assembly Member,
4 I agree with you that I wish Texas wasn't doing
5 this. And, you know, this was not on my bingo
6 card a month ago when we broke for summer recess.

7 But, unfortunately, under the edict of
8 President Trump, Texas Republicans are rushing
9 through --

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: That's not
11 accurate.

12 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: -- a partisan
13 redistricting in --

14 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: I think there
15 was a lawsuit, Petteway v. --

16 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: -- in Texas.

17 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- Galveston
18 County --

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I mean, I just
20 ask for the same common courtesy --

21 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yeah.

22 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: -- that you
23 demanded. Thank you, sir.

24 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But there was
25 a -- there was a --

1 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: And so -- I'm
2 sorry.

3 CHAIR PELLERIN: Again, one person, one
4 person at a --

5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Madam Chair.

6 CHAIR PELLERIN: One person at a time,
7 please. Thank you.

8 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: And so when
9 Texas -- when Trump demanded -- I'm sorry, let me
10 get this straight.

11 When Trump said out loud that he was
12 entitled, entitled to five additional Republican
13 congressional districts in Texas -- which, for
14 the record, is an insane thing for any President
15 of the United States to think, let alone say out
16 loud.

17 But when he said that he was entitled to
18 five more Republican congressional districts in
19 Texas, and all the Texas legislators immediately
20 lined up to do whatever Trump wanted, that forced
21 us to put this together. Not because we want to,
22 but because we have to.

23 And that's why the trigger language is
24 in, and that's why the trigger language is in the
25 constitutional amendment that says if Texas backs

1 down -- which I really hope they do. If Texas
2 backs down from their partisan gerrymander, per
3 the edict of Trump and his entitlements, then
4 this will not go into effect. And that's exactly
5 why that's there.

6 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: And that's what
7 I'm saying is, because of previous lawsuits like
8 Petteway v. Galveston County, which went through
9 in Texas at the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals
10 and is now sitting on the docket for the Supreme
11 Court to weigh in on, that happened in Texas
12 claiming that some of their districts were seen
13 as unconstitutional.

14 That if they receive a court order -- and
15 this is why it's important to me. If they
16 receive a court order because they back down and
17 stop, then we in the State of California are
18 about to spend \$300 million to do nothing.

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: So --

20 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: And that's the
21 part --

22 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: Madam Chair,
23 point of order.

24 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. I think -- all
25 right. We have a point of order.

1 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: This is a clear
2 abuse -- this is an attempt to try to stretch
3 this out.

4 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: This is very
5 personal.

6 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay.

7 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: This is a clear
8 abuse of the discretion that we all have --

9 CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you.

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: -- in terms of
11 asking questions.

12 CHAIR PELLERIN: I'm trying to be patient
13 with you, and you have been asking the same
14 questions over again, and your questions have
15 been answered.

16 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: Madam, can
17 we --

18 CHAIR PELLERIN: This author is not
19 prepared to --

20 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: Can we move on
21 to other speakers?

22 CHAIR PELLERIN: We're going to move on
23 to some other questions --

24 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Madam Chair --

1 CHAIR PELLERIN: -- in regards to the
2 bill.

3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- this is very
4 important to me because of the cost. And the
5 main reason why --

6 CHAIR PELLERIN: And the cost has been
7 stated very clearly.

8 Does any other Member have a question in
9 regards to ACA 8?

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But there's --

11 CHAIR PELLERIN: Excuse me.

12 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: --
13 significantly more.

14 CHAIR PELLERIN: Excuse me.

15 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Madam Chair,
16 please.

17 CHAIR PELLERIN: Give me one minute,
18 please.

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: My --

20 CHAIR PELLERIN: I'm asking --

21 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: This entire
22 break --

23 CHAIR PELLERIN: Mr. Tangipa --

24 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: My sister --

1 CHAIR PELLERIN: I have one thing to say
2 here.

3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- was put on
4 hospice because of Medi-Cal couldn't afford --

5 CHAIR PELLERIN: I'm asking to see if any
6 other Member has questions in regards to this
7 bill.

8 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: This last -- my
9 sister was put on hospice because the State of
10 California couldn't afford to pay it anymore
11 because she was on Medi-Cal.

12 (Simultaneous speakers - inaudible.)

13 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. I do not -- I am
14 sorry for that.

15 We need to bring control back to this.
16 Hey.

17 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: And so I'm
18 asking --

19 CHAIR PELLERIN: I'm trying to get some
20 control here.

21 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- for the
22 financials here.

23 CHAIR PELLERIN: And you are speaking
24 when I'm asking you to please stop. Just give me
25 one minute here.

1 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yes, ma'am.

2 CHAIR PELLERIN: I'm asking if any other
3 Member has a question in relationship to ACA 8.

4 We've given you plenty of time to ask
5 questions and you're asking the same question
6 over again. The questions have been answered.

7 Give me one second to see if anyone else
8 has something to say. Can you please yield the
9 floor to somebody else for a minute?

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Am I able to
11 then return and ask more questions? Because the
12 funding is important. It's very important.

13 CHAIR PELLERIN: And the funding has been
14 clearly stated.

15 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Okay. But --

16 CHAIR PELLERIN: So any other Member have
17 a question?

18 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But I have
19 another question for the funding for Fresno
20 county.

21 CHAIR PELLERIN: Assembly Member Bennett.

22 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: Yes. I have
23 two quick points. Yes, every one of these issues
24 is important, funding, et cetera.

1 But the other thing that's important is
2 that we have a responsibility to meet certain
3 time frames to be able to actually adopt
4 legislation.

5 And so it is appropriate for us to weigh
6 all of these issues, the important issues of the
7 bill, but also the timing issues that we have to
8 operate under. This is not the only bill that
9 this Assembly is going to deal with.

10 But I mentioned a number of techniques
11 that autocrats use when they try to grab power,
12 and it is deceit and it is intimidation. And
13 intimidation comes in lots of different forms.
14 It's militarization of civilian life.

15 But probably one of the most common
16 things being used is literally distraction of the
17 public with all kinds of other issues instead of
18 focusing on the basic fundamental issue.

19 And so we'll talk about how cool was the
20 redistricting that we did before. We all agree
21 it was cool. The question is, is that -- going
22 back to that, is that going to protect us from
23 this power grab by autocrats?

24 And that's what we have to make sure we
25 don't get distracted by the kabuki theater that's

1 going on that says, come up with anything you can
2 to distract people from the fundamental issue
3 here, a power grab by autocrats that can't be
4 fought by the old rules.

5 So we need two things. One, to pay
6 attention to that, and to pay attention to the
7 fact that we have a certain amount of time to get
8 the legislative business done. And it's
9 appropriate for us all to be limited into how
10 much time we get to talk because none of us --
11 even on the Assembly floor, we have a five-minute
12 rule.

13 Certainly in a committee, we could have
14 some kind of rule that says you don't get an
15 unlimited amount of time.

16 The Chair, I strongly request, will
17 assert that. Thank you.

18 CHAIR PELLERIN: Absolutely. And I think
19 we've deliberated on this measure quite a bit.

20 Is there any other Member who has a
21 question?

22 Assembly Member Stefani.

23 ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: Not so much a
24 question. I just want to weigh in. Thank you,
25 Madam Chair, for this hearing.

1 And I want to thank Assembly Member
2 Berman for presenting this bill.

3 And I just want to recognize and
4 associate myself with the comments of Assembly
5 Member Bennett in terms of the theater that we
6 are witnessing here. It is absolute theater.

7 We all know, we all know how we feel
8 about what's happening in Texas. You feel one
9 way, we feel another. We are responding to what
10 Texas is doing. That is all. That is all that
11 is happening here.

12 We have a different idea on how to
13 respond to autocrats who want to basically
14 control this country in an unfair way by
15 redistricting in a way that completely avoids
16 voter input. And that's what Texas is doing.
17 And that's why California is responding.

18 So don't sit here and play games when on
19 April 9th, 2025, when AB 1441 was before you by
20 Soria, which directed the County of Merced to
21 establish an independent citizens redistricting
22 commission to ensure fairly drawn districts that
23 take into account demographics and communities of
24 interest, when the Republicans on this Committee

1 voted no. So don't sit here and play games. We
2 know what's at stake. Don't interrupt me.

3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Madam Chair,
4 that is -- that is --

5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: Do not
6 interrupt me.

7 CHAIR PELLERIN: No.

8 ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: You have had --

9 CHAIR PELLERIN: She is speaking.

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Don't interrupt
11 her.

12 CHAIR PELLERIN: We are letting her
13 speak.

14 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But I as --

15 CHAIR PELLERIN: We are letting her
16 speak.

17 ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: I am speaking
18 now. I have not spoken yet. Do not --

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Point of order.

20 ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: -- interrupt
21 me.

22 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Point of order.

23 CHAIR PELLERIN: No.

24 ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: Do not
25 interrupt me. I --

1 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Point of --
2 point of order.

3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: This is the
4 Democrats' response --

5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Wait. I --

6 ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: -- to what is
7 happening --

8 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But Madam
9 Chair, you stated to me --

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: -- in Texas --

11 ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: -- that I had
12 to remain on the purpose of the bill.

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: -- what might
14 happen in Ohio, what might happen in Missouri.
15 It's a blatant attempt --

16 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Point of order.

17 ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: -- to control
18 the elections.

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Point of order.

20 ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: And this is
21 California's response.

22 ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: Point of order.

23 ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: We have come up
24 with a way to respond and this is --

25 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Point of order.

1 ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: -- the bill
2 that we are presenting today.

3 You play stupid games, you get stupid
4 prizes.

5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Point of order.

6 ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: And that's what
7 you are doing.

8 CHAIR PELLERIN: What is your point of
9 order?

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: I was
11 constantly reminded to remain to the pertinence
12 of the bill.

13 What does that bill in Merced have
14 anything to do with this one?

15 And then I was constantly reminded,
16 whenever I brought up Texas, to remain to the
17 pertinence of the bill. So I would ask the same,
18 please. Thank you.

19 CHAIR PELLERIN: Your point of voter was
20 not well-taken.

21 Assembly Member Stefani, do you have any
22 other comments?

23 ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: I support this
24 bill, and I urge anyone that cares about
25 democracy to support it as well.

1 CHAIR PELLERIN: Is that a motion?

2 ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: We moved the
3 bill already.

4 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. We have a
5 motion --

6 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Madam Chair, I
7 have questions.

8 CHAIR PELLERIN: -- and a second on the
9 bill.

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Madam --

11 CHAIR PELLERIN: We are trying to wrap up
12 the vote on this bill.

13 If any Member who has not spoken yet has
14 a question, please ask your question.

15 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Can I use the poster
16 boards that I brought?

17 CHAIR PELLERIN: We have not gotten
18 approval for any props, so, no.

19 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: I'm asking for
20 approval.

21 CHAIR PELLERIN: No.

22 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Okay. Well, I'll
23 tell you what's on the poster boards. They're
24 great. I'll show you at the press conference
25 after.

1 California's Citizens Redistricting
2 Commission was born out of voter frustration with
3 politicians gaming the system for their own
4 benefit. Twice the people of California voted to
5 take the power of drawing district lines away
6 from the Legislature and give it to an
7 independent body that operates with full
8 transparency, open hearings, and strict rules, as
9 we have heard, to prevent partisan
10 gerrymandering.

11 This reform was not handed down by
12 politicians. It was demanded and approved by
13 voters. We are dismissing the will of those
14 voters. Now, Governor Newsom, Democrat party
15 bosses and Democrat lawmakers want to take the
16 power away from the voters.

17 Three measures, ACA 8, SB 280, and
18 AB 604, represent a coordinated effort to tear
19 down independent redistricting and hand power
20 back to the very politicians voters explicitly
21 rejected. It is a blatant attempt to gerrymander
22 congressional districts for partisan gain.

23 Even worse, it would force taxpayers to
24 spend hundreds of millions of dollars on a
25 rushed, confusing special election at a time when

1 California is already facing severe budget
2 shortfalls and deep cuts to essential services
3 like education, public safety, and healthcare.

4 I have questions. So ACA 8 cuts directly
5 against the heart of California's democratic
6 reforms. Voters twice went to the ballot box to
7 take redistricting power away. So here are my
8 questions.

9 Voters enshrined independent
10 redistricting in the Constitution to prevent
11 politicians from rigging the system. How does
12 ACA 8 comply with the constitutional ban on
13 favoring or discriminating against a political
14 party?

15 And really quickly, Mr. Berman --

16 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: By all means.

17 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: -- who is your
18 client, sir?

19 CHAIR PELLERIN: Let's stick to the
20 question.

21 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Well, he said he had
22 attorney-client privilege, so that's pertinent.

23 MR. SILVA: I'm not here to talk about
24 who my client is. I'm just here to talk about
25 the substance of the bill.

1 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. Assembly Member
2 Berman, please answer the question.

3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: So going back.
4 So the question was, how does the constitutional
5 amendment amend the Constitution to allow this to
6 happen?

7 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: So there's a
8 constitutional ban on favoring or discriminating
9 against a political party.

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: And this is a
11 constitutional amendment.

12 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: What language in this
13 is saying that you are reversing that
14 specifically?

15 MR. SILVA: Well, the bill not withstands
16 any other provision of this Constitution. So any
17 criteria that currently exist in the Constitution
18 regarding redistricting are suspended for
19 purposes of this redistricting.

20 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: I understand. But
21 what specific language, legal language, did you
22 put in there saying that we are now changing --
23 that we can now discriminate against a political
24 party?

1 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I think he said
2 that, but I'm going to ask him to repeat it.

3 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Yeah.

4 MR. SILVA: Yeah. Again, the language in
5 this provision not withstands any other provision
6 in the Constitution, including the criteria that
7 you're identifying.

8 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: So we're throwing the
9 Constitution in the trash and starting all over.
10 Why should --

11 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: We are --

12 CHAIR PELLERIN: Your question's been
13 answered.

14 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: We are asking
15 voters --

16 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: (Inaudible.)

17 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: We are asking
18 California's voters whether or not they want to
19 adopt this constitutional amendment,
20 notwithstanding what is currently in the
21 Constitution. We are not doing that. This does
22 not go into effect if the Legislature passes it.
23 Twenty million California voters have to vote to
24 approve the constitutional amendment. That's the
25 system we have in California.

1 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Yes, I got that. So
2 why should lawmakers override the will of the
3 people who have twice told us that they want to
4 keep the redistricting in the hands of the people
5 that we have here testifying that have given
6 wonderful reasons why it should stay there?

7 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I appreciate the
8 question, and I think it's an important one.

9 We, once again, are asking the voters
10 whether or not they want to approve this change.
11 So this is not the Legislature approving this
12 change.

13 This is the Legislature putting on the
14 ballot the opportunity for every California voter
15 in 2025 whether or not this is a change that they
16 approve.

17 And I know it was jokingly mentioned
18 earlier that my colleague and friend, Assembly
19 Member Tangipa, was not able to vote on the
20 original redistricting. I don't think that's a
21 joke.

22 I think it's a very important point. And
23 the point is that, since 2010, an estimated
24 3.6 million California voters have died, and
25 there are 6 million more Californians registered

1 to vote now than in 2010, including two very
2 important voices in California, you two, Vice
3 Chair Macedo and Assembly Member Tangipa. You
4 did not have a voice in that decision.

5 Over half of registered voters in
6 California did not have a voice in that decision.
7 And so what we are saying is let's give
8 California voters in 2025, half of which weren't
9 even registered voters in 2010, a chance to have
10 their voice be heard. And I can think of nothing
11 more democratic than doing that.

12 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: So then why not a
13 census to see who we have in California, who's
14 registered to vote?

15 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: We did a census,
16 I believe, four years ago.

17 CHAIR PELLERIN: Yes. Thank you.

18 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Okay.

19 CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you. All right.

20 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: One more question.

21 CHAIR PELLERIN: We've deliberated on
22 this measure --

23 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: You have given other
24 Members plenty of time to speak. Please --

1 CHAIR PELLERIN: How many more questions
2 do you --

3 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: -- I have questions
4 prepared.

5 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. What other
6 question do you have?

7 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: (Inaudible.)

8 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: And Madam
9 Chair, I have some more questions as well.

10 CHAIR PELLERIN: We are done with the
11 questions. We're going to try to wrap this up
12 and put this to a vote.

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But --

14 CHAIR PELLERIN: Macedo, please ask your
15 final question.

16 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: My final question?
17 Madam Chair, I came prepared after you gave me 24
18 hours. All I'm asking for is a little bit of
19 time. You let Mr. Berman speak twice. I'm
20 sorry, Mr. Bennett speak twice.

21 CHAIR PELLERIN: Would you like to ask
22 your question or would you like to not? Would
23 you like to ask your question?

24 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: I would.

1 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: I will absolutely ask
2 my question. I'm sure these will be asked in a
3 courtroom, but this is ridiculous.

4 Governor Newsom himself said this
5 proposal is about electing more Democrats. Isn't
6 that the very definition of partisan
7 gerrymandering voters sought to prevent?

8 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: We are asking
9 voters whether or not they want to have different
10 criteria used in determining the congressional
11 maps, and it'll be up to voters as to whether or
12 not they want to say yes or no. That's the
13 beauty of this.

14 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Madam Chair, may I
15 proceed with my relevant questions?

16 CHAIR PELLERIN: We have a motion and we
17 have a second.

18 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Madam Chair --

19 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Madam Chair, I'd like
20 to recess --

21 CHAIR PELLERIN: We have deliberated this
22 measure --

23 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: -- and bring in the
24 Chief Clerk --

25 CHAIR PELLERIN: --for several hours.

1 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: -- to see if it's in
2 line (inaudible).

3 CHAIR PELLERIN: We are calling this
4 debate --

5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Madam Chair --

6 CHAIR PELLERIN: -- to conclusion.

7 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Madam Chair,
8 please --

9 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: You are not allowing
10 me to exercise my parliamentary right to speak.

11 CHAIR PELLERIN: And with that --

12 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Madam, you
13 pontificated on transparency.

14 CHAIR PELLERIN: -- I will go ahead and
15 allow the Assembly Member Berman --

16 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: I (inaudible) last
17 night if we (inaudible).

18 CHAIR PELLERIN: Excuse me.

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Madam Chair.

20 CHAIR PELLERIN: This is not the way we
21 conduct our hearings. Okay?

22 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: It's not.

23 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: It's not because
24 you're not answering my questions.

1 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: It's not the
2 way.

3 CHAIR PELLERIN: I have allowed you --

4 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: This is not the
5 way we --

6 CHAIR PELLERIN: -- plenty of time to ask
7 your questions.

8 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- conduct our
9 hearings. This is an urgency that is being moved
10 through.

11 CHAIR PELLERIN: I have allowed --

12 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: So we --

13 CHAIR PELLERIN: -- plenty of time for
14 you to --

15 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Madam Chair,
16 please.

17 CHAIR PELLERIN: I have allowed you
18 plenty of time to ask your questions.

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: I am still not
20 done.

21 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: You have not allowed
22 me (inaudible).

23 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: It took me a
24 long time --

1 CHAIR PELLERIN: I have allowed you
2 plenty of time to ask your questions.

3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: As the
4 presenter stated (inaudible).

5 CHAIR PELLERIN: Assembly Member Berman,
6 you may close.

7 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Madam Chair,
8 please.

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Out of respect
10 for my Republican colleagues --

11 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Madam Chair,
12 there are so many more questions.

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: -- I had a long
14 close prepared, but I am going to forego that --

15 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: We do need to
16 know --

17 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: -- and just ask
18 for an aye vote.

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Madam Chair, we
20 asked you --

21 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Mr. Berman, would you
22 be willing to answer my questions that I have
23 prepared?

1 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I am following
2 the direction of the Chair on how the Committee
3 hearing will proceed.

4 CHAIR PELLERIN: We have to be
5 respectful --

6 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Mr. Berman, can
7 you explain to me how spending --

8 CHAIR PELLERIN: We have to be respectful
9 of people's times.

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- \$250 million
11 on the special election provides a greater public
12 health benefit than constructing egress routes
13 for our mountain communities?

14 (Simultaneous speakers - inaudible.)

15 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. Mr. Tangipa, you
16 have been asked to stop. We are done --

17 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Mr. Berman, can
18 you explain to me how \$250 million --

19 CHAIR PELLERIN: -- with the questions
20 and the deliberation of this measure.

21 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- for a
22 special election (inaudible).

23 UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER: I make a motion
24 (inaudible).

25 UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER: Second.

1 (Simultaneous speakers - inaudible.)

2 UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER:

3 CHAIR PELLERIN: Mr. Tangipa, you're out
4 of order.

5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- when they
6 are overwhelmingly (inaudible).

7 CHAIR PELLERIN: Mr. Tangipa, you are out
8 of order.

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Mr. Berman, can
10 you explain to me how spending 200 --

11 (Pause on the record.)

12 CHAIR PELLERIN: Mr. Tangipa --

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I appreciate
14 your passion.

15 CHAIR PELLERIN: I know.

16 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I appreciate
17 your passion.

18 CHAIR PELLERIN: I mean, our hearts break
19 for you and your family. I'm trying to -- I'm
20 trying to move this hearing along.

21 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: (Inaudible.)

22 CHAIR PELLERIN: I understand.

23 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: I call the
24 question.

1 CHAIR PELLERIN: We call the question.

2 We have a motion. We have a second.

3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: I'm just trying
4 to get the questions -- when it comes to the
5 question --

6 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Madam Secretary,
7 please call the roll.

8 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: I care about
9 the State of California.

10 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: On ACA 8 by Rivas,
11 the motion is --

12 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- and I think
13 that we should, too. This money is very
14 important to me. It's personal.

15 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: -- be adopted and
16 be re-referred to the Committee on
17 Appropriations.

18 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: And I care
19 about you. I know you care. We care. We all
20 care.

21 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Pellerin?

22 CHAIR PELLERIN: Aye.

23 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: That's all
24 we're asking for.

25 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Pellerin, aye.

1 Macedo?

2 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: No.

3 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Macedo, no.

4 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: That's it. And
5 it worries me.

6 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Bennett?

7 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: Aye.

8 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Bennett, aye.

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: It truly
10 worries me.

11 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Berman?

12 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Aye.

13 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Berman, aye.

14 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I get it.

15 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Solache?

16 ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: Aye.

17 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Solache, aye.

18 Stefani?

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: Aye.

20 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Stefani, aye.

21 Tangipa?

22 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: No.

23 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Tangipa, no.

24 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: It should worry
25 everybody.

1 CHAIR PELLERIN: That bill --

2 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: That's all I'm
3 asking for.

4 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I hear you.

5 CHAIR PELLERIN: That bill passes five to
6 two.

7 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Without proper
8 ability for us to ask questions. Let that be
9 reflected in the record. I was given less than
10 five minutes to speak.

11 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: I've got to pay
12 \$2500 later today so she can be cremated.

13 CHAIR PELLERIN: We're going to go ahead
14 and take a recess for 30 minutes.

15 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But the Medi-
16 Cal doctors won't sign off on it.

17 CHAIR PELLERIN: This hearing --

18 UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER: Madam Chair,
19 (inaudible).

20 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: The Medi-Cal
21 doctors will not sign off on it.

22 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. I don't know if
23 you can.

24 ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: Mr. Tangipa,
25 it's my turn to speak.

1 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Is that not
2 important?

3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Mr. Tangipa,
4 it's my turn to speak.

5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- for me to
6 just -- since I haven't had a chance --

7 (Pause on the record.)

8 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: And we've --
9 everybody has seen this longer than me.

10 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. We're going to --

11 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Everybody has
12 seen this longer than me.

13 CHAIR PELLERIN: Call for order here.
14 We've had enough --

15 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: I've gotten the
16 least amount of time to even see this bill.

17 CHAIR PELLERIN: We've had enough
18 comments taken out of order.

19 Solache, did you have a 30-second comment
20 you wanted to make?

21 ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: I do, Madam
22 Chair.

23 I just wanted to say that after the vote
24 that I casted today, I'm happy that Californians
25 will have a choice to vote how they feel,

1 respecting everyone's opinion today, including
2 those that support it and don't support this bill
3 at today's public comment, and those that
4 submitted.

5 Californians will have a right at the
6 ballot box to express and to vote their
7 conscience.

8 CHAIR PELLERIN: Yes.

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: So every
10 Californian has a right, and I'm just happy to
11 support that. Thank you.

12 CHAIR PELLERIN: And we will now take a
13 30-minute recess. Thank you.

14 (Recess.)

15 CHAIR PELLERIN: Good afternoon. We will
16 go ahead and reconvene the August 19th, 2025
17 Assembly Elections Committee hearing.

18 We have two remaining items, one for a
19 vote SB 280 by Cervantes, and then we will be
20 doing an informational hearing only on AB 604.

21 And with that, in the spirit of ensuring
22 that everybody has time to speak, we have
23 expanded our witnesses to three minutes each.

1 CHAIR PELLERIN: The ME TOOs can take up
2 to 30 seconds and we'll hold you accountable to
3 that.

4 For our members, we are going to limit
5 debate to 15 minutes for you to present comments
6 or questions. So we have a lot of work to do
7 today and we need to be moving forward.

8 So with that, we will bring up our next
9 author, Senator Cervantes. And you may begin
10 when you're ready.

11 SENATOR CERVANTES: Thank you Madam Chair
12 and Committee Members for the opportunity to
13 present Senate Bill 280 today, which calls for a
14 statewide special election on November 4th of
15 this year.

16 The special election would allow
17 California voters to consider an Assembly
18 Constitutional Amendment, ACA 8, which would
19 allow this Legislature to engage in a one-time,
20 mid-decade redistricting of our state's districts
21 in the U.S. House of Representatives.

22 The Citizens Redistricting Commission
23 would then be able to engage in its regularly
24 scheduled program, independent redistricting
25 process after the 2030 census.

1 SB 280 also appropriates the funding
2 necessary for the Secretary of State and for our
3 county registrars to administer the special
4 election.

5 The bill also makes the necessary
6 statutory changes to allow the June 2026
7 statewide primary election to be held on time.

8 California did not start this fight.
9 This fight came to us. We are here because
10 President Trump and Republicans in Congress know
11 that their agenda is deeply unpopular and they
12 see the writing on the wall.

13 They know that the mass deportation
14 regime that uses secret police to kidnap
15 police -- people off our streets and into
16 unmarked vans goes against our American values.

17 They know that voters will hold them
18 accountable for the spending cuts they jammed
19 through Congress that strip healthcare away from
20 millions of Americans.

21 And they know that giving tax cuts to
22 billionaires while Trump imposes tariff taxes on
23 essential goods, such as coffee and bananas, will
24 continue to raise the cost of living for everyday
25 working families.

1 What Trump knows is that the only path
2 for Republicans to hold onto the House in the
3 midterms is to change the rules in the middle of
4 the game. That is why in Texas and in other red
5 states, Republican legislators are preparing to
6 redraw their congressional maps so that
7 Republican politicians get to choose their
8 voters.

9 Again, Republican politicians get to
10 choose their voters instead of letting voters
11 choose their representative. They want to
12 silence the voices of Latino voters, Black
13 voters, API voters, and LGBTQ voters.

14 Trump wants to change the rules of the
15 game in the fifth inning so that Republicans get
16 four strikes while Democrats get three. Their
17 goal is simple, to rig congressional maps in
18 Republican states across our country to make it
19 impossible for Democrats to retake control of the
20 House of Representatives in 2026.

21 California cannot stand by while Donald
22 Trump dismantles our democracy piece by piece.
23 We will not let him determine the outcome of
24 future elections years in advance before any vote
25 is cast to prop up his authoritarian presidency.

1 And if you doubt that Trump is trying to
2 become a dictator, remember that he sent armed
3 federal agents to harass the peaceful press
4 conference that took place last week in LA with
5 Governor Newsom.

6 The truth of the matter is, if we let
7 Donald Trump get away with this rigging of
8 elections through gerrymandering, partisan
9 gerrymandering, we may not have free or fair
10 elections in the United States in the future. If
11 Donald Trump pursues this partisan power grab,
12 then California is ready to respond.

13 Our plan will only go into effect if
14 Texas and other states move to redraw their
15 lines. Again, our plan will only go into effect
16 if Texas and other red states move to redraw
17 their lines.

18 Trump can do the right thing today and
19 stand down and not move forward in redrawing
20 Congressional maps in Republican states, and
21 California's current districts will remain in
22 place.

23 Ultimately, this is our preferred outcome
24 because we do value the California's Independent
25 Redistricting Commission, which is the gold

1 standard of our country. And this crisis shows
2 that we need to enact a nationwide citizens
3 nonpartisan commission.

4 If every state followed California's lead
5 and adopted these independent redistricting
6 commissions, or if Congress required this, we
7 wouldn't be in this crisis to begin with.
8 Gerrymandering would be a thing of the past.

9 Finally, I want to address Republican
10 Members of Congress from California. You have
11 the power to stop this from happening. The power
12 is in your hands.

13 I appeal to your better angles, but if
14 you refuse to listen to those angles, I will rely
15 on your ambition, your self-interest and your
16 desire to keep your House seats and your
17 paycheck. You can ask President Trump to end
18 this now. You can tell him to call off these
19 partisan gerrymanderings in Texas and other
20 states.

21 But if Trump decides to move forward with
22 his plan to steal Democratic seats, then
23 California will be the firewall. We have
24 defeated authoritarianism before, and we will
25 defeat it again, but at the ballot box, with the

1 voters in the state of California making the
2 ultimate decision on November 4th, 2025.

3 Today we have two witnesses testifying in
4 support. I'll allow them to self-identify.

5 CHAIR PELLERIN: And you each have three
6 minutes.

7 MS. HICKS: Thank you. Thank you, Madam
8 Chair. Thank you Members.

9 I am Jody Hicks, the CEO and President of
10 Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California, here
11 representing all seven affiliates and over 100
12 health centers throughout the State of
13 California.

14 And I'm here in strong support to this
15 measure and to California's response to President
16 Trump, to Texas Republicans, to any state that's
17 planning to game the 2026 midterm elections. And
18 I just want to point out why.

19 I know this Committee has already heard a
20 lot about the Commission. I'm sure there'll be
21 more conversation about that.

22 What I want to talk about is the impact
23 of what's happening to Californians, to
24 California values. With HR 1 that just passed,
25 California -- over three-and-a-half million

1 people will be without healthcare. Planned
2 Parenthood was effectively defunded in that bill
3 for all of the services that Planned Parenthood
4 provides, whether that's cancer screenings or
5 birth control or even prenatal care.

6 Stripped all of the funding from Planned
7 Parenthood in an attempt to try and reduce access
8 to reproductive healthcare in the state of
9 California, despite the fact that 67 percent of
10 Californians voted to ensure that, in our
11 California Constitution, Californians have access
12 to reproductive healthcare.

13 So our intent is to go up and down the
14 state and talk about the impact of what happened
15 in HR 1. And what we know is, when Californians
16 understand that access to healthcare, when their
17 very values are at stake, they will respond and
18 they will hold Members accountable. But that
19 can't happen if another state is rigging the
20 election before those votes even occur.

21 You know, if we were able to have our gold
22 standard across every state in the state of
23 California -- or in the country of the United
24 States, we wouldn't be having this conversation.

1 We'd be talking to voters the way that we want
2 to.

3 But that's just not the case. And
4 sending this to the voters, letting them decide
5 how they want to respond to what another state is
6 doing to try and hold on to power.

7 So there's no way to react to what is
8 affecting their very lives, to what is affecting
9 their healthcare, to what is affecting the very
10 values of California.

11 We have a gold standard. We are the
12 model with our Independent Redistricting
13 Commission. But guess what? We are the model
14 for our values here, too. We are a model for how
15 we value diversity, for how we value
16 inclusivity --

17 CHAIR PELLERIN: If you could wrap up,
18 please.

19 MS. HICKS: -- and for how we value
20 access to healthcare, including reproductive
21 healthcare. And we are a reproductive freedom
22 state, and voters deserve to vote on that. Thank
23 you.

24 CHAIR PELLERIN: Next witness. You have
25 three minutes.

1 MR. CURTIN: Okay. Danny Curtin,
2 California Conference of Carpenters. Whoopsie
3 Daisy. Thank you.

4 You've all heard from me before not too
5 long ago. Danny Curtin with the Carpenters
6 Union.

7 I want to reiterate that we didn't come
8 here because we were joyfully approaching this
9 problem. There's no question that this was
10 triggered by the President for reasons that we
11 all understand.

12 The impacts of what's been happening in
13 the past on this administration, but also the
14 impacts of what happens in the future is really
15 what's at point, the discussion point here.

16 The targeted tax on California workforce
17 is one of the most disturbing portions of this
18 for me. We are in the midst of a housing crisis
19 that's dividing us like no other crisis. And we
20 have plenty more to think about, water, energy,
21 you name it. And that housing crisis is
22 primarily private sector housing, which is not
23 being produced at the rate it needs to be
24 produced.

1 And now we have armed battle ready -- I
2 don't know what they are. They're not
3 identifying themselves. In some cases, they're
4 wearing masks. And I call them Rambo wannabes.
5 Attacking people on the job sites, going to
6 places where people go to work. And the industry
7 that's going to get most impacted by this, among
8 others, is construction and housing construction.

9 That is the number one issue in terms of
10 what's dividing Californians and causing part of
11 this massive political rift. Not just housing,
12 but ag, restaurants, hospitality. You know the
13 differences here.

14 The cuts in healthcare were well laid
15 out. This is not insubstantial in what's going
16 on and what we're fighting about. And I want to
17 keep the focus on what we're fighting about, not
18 the specific details.

19 I believe all of this is done
20 constitutionally. We have the right to take a
21 whack at this, give it to the voters. Other
22 states have it, too. But we can't sit here and
23 just let it go in one direction because of
24 possible ramifications.

1 One or two more little things. So far,
2 the Congress -- Senate and Congress has been
3 relatively supine in regards to the Trump agenda.
4 Now, they were elected and that happens. And a
5 lot of people don't like it, and a lot of people
6 like it.

7 But it's the next election that's going
8 to matter now. And for Donald Trump to get up
9 and say publicly, like he did a couple of things,
10 while he's claiming the elections in 2020 were
11 rigged, he is now openly, on behalf of the
12 Republicans -- I heard this again on the radio
13 today -- on behalf of the Republicans going
14 after -- he's going to put an executive order
15 attacking vote by mail. Because, he says, more
16 Democrats vote by mail than more Republicans vote
17 by mail. How can you not respond to that in a
18 political manner?

19 We don't like it. We don't really want
20 to see it happen. But there is no option if it's
21 going to be a one-way street. And that's what's
22 happening. He's saying it openly and there's no
23 mystery here. And I appreciate the dilemma --

24 CHAIR PELLERIN: Please wrap up.

1 MR. CURTIN: Okay. I appreciate the
2 dilemma that some of our Members here feel that
3 they are in. I really do. Makes life very
4 complicated. But we just can't sit around and
5 let that agenda continue without people pushing
6 back. So thank you.

7 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. We'll now open it
8 up to the mic. If anybody in support of SB 280
9 can come up to the mic. And we are extending 30
10 seconds to you as well.

11 MR. HANNA: Thank you, Madam Chair,
12 Members. J.P. Hanna on behalf of the California
13 Nurses Association, representing over 100,000
14 registered nurses in California.

15 Nurses are unequivocally committed to
16 blocking the over -- authoritarian overthrow of
17 our democracy. These attacks on our democracy
18 are much bigger than Texas.

19 They are a power grab for the billionaire
20 elite at the expense of our patients, the working
21 class and the communities that we advocate for
22 every day.

23 We thank you for bringing this measure
24 forward and proudly stand in strong support.
25 Thank you.

1 MR. KUMAR: Thank you, Chair Pellerin and
2 Members of the Committee. Keshav Kumar with
3 Lighthouse Public Affairs on behalf of
4 Reproductive Freedom For All.

5 We are in strong support on behalf of our
6 4 million members across every single
7 congressional district in this country, and we
8 think that this is the moment and that California
9 is meeting that moment.

10 We thank you, especially. We thank Chair
11 Senator Cervantes, and we thank Mr. Berman.
12 Because the leadership that you have demonstrated
13 today is so powerful, and the rest of the country
14 is watching in appreciation.

15 MS. CHOU: Hi. Annie Chou with the
16 California Teachers Association representing
17 310,000 members in support.

18 There's been, you know, aspersions cast
19 against CTA, telling me to stay in my lane.

20 I want to make it super duper clear that
21 federal funding funds everything that happens in
22 a school site, whether it be mental health
23 services for kids, free and reduced meals.
24 Whether it be, you know, IDA funding. There's a
25 lot of things that are critically important to

1 CTA's mission, and that's why CTA is very much in
2 this lane. So thank you so much.

3 MS. HINES-SHAIKH: Honorable Chair and
4 Members, Amy Hines-Shaikh for UDW AFSCME Local
5 3930 and their 200,000 IHSS members in strong
6 support in defending our Medi-Cal recipients and
7 providers, and also UNITE HERE! Local 11 and
8 their 32,000 hospitality members in Orange
9 county, Riverside, San Bernardino and Los Angeles
10 county. Thank you.

11 MR. BARREIRO: Thank you, Chair and
12 Members. Sandra Barreiro on behalf of SEIU
13 California, representing over 750,000 frontline
14 essential workers who couldn't be here today
15 because they are busy working and serving their
16 communities.

17 All of them have been targeted by the
18 Trump administration's steamrolling of the
19 democratic principles that our country is
20 supposed to stand for.

21 So SEIU is proud to support this bill
22 because we can't stand by while Texas and Trump
23 manipulates our election. It's the most
24 democratic district setting process ever proposed
25 by a state. And unlike Texas --

1 CHAIR PELLERIN: Thirty seconds. Thank
2 you.

3 MS. BARREIRO: Thank you.

4 MR. HART: Good afternoon. Kaden Hart on
5 behalf of Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis in
6 support.

7 MS. NIELSEN: Good afternoon. Julie
8 Nielsen on behalf of the National Union of
9 Healthcare Workers in strong support of this
10 important measure. Thank you.

11 MS. COLES: Good afternoon. Krystal
12 Coles. I'm a state worker with Housing and
13 Community Development. I'm also on the board of
14 directors for SEIU Local 1000 in strong support
15 for the fight for our democracy. Thank you.

16 MS. HILL: Good afternoon. My name is
17 Constance Hill. I'm with SEIU 2015. I'm also an
18 in-home support caregiver/provider. I strongly
19 support.

20 I'm representing all those who are not
21 here, but I'm here standing in solidarity with my
22 brothers and sisters here. Thank you.

23 MS. MOK: Tiffany Mok on behalf of CFT, a
24 union of educators and classified professionals.

1 We stand here reluctantly, but are very proud to
2 stand to defend our democracy and fairness.

3 Our educators teach about fairness and
4 democracy, and we have seen nothing but incessant
5 attacks, whether it's \$1 billion that's being
6 demanded at UCLA by our lecturers there, through
7 the special ed cuts that we see and mental health
8 problems that are our educators and our students
9 see that are being threatened by federal funding.

10 CHAIR PELLERIN: Thirty seconds. Thank
11 you.

12 MS. MOK: Thank you.

13 MR. GUSMAN: Good afternoon. Connor
14 Gusman on behalf of Teamsters California in
15 support. Thank you.

16 MS. FLOCKS: Madam Chair, Members, Sarah
17 Flocks, the California Federation of Labor
18 Unions. We represent 2.3 million union members
19 across the State of California, and we are in
20 strong support. Thank you.

21 MS. QUINTERO: Hello again. Analisa
22 Quintero from SEIU Local 1000. I'm here in
23 support because our state workers deserve fair
24 representation, just like all workers across
25 California.

1 CHAIR PELLERIN: We will now move on to
2 the primary witnesses in opposition.

3 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Madam Chair, while
4 we're waiting for those witnesses to come up, I
5 have a motion.

6 CHAIR PELLERIN: Yes.

7 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: I would like to
8 motion to refer to Judiciary SB 280 and then to
9 the Appropriations Committee.

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Second.

11 (Pause on the record.)

12 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. We have a motion
13 and a second to double refer this bill to
14 Judiciary Committee.

15 And Madam Secretary, please call the roll
16 on that. Takes a majority vote.

17 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Pellerin?

18 CHAIR PELLERIN: No.

19 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Pellerin, no.
20 Macedo?

21 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Aye.

22 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Macedo, aye.
23 Bennett?

24 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: No.

25 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Bennett, no.

1 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: No.

2 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Berman, no.

3 Solache?

4 ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: No.

5 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Solache, no.

6 Stefani?

7 ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: No.

8 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Stefani, no.

9 Tanipa?

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Aye.

11 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Tangipa, aye.

12 CHAIR PELLERIN: That motion fails two to
13 five.

14 The primary witnesses in opposition,
15 would you like to come forward?

16 Anybody in the room who would like to
17 step up to the mic and state your name, and 30
18 seconds of time. Anybody in opposition, give you
19 opportunity speak.

20 MR. BOLOG: Thank you much for the 30
21 seconds. It's very generous and it's refreshing.

22 My name is David Bolog. I am AFL CIO
23 union member affiliate, and I represent the
24 California GOP Union Caucus. I also represent

1 Serving Family Values and Moms for Liberty. We
2 are opposed to this bill. Thank you.

3 MS. ARIS: Hello. My name is Amber
4 Arias. I'm standup ministry leader with Calvary
5 Chapel, Solano county.

6 And I believe that this is very redundant
7 and retaliatory. And just because other states
8 don't want to play fair does not negate the fact
9 that California Legislature has sworn an oath to
10 uphold integrity and the Constitution of the
11 United States. And with that, I oppose this
12 bill. Thank you.

13 MS. RENTERIA: My name is Porphyria
14 Renteria, and I'm in opposition of this bill.

15 MS. GONALEZ: Hello. My name is Rosa
16 Gonzalez and I am a mother, and I am in
17 opposition of this bill.

18 MS. MIXON: My name is Christina Mixon,
19 and I am a mother, and I am in opposition of this
20 bill.

21 CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you so much.

22 We will now bring the questions and
23 discussion back to the Committee.

24 Any Member -- Assemblymember Stefani.

1 ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: Thank you,
2 Chair Pellerin.

3 I'm just wondering if there's anyone from
4 the California Association of Clerks and Election
5 Officials that can comment on their opinion of
6 this bill.

7 CHAIR PELLERIN: All right. So it looks
8 like we do have someone here from California
9 Association of Clerks and Election Officials.

10 You could come up and sit here at the
11 desk and give us the perspective from the
12 counties on -- so go ahead and ask.

13 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Can I ask that the
14 your witnesses identify themselves that are with
15 you as well that were not introduced previously?
16 There's two gentlemen.

17 UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER: Oh, yes,
18 certainly.

19 MR. WILLIS: Good afternoon. My name is
20 Tom Willis with the law firm of Olson Remcho.
21 I'm kind of replacing Aaron Silva.

22 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Who are you here
23 representing?

24 ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: I think this is
25 int response to --

1 CHAIR PELLERIN: (Inaudible.)

2 MR. SALINAS: I'm the Center's
3 Legislative Director.

4 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. All right. So do
5 you have a question or --

6 ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: Just wanting to
7 get your perspective on this, given that there
8 will be a huge undertaking, and I want to find
9 out what the organization is thinking about it.

10 MR. SALINAS: Yes. Okay. Thank you very
11 much, Madam Chair and Committee Members.

12 Jesse Salinas. I am the assessor, clerk,
13 recorder and registrar of voters for Yolo County.
14 I'm also serving as president of the California
15 Association of Clerks and Election Officials. So
16 very honored to be here.

17 Thank you very much for the question.
18 And I can share with you that we are working
19 diligently. We're a very -- collection of highly
20 skilled professionals that are preparing for this
21 election, this pending election that's coming up.
22 And we are working diligently right now in
23 preparing for the election and identifying the
24 necessary sites and locations and preparing
25 accordingly with that.

1 We also are working closely with the
2 Secretary of State's office on follow-up details
3 to ensure that this election is run as
4 efficiently and effectively as possible moving
5 forward.

6 CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you so much.

7 Any other questions or comments from
8 Committee Members?

9 Vice Chair Macedo.

10 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: I will leave my
11 feelings on this out of this because I have 15
12 minutes and I want to make sure that I get my
13 questions answered.

14 How can the Legislature justify spending
15 235 million on a rush special election when core
16 programs like education, healthcare and wildfire
17 prevention are being cut?

18 SENATOR CERVANTES: So first off, I want
19 to say we're in this crisis because of the
20 federal administration. And this election is
21 going to cost as much as a new ballroom that
22 President Trump wants to build at the White
23 House.

24 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: We have the fourth
25 largest economy in the world and a large budget,

1 so we can't figure out how to fund those things.
2 We're expecting the federal government to do
3 that.

4 My next question is, why was this urgency
5 election necessary when no genuine emergency
6 exists? The Governor has not declared a State of
7 Emergency.

8 Just feeling like we should sound the
9 alarm this is not enough to do so. There's an
10 urgency clause in here.

11 SENATOR CERVANTES: Again, this is a
12 crisis brought upon us because of what the State
13 of Texas is doing. If they would pull back their
14 measure, we would not be moving forward today
15 with this urgency. It is a crisis what is
16 happening to our families and our neighborhoods.
17 This is how Californians have a direct response
18 in what is occurring and the future that they
19 want to see for this country.

20 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: So because you feel
21 that way, but no real emergency has been
22 declared.

23 How will counties be reimbursed for these
24 costs?

1 SENATOR CERVANTES: The Department of
2 Finance will determine the cost for this
3 election. That will be through the Secretary of
4 State, as well as to the county registrars to
5 administer the election on November 4th.

6 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Will they be paid in
7 full up front or left to bear the burden
8 themselves?

9 SENATOR CERVANTES: The Secretary of
10 State -- I know perhaps we have folks here or
11 Madam Chair.

12 CHAIR PELLERIN: My understanding is the
13 counties will be paid up front.

14 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Is that in the
15 language of the bill? Because counties like mine
16 won't be able to do the election to the extent
17 necessary.

18 CHAIR PELLERIN: As a former county
19 elections official, this is something I care very
20 deeply about. And we want to make sure the
21 counties are made whole and they receive the
22 funds up front.

23 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: So can we get that in
24 the bill?

25 SENATOR CERVANTES: It is in the bill.

1 CHAIR PELLERIN: It is stated as so.

2 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Okay.

3 SENATOR CERVANTES: It is very clear that
4 counties will be made whole to administer the
5 election on November 4th.

6 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Okay. Just wanted to
7 make sure that my county, who's very rural, is
8 going to be taken care of.

9 You made a really great point that I have
10 questions, but I do want to mention that you talk
11 about disenfranchising minority in communities.

12 At the Independent Redistricting
13 Commission hearings, they have translators
14 available. To my knowledge, we have no
15 translators available for this hearing, so talk
16 about disenfranchising minority communities.

17 What assurance do counties have that they
18 will not be subject to unfunded mandates by being
19 forced to carry out this rush process?

20 SENATOR CERVANTES: Again, it is stated
21 in the bill and the analysis of the bill.

22 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Can you point to the
23 exact language in the bill, or your attorney?

24 SENATOR CERVANTES: You have the analysis
25 before you.

1 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: I'm not asking for
2 the analysis.

3 SENATOR CERVANTES: And we are making
4 sure that --

5 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: I'm asking for the
6 bill language.

7 SENATOR CERVANTES: The Department of
8 Finance will determine the cost of this election.
9 And at the end of the day, we are going to ensure
10 that the counties will have everything that they
11 need to conduct a special election on
12 November 4th.

13 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Okay. And I
14 appreciate that. I appreciate that you're saying
15 that.

16 What I am asking for is verbiage in
17 legislation. And you have an attorney next to
18 you that I'm sure participated in the drafting of
19 this, as well as your leg director. I'm asking
20 for not just your testimony saying, we promise
21 this is going to happen. I'm asking -- and not
22 in the analysis, because that's not legally
23 binding. I'm asking --

24 CHAIR PELLERIN: I got it right here.

25 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Okay.

1 CHAIR PELLERIN: Section 4(a) says, it is
2 the intent of the Legislature to ensure counties
3 have sufficient funding to effectuate the
4 November 4th, 2025 special statewide election.

5 An amount is hereby appropriated from the
6 General Fund to the controller for the actual and
7 reasonably necessary costs as determined by the
8 Director of Finance for the counties to conduct
9 that November 4th, 2025 statewide special
10 election.

11 Again, this is not a Appropriations
12 Committee. The funding issues will be addressed
13 in that Committee.

14 We are policy, so let's move our
15 questions back to policy.

16 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: And this is a funding
17 a special election bill.

18 So my -- I'm glad that you read that
19 aloud. So we have intent language. We know how
20 much that's legally binding. We have, I'm sure,
21 attorneys in the room that can tell us that.

22 Can counties realistically administer a
23 statewide redistricting election on such a
24 compressed timeline that you talked about without
25 errors, lawsuits or disenfranchisement?

1 MR. SALINAS: So we have actually had
2 some tight timelines in the past and this is
3 going to be a challenge. There's no question
4 there's going to be challenging administrative
5 challenges to this election.

6 But I think in working with what
7 guidelines we have and in working with the
8 Secretary of State's office on looking at some
9 details, that we can work collectively to book
10 this election. We've done a lot of successful,
11 difficult elections in the past. I remind
12 everybody of the 2020 election, which was a
13 general election under COVID, and we were able to
14 do amazing work.

15 And I know I have the highest confidence
16 in my colleagues across the state, that they will
17 be successful in making it happen with -- as long
18 as these details that we're working through is --
19 are finalized and can be done in a timely
20 fashion.

21 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: What is the shortest
22 timeline you've pulled an election together and
23 been successful?

24 MR. SALINAS: When I think about the
25 timing -- good question. I don't think I can

1 tell you of a specific timeline of what we've
2 done. Typically we like to have additional
3 timing.

4 That's why in the legislation, one of the
5 things we did ask for is for E minus 88 cutoff in
6 the legislation, which was helpful for us because
7 that gives us time to start preparing and not
8 have other add-ons to the legislation. So that
9 was really appreciated on behalf of the Members.

10 So there's not a specific timeline that I
11 can tell you. The earliest that I've ever run an
12 election, I think it may have been the recall
13 election in the past, because that -- but we had
14 a little bit of a heads up on that one.

15 But this is coming through the gate
16 quickly and that's why we're responding as fast
17 as we can on this.

18 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: So this potentially
19 could be the shortest timeline you've pulled an
20 election together?

21 MR. SALINAS: Could potentially, yes.

22 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Okay. Which also
23 makes me nervous when we've talked in extensive
24 amounts on this Committee, particularly about
25 making sure that all voters' voices are heard.

1 And although I can appreciate COVID, it
2 seemed like daily things were changing, it was
3 still during a general election that we knew was
4 coming. so I think that's a little bit different.
5 But seems like you're up for the challenge.

6 So then my next question is, is this
7 process fair to county registrars and elections
8 officials who already face tremendous pressure to
9 ensure accuracy?

10 MR. SALINAS: So I know we are -- so to
11 understand your question, you're asking if this
12 is --

13 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Is how -- I mean,
14 your job is tough enough.

15 MR. SALINAS: Yes.

16 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: And we've heard from
17 our chair, who was an elections official, this is
18 a tough job. And now we are adding even more to
19 your plate. I just don't think that's very fair
20 that we're demanding more from you guys and not
21 really giving you much of a runway to do it.

22 MR. SALINAS: Well, I do think that the
23 resources are going to be helpful, for sure,
24 because it allows us --

1 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Resources meaning
2 finances or --

3 MR. SALINAS: Finances.

4 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: -- what other
5 resources?

6 MR. SALINAS: Funding. Well, funding to
7 be able to actually pay for it, because that is a
8 critical need. And that's why right now I can
9 tell you, across the state -- there are
10 registrars across the state that have already
11 begun the process. Because once we heard that
12 this legislation was coming down the pike, we've
13 begun to make plans.

14 So, for example, in my office, we've
15 already begun to go through our checklist and
16 making sure that we get caught up, because there
17 is a checklist that we're going through, so we're
18 quickly navigating that list.

19 And we're reaching out to our vendors.
20 We're reaching out to our locations. Because
21 we're expeditiously trying to make sure we are
22 ready for this election.

23 And, yes, there's a lot of work ahead.
24 I'm not going to say that there's not. And it's
25 true across the state. So is it going to be a

1 challenge? Yes, there's administrative
2 challenges to such a short timeline.

3 But I do believe that the elections
4 officials, in the past they have stepped up in
5 tremendous ways. Look again at the 2020
6 election.

7 I'm proud to say that I'm a member of
8 this membership that has done an amazing job in
9 the past. And I do believe we can rise to the
10 occasion as long as we have the support and
11 the -- not only the funding, but the little
12 details that we'll be working with Secretary of
13 State to make sure we can be effective in making
14 sure to run these elections.

15 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: So state resources
16 have already gone into this process is what
17 you're telling me?

18 MR. SALINAS: No. We're planning as if
19 it's coming because we've read through the
20 legislation that there will be funding for it.
21 So we are moving forward with the assumption that
22 we will be having resources to pay for this
23 election from the state.

24 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Can you walk me
25 through what this planning includes? If it

1 doesn't require funding to do, what is the
2 (inaudible)?

3 MR. SALINAS: So we have a checklist
4 where we will contact vendors to make sure that
5 they're able to do the print jobs in time. We
6 will be contacting our locations that we are
7 actually able to have locations available to run
8 these elections, which are critical. Because if
9 they are a VCA versus a polling place, there's
10 different timelines that are required.

11 So those are factors that we're still
12 working through because we have to be able to
13 line up not only locations, the vendors. We have
14 to get translators. Talking about translators,
15 we have to make sure the translators are ready
16 for all of this. So there's just a myriad of
17 issues.

18 We have a checklist -- to give you a
19 context, we have a checklist of some 500 items
20 that we're going through through every election.
21 So we're speeding through those to make sure we
22 don't miss anything.

23 So one of the things I take great pride
24 in in our association is we are attention to

1 detail. We have our checklist. We will make
2 sure not to skip any of those.

3 Are we going to quickly go through them
4 to try and catch up? Yes, we will. And
5 everybody across the state is doing that. So we
6 are working hard with the anticipation that this
7 is a pending legislation.

8 That if it does go through, that we're
9 ready to move forward to the best of our
10 abilities given this very compressed timeline.
11 Because it is a compressed timeline, I will
12 acknowledge that.

13 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: So no vendors, no
14 locations, nobody has been contacted, just the
15 creation of a checklist?

16 MR. SALINAS: No. We've been contacting
17 vendors. We actually have been contacting
18 vendors, contacting locations. We are actually
19 trying to lock down all of the locations. We
20 have a few still outstanding. For myself in Yolo
21 County, we still have a few outstanding. But
22 we've got most of them locked up.

23 So there's still a process that we have
24 to do to be able to continue to do the checklist
25 and verify that we're ready to run the election.

1 We're not done yet. It's an ongoing process
2 still.

3 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: When specifically did
4 you start this process? Do you have a date?

5 MR. SALINAS: So we started when we heard
6 through the grapevine there would be a potential
7 piece of legislation coming out. When
8 announcements started coming out, we as
9 registrars became proactive. Because you can't
10 wait till it's already done and approved. You
11 have to start lining up as quickly as possible.

12 So we are -- already started this a
13 couple of weeks ago when the word was out that
14 there was likely a possible piece of legislation
15 coming through. So across the state, we started
16 contacting our vendors, our contacts to say, in
17 the event this happens, we want to make sure that
18 we're ready for it. So that's primarily how
19 we've approached it.

20 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: So you haven't signed
21 any contracts with vendors or done anything?

22 MR. SALINAS: At this point, we have not.

23 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: You just contacted
24 them?

1 MR. SALINAS: Yes, we are contacting them
2 to see their availability, to see if there's
3 locations available, so we're in the process of
4 doing that. Because, again, this hasn't
5 officially been passed yet. We're not going to
6 be able to do it until we know this legislation's
7 passed.

8 But you try and frontload it as much as
9 you can, and that's true of any election. You
10 try and frontload as much as you can in that
11 process.

12 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Interesting.
13 If the justification for urgency is
14 political advantage rather than a true emergency,
15 does this not set a very dangerous precedent for
16 future Legislatures?

17 SENATOR CERVANTES: Well, I find it
18 interesting that your line of questioning is on
19 the timing and on the finance when your own party
20 called for the recall in 2021 special election.

21 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: We're not talking
22 about the recall. I don't know why this keeps
23 getting brought up today. I'd really like to
24 stick to the merits of the bill.

25 So no answer for that?

1 SENATOR CERVANTES: I gave you my
2 response.

3 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Would any of the
4 witnesses like to answer that question? I'm sure
5 it'll come up in court, but -- okay.

6 That's all I have, Madam Chair.

7 CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you.

8 Assembly Member Tangipa. And there's 15
9 minutes.

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Thank you.

11 Yeah. I mean, we heard in the testimony
12 that changing the rules of the game in the middle
13 of it are, you know, unacceptable, and yet we
14 displayed that right here. But, okay, we'll hop
15 into the questions, then.

16 Do you believe that the Independent
17 Redistricting Commission congressional lines
18 conform to the California Constitution? To the
19 author? Anybody? Do you believe --

20 MR. WILLIS: I'm sorry, can you repeat
21 the question?

22 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Do you believe
23 that the Independent Redistricting Commission's
24 congressional lines conform to the California
25 Constitution?

1 MR. WILLIS: Yes.

2 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Do they follow
3 the Voter Rights Act?

4 MR. WILLIS: I believe so, yes. I mean,
5 they haven't been challenged. But, yes, I have
6 every reason to believe they were legal and
7 complied with all of the rules, federal and
8 constitutional rules.

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: So protected
10 classes, districts were created to protect off of
11 race, religion, sex, all of that?

12 MR. WILLIS: I wasn't involved in those
13 lines, but --

14 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But you just
15 spoke that you knew the lines.

16 CHAIR PELLERIN: And can you ask the
17 questions to the merit of this bill?

18 MR. WILLIS: I have no reason to believe
19 that the Redistricting Commission's plans were
20 not in compliance with federal -- all federal
21 laws, including the Voting Rights Act.

22 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Can I ask you
23 how long have you seen this piece of legislation
24 and how long you were granted access to this?

1 MR. WILLIS: So are you talking about
2 the -- which -- what are we talking about? Are
3 we talking about the re --

4 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: The bill. How
5 long have you seen the language?

6 MR. WILLIS: Are we talking about these
7 lines or the Redistricting Commission's lines.

8 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: My original --
9 these lines. I'm talking about --

10 MR. WILLIS: This is not the maps bill.

11 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: No, I
12 understand that. No, I know.

13 Do you think that any of the lines drawn
14 by the Commission were racially gerrymandered?

15

16 MR. WILLIS: By the Commission?

17 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: By the
18 Commission.

19 MR. WILLIS: By the Redistricting
20 Commission?

21 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yes.

22 CHAIR PELLERIN: These are not questions
23 pertaining to SB 280. SB 280 contains the
24 components that are critical to ensuring that
25 county elections officials and the Secretary of

1 State are able to administer the statewide
2 special election in this timeframe.

3 So it's not going into the details of the
4 maps. This is actually the administration of the
5 election and the funding of it.

6 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Okay. I
7 understand.

8 There's so many changes that have
9 happened, you know, it's -- wouldn't we think
10 that a lot of these questions would be worked out
11 if we had longer than 24 hours to review this?
12 Because that's what I think. I mean, there's a
13 struggle here for a general reason, because I
14 haven't seen them.

15 The voter guide for Prop. 20 also stated
16 it'll put an end to backroom deals by ensuring
17 redistricting is completely open to the public.

18 KCRA just reported that there is a
19 certain Senator who agreed to support this if
20 congressional districts were drawn for him.

21 So you agree that the purpose of the
22 process is to undermine Prop. 20 and a backroom
23 deal was done.

24 My question to the author now is, how
25 long have you known about these lines with this

1 urgency involved? Do you know anybody that has
2 been involved that has a vested interest in this
3 legislative body, and do you have a vested
4 interest in these map -- in this election being
5 performed?

6 SENATOR CERVANTES: Again, this bill
7 before us, SB 280, calls for the election to take
8 place on November 4, 2025 and the administration
9 of that election, making statutory changes to
10 ensure that a primary will be conducted on time,
11 June of next year.

12 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Do you have a
13 vested interest in these lines in this election?

14 SENATOR CERVANTES: Pertaining to this
15 bill, this is -- what we are debating today.

16 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Pertaining to
17 this election.

18 SENATOR CERVANTES: -- is the SB 280
19 calling for the special election against the
20 rigging that is happening across our country
21 because of what Trump is demanding of Texas and
22 Governor Abbott.

23 This is how California responds and this
24 is how we allow 40 million Californians to have a
25 say in the direction of our country

1 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Because of the
2 urgency in this bill, do you have any vested
3 interests in it? Do you have any vested --

4 SENATOR CERVANTES: It is democracy that
5 we are standing up for. This is an emergency
6 situation --

7 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: So democracy --

8 SENATOR CERVANTES: -- that requires an
9 emergency response.

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: You can't
11 say --

12 SENATOR CERVANTES: And, again, you --

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: You can't say
14 that you have a vested interest because of
15 democracy?

16 SENATOR CERVANTES: I have a vested
17 interest in supporting my constituency and making
18 sure that I fight for them. When we go back to
19 our districts, just as we did over summer recess,
20 we get asked, what are you doing to stand up
21 against this power grab, against this political
22 gerrymandering that is happening? What can you
23 do as our state representative?

24 This is how we respond. This is our duty
25 to uphold and to ensure that we continue having

1 fair and -- fair elections, not just in the State
2 of California, but across our country. Because
3 California will remain the firewall. This is
4 what voters are asking for. They want to have a
5 say at the ballot box.

6 And, again, much different than what
7 Texas is doing. Texas is drawing their lines to
8 choose their voters, as opposed to letting voters
9 choose who their representative is.

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Senator, I
11 understand that and -- but this is California and
12 this is the California Constitution that I'm
13 trying to speak about, which is why I'm simply
14 just asking if there is a vested interest in
15 these lines and if anybody in California has a
16 vested interest because of the urgency behind
17 this. Because this -- we can do all of this and
18 then completely lose it.

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Madam Chair, I
20 think the question's been asked and answered five
21 times.

22 CHAIR PELLERIN: Yeah. And the urgency
23 on this is because the elections officials need
24 to be moving ahead and continuing their process

1 to conduct that secure, accurate, transparent,
2 accessible election on November 4th.

3 So if we can keep the questions to the
4 merits of this bill, that would be appreciated.

5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Can you speak
6 to the fact that Members who are filing for
7 Congress cannot put on their ballot statement
8 incumbent, which is within the bill?

9 CHAIR PELLERIN: And that is based on
10 prior procedures that we have used in these kinds
11 of situations where they cannot use incumbent.
12 They can only use their title of a Member of
13 Congress or U.S. representative.

14 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Is there any
15 fear at all that that would be a violation of the
16 First Amendment?

17 MR. WILLIS: No. I would say also this
18 is past practice. And as the Chair mentioned,
19 anyone can say that they -- what their title is
20 in the ballot label.

21 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Within this
22 bill, too, it states that this was -- that the
23 maps were created and submitted to the Assembly
24 Committee and prepared by us here.

1 Because of the KCRA report, the maps were
2 done by the DCCC. Is that an accurate statement?
3 Were the maps created by the DCCC?

4 MR. WILLIS: I don't know personally. I
5 know that they were publicly submitted and then
6 the Legislature looked at them and reviewed them
7 carefully for legal compliance.

8 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Thank you.

9 CHAIR PELLERIN: Any other Members have
10 any questions or comments?

11 Assembly Member Berman.

12 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Yeah. I'll make
13 some comments that I was going to make at the end
14 of my presentation, but didn't in the -- to save
15 everyone some time.

16 But it was said by the Vice Chair of the
17 Committee that there is no emergency, and I would
18 urge everybody to wake up.

19 If you don't think that our democracy is
20 currently under attack, if you don't think that
21 the President of the United States getting
22 elections, getting democracy advice from Vladimir
23 Putin isn't an emergency, and then bragging about
24 it on national TV, if you don't think that the
25 President of the United States calling elections

1 officials in Georgia and asking those Republican
2 elections officials to find him 12,000 votes
3 isn't an emergency.

4 If you don't think that this President of
5 the United States won't continue to attack our
6 democracy over and over and over again if we let
7 him isn't an emergency, you're not paying
8 attention.

9 And whether it's for your side or my side
10 doesn't matter. This is our democracy we're
11 talking about. And the President of the United
12 States has shown zero interest in democracy. He
13 has shown only interest in power.

14 And if California doesn't finally push
15 back on these constant attempts to erode our
16 societal norms, to erode our democracy, we won't
17 have an America to fight for in the future. And
18 we're there.

19 I don't like to be hyperbolic. It's not
20 really my style. But if you don't think that the
21 fate of our democracy is at stake when the
22 President of the United States demands, says that
23 he's entitled to five Republican congressional
24 districts, and unlike those Republican elections
25 officials in Georgia who had a spine and a moral

1 compass and said, no, Mr. President, that's wrong
2 and we are not going to do that, that doesn't
3 exist in the Republican Party in 2025.

4 The only answer from Republicans in 2025
5 is, yes, Mr. President, how can I jump higher?
6 Yes, Mr. President, how can I bow lower at your
7 feet? So there is no check. There is no check
8 on this President of the United States,
9 especially when you've got an absolutely
10 compliant majority in the House and the Senate.

11 And that's what he's trying to keep into
12 perpetuity by rigging elections in Texas and
13 other states. And that's what we're fighting
14 back on in California.

15 And we're going to put it to voters and
16 give California voters the opportunity. Do you
17 want to fight back on these power grabs by
18 President Trump and Republicans in other states,
19 who then make decisions that destroy communities
20 in California, that rip away Medi-Cal from
21 3.5 million Californians?

22 And what do our nine Republican Congress
23 Members do? Do they defend their constituents?
24 No. When they know that hundreds of thousands of
25 their constituents are going to lose healthcare,

1 tens of thousands of their constituents are going
2 to lose food stamps, free and reduced meals at
3 lunch, a lot of the things at school, a lot of
4 the things that generations of Californians have
5 been able to depend on. And those things are
6 being taken away. And if that doesn't scare the
7 hell out of you, I don't know what will.

8 So the emergency is here. It's a
9 ten o'clock -- ten alarm fire. And that's what
10 we're responding to, and we need to respond to
11 today.

12 And to the point of the timing, I think
13 the timing sucks. But when we broke for recess,
14 Texans weren't talking about rigging their
15 election for the next decade.

16 Voters are going to have 74 days to
17 review these maps. Voters, California voters,
18 are going to get the chance to vote on these
19 maps. And California voters will decide whether
20 or not we enact these maps or not. I can't think
21 of a more democratic process than that. I don't
22 know why my Republican colleagues are so afraid
23 of the voters of California.

24 So let's put it to the voters in
25 California. Let's give them an opportunity to

1 decide. Are they tired of President Trump
2 attacking California over and over again? Are
3 they tired of Republican Congress Members in
4 California constantly bowing down to the
5 President instead of standing up for them or not?
6 And that's the chance that they're going to get.
7 And that's the beauty of this process. That's
8 the beauty of the opportunity that they're going
9 to have on November 4th.

10 So I want to thank my colleague, the
11 Elections Chair in the Senate, for bringing
12 forward this bill. I want to thank my colleague,
13 the Elections Chair of the Assembly, for joint
14 authoring it. And I'm happy to support it. I'll
15 move the bill.

16 ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: Second.

17 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNET: Second.

18 CHAIR PELLERIN: We have a motion, and we
19 have a second.

20 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Can I --

21 CHAIR PELLERIN: You have one more
22 question?

23 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: I do.

24 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay.

1 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yeah. Well,
2 more of a comment.

3 You know, the main reason why I truly
4 brought up urgency and why it's so vital and so
5 important, because I agree, when we all took a
6 break here, this wasn't something that we all
7 thought about, wasn't something that we talked
8 about. I don't think anybody -- any of us want
9 to be here going through this process.

10 But with urgency and the way this has
11 been done and the way we're thinking about it,
12 the people of California can see right now that
13 if they wanted us to take on cost of living,
14 insurance, utilities, everything else --

15 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Madam Chair, can
16 we speak to the bill?

17 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- it's urgency
18 and --

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: You're talking
20 about urgency (inaudible)?

21 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Mr. Berman, you
22 just --

23 (Simultaneous speakers - inaudible.)

24 CHAIR PELLERIN: Excuse me. Excuse me.

1 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: The main reason
2 why --

3 CHAIR PELLERIN: We have a motion, and we
4 have a second.

5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Madam Chair,
6 the main reason why --

7 CHAIR PELLERIN: And so for that, in all
8 intents and purposes, ends debate.

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But for my 15
10 minutes, can I just --

11 CHAIR PELLERIN: You're just about -- you
12 got one more minute.

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Okay. I'll do
14 it in one minute.

15 It tells us that the State of California
16 can move at lightning speed to handle something
17 when it's for political gain, but we can't do it
18 to take on the cost of living, to take on
19 utilities, to take on everything else. And I'm
20 sorry --

21 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Thank you for
22 not speaking of this bill at all.

23 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: And I'm sorry
24 that we can find urgency on this bill, but we

1 can't find urgency to take on so many issues here
2 in the state of California.

3 And I'm sorry, but when your family would
4 be sitting in the morgue right now, I think you
5 would ask for 15 more minutes. I think you would
6 ask for more --

7 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I would
8 (inaudible).

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- when I
10 haven't seen this.

11 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: (Inaudible)
12 money away from (inaudible).

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: When I haven't
14 seen this.

15 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. All right. So --

16 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Thank you.
17 Thank you.

18 CHAIR PELLERIN: -- bringing the control
19 back here to the Chair.

20 We have a motion, and we have a second on
21 SB 280.

22 Senator Cervantes, you may close.

23 SENATOR CERVANTES: Thank you, Madam
24 Chair and Committee Members, for the opportunity
25 to close today.

1 You know, I want to make a few statements
2 because of what I heard from our two Republican
3 colleagues, Assembly Member Macedo and Assembly
4 Member Tangipa.

5 You know, earlier this year, you had an
6 opportunity to vote on an independent,
7 nonpartisan commission through a bill by your own
8 colleague, Assemblymember Soria. And yet, you
9 both voted against it twice. So that is where
10 the hypocrisy lies.

11 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Madam Chair -- Madam
12 Chair, we've been attacked on this twice.

13 CHAIR PELLERIN: Let's let the Senator
14 complete her close, please.

15 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Are we allowed
16 to respond to the disparaging comments?

17 CHAIR PELLERIN: No, you're not. We're
18 going to complete your close.

19 SENATOR CERVANTES: Thank you, Madam
20 Chair.

21 This is an opportunity for the voters to
22 have a direct say in the future of California and
23 our country. This is a response to Trump's
24 election rigging scheme, which is an emergency
25 for our democracy.

1 SB 280 is to hold an election to give
2 voters, California voters, a voice that Texas
3 Republicans are denying Texans. Let Californians
4 vote and have a say at the ballot box.

5 I respectfully ask for your aye vote.

6 CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you.

7 And I'm sorry, I did miss Assembly Member
8 Bennett, who had a comment he would like to make,
9 so I'm going to open the floor to him.

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: Thank you very
11 much. I appreciate that. I'll try to be very
12 brief here.

13 I talked earlier about this real issue is
14 about how do we set the rules of the game to
15 decide who controls the power of the federal
16 government. And the old way is being changed at
17 the federal government level. I talked about
18 that in my earlier comments and so I won't repeat
19 all that.

20 But I do think there's one thing that
21 really merits repeating because between now and
22 November, we will get an enormous amount of what
23 I'm going to talk about, and that autocrats use
24 four major techniques to -- autocrats use four
25 major techniques to weaken democracy and do these

1 kinds of things that are happening in Texas. And
2 that is, they're just deceitful about what's
3 going on, one.

4 Two, they practice lots of intimidation.
5 I would offer the laughter and the jeering,
6 et cetera that took place in this hearing in the
7 first -- as we discussed the first bill as just
8 an example of that. Didn't come from the other
9 side anywhere near like it came from that.

10 The third thing is the militarization of
11 civilian life is part of this create this crisis
12 mentality.

13 But the fourth one that is the most
14 difficult is to keep raising issues to deflect us
15 from the real issue. This is about changing the
16 rules, rigging the game so that one side has an
17 advantage in keeping the resources and the power
18 of the federal government.

19 And that technique is to deflect us with,
20 well, why is this more urgent than that? Why is
21 this, and why didn't we do it like the old
22 Commission? It's every trick in the book and it
23 is kabuki theater, as I said before.

24 But I want to repeat that we all have to
25 be looking out for an enormous amount of this

1 between now and November and we have to do
2 everything we can to educate the public.

3 And thank you very much for letting me
4 make that point before we go.

5 CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you. And my
6 apologies for missing that.

7 So there's a motion and a second, and the
8 Senator has closed. So the motion is to do pass
9 and re-refer to Appropriations.

10 Madam Secretary, please call the roll.

11 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: On SB 280 by
12 Cervantes, Pellerin?

13 CHAIR PELLERIN: Aye.

14 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Pellerin, aye.
15 Macedo?

16 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: No.

17 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Macedo, no.
18 Bennett?

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: Aye.

20 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Bennett, aye.
21 Berman?

22 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Aye.

23 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Berman, aye.
24 Solache?

25 ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: Aye.

1 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Solache, aye.

2 Stefani?

3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: Aye.

4 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Stefani, aye.

5 Tangipa?

6 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: No.

7 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Tangipa, no.

8 CHAIR PELLERIN: That bill is out five to
9 two.

10 Thank you so much.

11 We are now going to go ahead and recess
12 our Assembly Bill hearing and move on to our
13 informational hearing on Assembly Bill 604. And
14 the author is present.

15 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Madam Chair, motion
16 to recess till tomorrow considering the maps were
17 just changed at eight o'clock last night.

18 CHAIR PELLERIN: We've already considered
19 that motion earlier.

20 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Different bill. That
21 was on the ACA, not on the maps bill.

22 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: This is a
23 different bill.

24 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. We have a motion
25 to recess again, yes. Apparently it's an order

1 again for this bill. And so we'll put that to a
2 vote.

3 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Pellerin?

4 CHAIR PELLERIN: No.

5 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Pellerin, no.
6 Macedo?

7 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Aye.

8 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Macedo, aye.
9 Bennett?

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: No.

11 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Bennett, no.
12 Berman?

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: No.

14 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Berman, no.
15 Solache?

16 ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: No.

17 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Solache, no.
18 Stefani?

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEFANI: No.

20 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Stefani, no.
21 Tangipa?

22 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Aye.

23 COMMITTEE SECRETARY: Tangipa, aye.

24 CHAIR PELLERIN: That motion fails two to
25 five.

1 Majority Floor Leader, you may begin your
2 presentation of AB 604.

3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: Great.
4 I'm just waiting for someone to hold -- okay.

5 Thank you, Madam Chair and Members.

6 Let's not dance around the issue here.
7 If California Democrats had our way, the midterms
8 would continue as they are with the map drawn by
9 our state's Independent California Citizens
10 Redistricting Commission. I think we need to --
11 we agree on that.

12 But that's not good enough for this
13 President or for Republicans following his
14 commands in Texas and D.C. We weren't planning
15 on redistricting until they made attempts to rig
16 the 2026 election by stacking the deck in other
17 states. We didn't start this and we are not
18 going to roll over.

19 This bill lays out new congressional
20 districts only, only if voters pass ACA 8. If
21 voters approve the new map, the Independent
22 Redistricting Commission will continue its
23 mission after the 2030 census.

24 If California voters approve this plan,
25 the temporary maps only happen if D.C.

1 Republicans and the Republican-led states push
2 through mid-decade partisan maps first. Unlike
3 Texas, which is forcing maps on their voters,
4 we're taking ours for their approval. We're
5 asking ours for their approval. There is nothing
6 more Democratic than letting California voters
7 decide.

8 Unlike the map proposed in Texas, the map
9 in AB 604 respects California's constitutional
10 requirement for maintaining communities of
11 interest. With this bill, there is less breakup
12 of local jurisdictions. With this bill, we seek
13 the public's input. The voters will decide.

14 So if our Republican colleagues in
15 California want this to stop, they don't need us
16 to do it. They can convince the Republican
17 colleagues in Texas and D.C. to stop trying to
18 rig the 2026 elections. And they can ask
19 Congressional Republicans to pass the Republican
20 proposal to make midterm redistricting illegal,
21 to finally create a system where every state uses
22 a fair, independent districting system.

23 Again, colleagues, their choice is to
24 stand down or support a fair system for every
25 state. That's how this ends. Until this

1 President's followers stop trying to rig the
2 elections, we won't and we can't sit on our
3 hands.

4 What happens next year is up to the
5 President, and it's up to the national
6 Republicans, and it's up to California voters.

7 With me today, I believe -- right now we
8 will have Terry Brennand with SEIU and Tom Willis
9 from Olson Remcho speak. We're also waiting for
10 our other member. Thank you.

11 MR. BRENNAN: Madam Chair, Members, Terry
12 Brennand on behalf of SEIU California.

13 SEIU local unions are made up of workers
14 in the frontline, essential roles across the
15 state, nurses, healthcare workers, janitors,
16 social workers, security officers, in-home
17 caregivers, school and university employees,
18 court workers, airport workers, city, county,
19 state employees, all of whom are targets of this
20 federal administration.

21 On behalf of our 750,000 workers and 17
22 SEIU locals, we are in strong support of this
23 bill and the entire redistricting package. It
24 represents a sensible and, in fact, possibly the

1 only path for California to fight back against
2 Trump's efforts to steal the next election.

3 As has already been stated, this bill
4 only goes into effect if Trump and his MAGA
5 loyalists are successful in the one party rule of
6 redistricting, and only as a temporary measure to
7 respond to the election rigging from the White
8 House.

9 While SEIU wouldn't have chosen this
10 path, it's not the cleanest, easiest way to do
11 things, we are proud that California isn't going
12 to just sit here like Texas, and let Texas and
13 Trump roll over our democracy.

14 And unlike Texas, which obliterated their
15 current congressional districts, drafting maps
16 for this proposal overwhelmingly reinforced
17 California's commitment to our democracy and the
18 vote of every Californian.

19 The maps proposed in AB 604 build upon
20 the work of the Redistricting Commission and keep
21 the majority of districts established by that
22 Commission intact.

23 The plan you will get to vote on and the
24 voters will get to vote on in November was
25 created using traditional redistricting criteria

1 consistent with the State Commission criteria and
2 the Fair Maps Act, but with the additional
3 criteria of improving partisan gains in response
4 to Texas and other states who are conducting mid-
5 decade redistricting. Using objective metrics,
6 the districts maintain and even, in some cases,
7 improve district compactness compared to the
8 existing commission maps.

9 For people who are concerned about
10 splitting up cities, it should be noted that the
11 maps in AB 604 split fewer cities than the
12 current Commission plan that we're operating
13 under. In contrast, the Texican -- Texican --
14 Texas Republicans aimed to maximize Republican
15 gains with no consideration of the state's
16 residents.

17 Their proposed map doesn't even consider
18 communities of interest or political
19 subdivisions, splitting 142 cities, more than
20 double the number of cities compared to the
21 California map drawn by the Commission.

22 Not only does California redistricting
23 plan better represent the people of California,
24 but the proposed changes impact significantly
25 fewer residents.

1 CHAIR PELLERIN: If you could wrap up.
2 Thank you.

3 MR. BRENNAN: Okay, I'll wind up.

4 Californians will get a chance to vote on
5 our future. Every American's voice and their
6 voice will be at stake.

7 For these reasons we urge an aye vote
8 when you get a chance to vote on this.

9 Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

10 CHAIR PELLERIN: And welcome to Senator
11 Gonzalez.

12 UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER: It's your turn.

13 SENATOR GONZALEZ: Oh, okay.

14 Thank you very much, Madam Chair. My
15 apologies for being a little late. And thank you
16 to the Members who are here today.

17 And in partnership with Assembly Majority
18 Leader Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, presenting AB 604,
19 which represents a reasonable and rational
20 response to the anti-Democratic actions of this
21 federal administration.

22 AB 604, as has been mentioned and we'll
23 continue to reiterate, gives California voters
24 the last say, an opportunity to decide in
25 November whether they support newly drawn maps to

1 elect congressional representatives that will
2 stand up against threats to our democracy.

3 Californians and all Americans are facing
4 an endless cycle of worry under this reckless
5 federal administration, and that means
6 Republicans, Democrats, no party preference,
7 Americans and Californians are facing this worry.

8 Families have been separated in my
9 district alone. Immigrant communities completely
10 traumatized for the overreach of this egregious
11 administration.

12 Vital programs have been cut. Medicare,
13 we have about 6 million folks on Medicare here in
14 California. Over 3 million of them will be
15 affected by the Medicare cuts in our communities.
16 And that's exactly why this moment is so urgent.
17 Our communities deserve better.

18 And for you, I don't know personally,
19 seeing my Texas colleagues being locked up, being
20 threatened with the FBI coming after them, being
21 threatened to require them to have law
22 enforcement at their every waking hour just to be
23 able to do their job is really an egregious
24 crime, in my opinion, to be able to represent

1 your communities, but still have this hanging
2 over you.

3 So AB 604 is a temporary solution that
4 provides California voters with the means to
5 balance the scales.

6 And I look forward to the discussion here
7 and testifying in support.

8 In addition to Mr. Brennand, we also have
9 Mr. Willis here, too, from Olson Remcho.

10 MR. WILLIS: Thank you. I'll just be
11 very, very brief.

12 The AB 604 is obviously the Maps Act. It
13 is a long list of census blocks. But
14 nonetheless, that is seen through interactive
15 maps that will be widely available. And more
16 importantly, the SB 280, which you just had the
17 hearing on, commands that the voter pamphlet
18 include maps for everyone to see. I have a
19 feeling that these maps over the next 74 days
20 will be discussed widely by everyone, and so it
21 is up to the public.

22 These maps only go into effect if Texas
23 or other districts do mid-decade redistricting
24 and if our voters, the California voters, approve

1 them. Probably the most democratic process you
2 can have.

3 So those are my two points. I'm happy to
4 answer any technical questions or legal questions
5 you have.

6 CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you so much.

7 We'll now open it up to the room. If
8 there's anybody who wants to add on as a support
9 to AB 604, you may step up, and you're each given
10 30 seconds.

11 MS. HINES-SHAIKH: Honorable Chair and
12 Members, Amy Hines-Shaikh representing UDW AFSCME
13 Local 3930 and their 200,000 in-home supportive
14 services members standing up for Medi-Cal funding
15 and these bills, the whole redistricting package,
16 in strong support, and UNITE HERE! Local 11
17 representing 32,000 folks in Orange County,
18 San Bernardino, Riverside And Los Angeles
19 counties, in strong support of the whole
20 redistricting package, including this bill.
21 Thank you.

22 MS. CHOU: Annie Chou with the California
23 Teachers Association in support of this bill.

24 Again, just reminding that CTA is
25 supporting these bills because of, you know, the

1 effect at the school site. So when we're talking
2 about the reduction in force in the Department of
3 Education and protecting those workers, when
4 we're talking about funding for Education
5 Department.

6 And I know that our state was involved
7 in, you know, making sure that we were ensured
8 those federal funding. Those are the types of
9 things that are super critical to the task at
10 hand for the California Teachers Association. So
11 thank you so much.

12 MS. MOK: Tiffany Mok on behalf of CFT, a
13 union of educators and classified professionals.
14 We stand proud to support this legislation, not
15 because we wanted to, but because we believe it
16 is necessary to defend against the threats that
17 we see every day on our school campuses.

18 CFT's mission is to ensure that there are
19 the necessary conditions for learning. And under
20 this administration, we feel like many of the
21 attacks --

22 (Cell phone ringing.)

23 MS. MOK: Okay. And so that's not me.
24 Okay.

1 Anyway, so we support this legislation
2 because we feel we're threatened by this
3 administration.

4 CHAIR PELLERIN: But now it's me.

5 MS. NIELSEN: Julie Nielsen on behalf of
6 the National Union of Healthcare Workers,
7 representing healthcare workers up and down the
8 state of California, in strong support of this
9 legislation and the fight back. Thank you.

10 MR. KUMAR: Thank you, Chair and Members.
11 Keshav Kumar for the final time on behalf of
12 Lighthouse Public Affairs representing
13 Reproductive Freedom for All.

14 Really want to say thank you to the
15 Members of the Committee who are in support of
16 this and the Legislature in general.

17 This is what we need to do at this moment
18 because of what Texas is planning on doing and
19 what other states may do. And Reproductive
20 Freedom for All has members in every single
21 congressional district. And we are in strong
22 support on behalf of our 4 million members.
23 Thank you.

1 MS. GUSMAN: Good afternoon. Connor
2 Gusman on behalf of Teamsters California, in
3 support. Thank you.

4 MS. FLOCKS: Madam Chair, Members, Sara
5 Flocks, California Federation of Labor Unions.
6 On behalf of our 2.3 million members, we're in
7 strong support. Thank you.

8 MS. MCMICHAEL: Shelby McMichael on
9 behalf of Planned Parenthood Affiliates of
10 California, in strong support.

11 CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you.

12 We will now open it up to primary
13 witnesses in opposition. If there's primary
14 witnesses in opposition, you may step up to the
15 presentation table. And you're provided with
16 three minutes.

17 MR. BOLOG: Thank you so much. My name
18 is David Bolog. I am an employee of the City of
19 Los Angeles, although I do not speak for the City
20 of Los Angeles, nor do I speak for my unions. I
21 am a member of a union.

22 One of the presenters here today stated
23 that, because of the cuts, we are losing to be
24 able to provide services. In the City of LA, we
25 are facing a budget crisis. We are having to lay

1 off people. But it has nothing to do with the
2 administration. It has to do with our poor
3 planning of our leaderships and lawsuits.

4 So one of the big problems that a lot of
5 Republicans have with this map and with the
6 process of doing the redistricting is that we are
7 losing representation. And I do know -- even
8 though I do not agree with the supermajority
9 party's politics, you've been nothing but fair to
10 us.

11 You've been fair to my -- I consider them
12 my representatives, even though they're not my
13 district. You've given them ample amount of time
14 and allowed them to express their dismay with
15 this and allow them to ask their questions.

16 But by passing this -- and I understand
17 the reasons why you're doing it. By passing
18 this, you are limiting our congressional
19 representation. We make up about 40 percent --
20 and I said this already, and another person said
21 it. We make up about 40 percent of the voting
22 block.

23 I think what this is going to do is limit
24 it to, if I'm not mistaken, 20 percent, so it's
25 going to cut our representation down in half.

1 And I do know you care about that. So I think
2 you -- and I understand, again, why you're doing
3 it. But I think you all could do a lot better
4 than this.

5 And, again, thank you for your
6 generosity, and I thank you for allowing me to
7 speak, and I thank you allowing for everybody to
8 give 30 seconds.

9 I know it's probably not going to happen,
10 but I really wish that that will become a trend
11 in this Legislature with the committees. Thank
12 you.

13 CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you so much.

14 Anybody else in the room that would just
15 like to come to the mic and give your 30 seconds.

16 MS. PATEL: Hello. My name is Preet
17 Patel, and I strongly oppose this piece of
18 legislation.

19 Your duty as this state's Legislature is
20 to the voters of California, not to perform
21 retaliatory responses to the actions of other
22 states.

23 So by overriding our State Constitution,
24 to retaliate to the actions of the State of Texas
25 is completely disregarding your constituents.

1 And the reason that you are elected into
2 office is not to sit here and --

3 CHAIR PELLERIN: That's 30 seconds.

4 MS. PATEL: Okay. Well, I don't know
5 that that was 30 seconds, but thank you.

6 CHAIR PELLERIN: Actually, it's 37 now.
7 And let's refrain from the applause.
8 Thank you.

9 MS. KAY: Hello. My name is Shan Kay. I
10 was in here earlier posing as well. Drove all
11 the way up from Southern California this morning
12 to come up and oppose.

13 My sentiments are the same. We are
14 not -- I know you're trying to Trump proof
15 California, but we are constituents in California
16 and we feel like our voices should mean
17 something, not just something to fight what's
18 going on in another state.

19 So I'm just here, driving all the way up
20 here from one o'clock in the morning to oppose
21 this bill. Thank you.

22 CHAIR PELLERIN: All right. Thank you
23 very much.

24 All right. Is that everybody that --
25 okay.

1 So we will now bring it back to the
2 Committee.

3 Members, do you have any comments or
4 questions?

5 Assemblymember Bennett.

6 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: Just one quick
7 one. This bill is on a tight time frame. All
8 three bills are on tight time frames, and so I
9 think it's appropriate for us to recognize that.

10 Many attempts will be made to delay
11 things, and there will be all kinds of reasons
12 for why we should delay. But I think we should
13 all call out that one of the major reasons is, if
14 you have a tight time frame and you can delay
15 something long enough, that's a way to defeat
16 this bill. And that's simply rather than -- it's
17 a genuine issue that's being brought up, it's an
18 issue being brought up for the ulterior motive of
19 allowing the autocrats to win and change the
20 rules and have us not be able to respond. Thank
21 you very much.

22 CHAIR PELLERIN: Any -- I'm sorry,
23 there's two more people that were wanting to have
24 opposition recorded. Go ahead and take your 30
25 seconds each. My apologies.

1 MS. GRAY: No worries.

2 My name is Yasmina Gray, and I'm a
3 resident here in Sacramento. And my sentiments
4 are the same as what was explained before, is
5 that as a citizen, as a resident here, I don't
6 think that our law should be looking at
7 countering what's going on in another state.

8 It should be reflective of what is needed
9 here, for the residents here. And so I want to
10 strongly oppose the bill. Thank you.

11 MS. CHAVEZ: My name is Diana Chavez.
12 And as a Republican minority now here in
13 California, I strongly oppose this because I
14 think my voice is being completely shut down as
15 being a Republican. It seems everything wants to
16 go Democratic. And so I strongly oppose this
17 redistricting.

18 CHAIR PELLERIN: Any other comments or
19 questions from Committee Members?

20 Assembly Member Tangipa.

21 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yes, I have
22 quite a few.

23 So I actually just wanted some clarity,
24 too. If you can answer this, when did we first

1 see the maps and when were you given the maps to
2 start drawing these lines?

3 And I ask -- and the main reason why I
4 ask that is because there was statement that was
5 made that these congressional maps have fewer --
6 you stated that there were fewer splits with
7 these maps.

8 It is my understanding that, as of last
9 night at eight o'clock that there are more splits
10 now and that was completely changed. So if you
11 wrote your testimony before 8:00 p.m., the entire
12 maps are completely different.

13 MR. BRENNAND: I did it based on the maps
14 released on Friday.

15 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: On Friday?

16 MR. BRENNAND: Yeah.

17 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Okay. So the
18 maps changed last night and now there are more
19 splits.

20 CHAIR PELLERIN: Again, the maps were
21 changed as of yesterday morning at 8:00 a.m., and
22 it was just a couple of tweaks that were done
23 in --

24 UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER: (Inaudible.)

1 CHAIR PELLERIN: I know, I know, I know.
2 But it's not the entire map.

3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But I meant it
4 more towards the testimony was wrong. It was
5 incorrect.

6 MR. BRENNAND: Well, there are fewer,
7 fewer splits than the Texas maps for sure.
8 That's what my testimony was.

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Okay. The --

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: If you
11 don't mind, there --

12 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: When did --

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: -- there
14 were -- just so you know, we did have -- there
15 were some changes. They did two things. They
16 eliminate a zero population split in the City of
17 Industry and improve the compactness of the plan
18 in Southern Santa Ana.

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: When did those
20 changes happen?

21 ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: Yesterday.

22 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: When were those
23 changes made public to all Committee Members?

24 Because they weren't made public yesterday at
25 8:00 a.m. for me. Because when I read mine, the

1 City of Clovis had three congressional districts.

2 The City of Clovis now has a change and has one.

3 CHAIR PELLERIN: It's my understanding
4 that our Committee staff posted them on our
5 Assembly elections website yesterday morning at
6 8:00 a.m.

7 ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: That's
8 when they were there.

9 SENATOR GONZALEZ: And we've had over
10 3,000 -- probably now about 5,000 residents
11 across California that have submitted to the
12 online portal that was available -- thank you,
13 Madam Chair on the Assembly side, as well as
14 Chair Cervantes in the Senate side -- a portal
15 that was available to residents as of Friday. I
16 think even before that.

17 And so we want to thank you for being so
18 transparent and providing the opportunity for
19 folks to see the maps.

20 And as been mentioned by our witnesses
21 too, you know, 70 -- I'm going to be very clear
22 here with the data, 76.7 percent of people will
23 be in their same congressional district. The
24 maps change 58 percent of districts by less than
25 20 percent, and 37 percent by less than

1 10 percent. Eight districts will be identical to
2 the lines drawn by the Citizens Redistricting
3 Commission.

4 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Okay. Thank
5 you.

6 SENATOR GONZALEZ: And we all know --

7 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: I've got to
8 move on to my next question.

9 SENATOR GONZALEZ: I'm not done here.

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: I have a
11 limited amount of time, so I got to move on.

12 SENATOR GONZALEZ: I understand, but I
13 have the floor.

14 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: So do you agree
15 that --

16 SENATOR GONZALEZ: If you don't mind --

17 CHAIR PELLERIN: Excuse me. Assembly
18 Member Tangipa, we're going to freeze your
19 time --

20 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Okay.

21 CHAIR PELLERIN: -- and allow the Senator
22 to finish with her report.

23 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: How much time
24 do I have left?

1 CHAIR PELLERIN: Eleven minutes and 45
2 seconds.

3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Thank you.

4 SENATOR GONZALEZ: Thank you, Madam
5 Chair.

6 And we just -- you know, I will certainly
7 keep decorum here as much as possible, but I want
8 to make sure that the public understands what
9 we're doing here.

10 And then there's 21 districts, exactly
11 the ideal district size, the same number as the
12 Citizen Redistricting Commission.

13 And the proposed congressional map, as
14 been mentioned by Mr. Brennand, keeps more cities
15 whole than -- within a single district than most
16 recent maps enacted by the Commission.

17 As you know, the Commission had six
18 Republicans, five Democrats, four nonparty
19 preference folks that were doing the hard work
20 back in 2020.

21 And so I think that, you know, again,
22 76.7 percent of the current maps that you see
23 here are based off that Commission map in 2020.
24 So that's -- these are small changes, while also

1 ensuring that we're combating Texas on this
2 democracy issue, which is very important.

3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Thank you.

4 Do you agree that we have not -- are we
5 starting? Okay.

6 Do you agree that we have not had as many
7 hearings as were held by the Citizens
8 Redistricting Commission? Just do you agree that
9 we haven't had as much -- as many hearings?

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: Well, I
11 think the information has been that the maps are
12 based on proceedings, records and public input
13 from Independent Commission process based on the
14 2020 census.

15 Voters are able to see those maps in the
16 Assembly Elections Committee website, submit
17 public comments so we can answer their questions.
18 The voters will make the ultimate decision on
19 their maps.

20 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Got it. So you
21 agree.

22 Do you agree that we have not followed
23 the same requirements in drawing lines as the
24 Citizens Redistricting Commission was required to
25 follow pursuant to the California Constitution?

1 SENATOR GONZALEZ: And we'll say again,
2 over 76 percent of this map that you see here had
3 been vetted publicly, had been done by the
4 Commission. And from Mr. Willis's testimony
5 back in Senate elections -- and if you'd like to
6 pontificate on this -- is the Members of the
7 public since Friday of last week will have 78
8 days did we say? Seventy-eight days to look at
9 this before it hits the ballots.

10 And on the ballot they will have a link
11 that will direct them to the map, so they can
12 obviously have -- be more educated when they're
13 at the ballot box as well. And Californians will
14 have the final say.

15 This is much more time than would be --
16 than would have been given through the
17 redistricting process, which was 14 days.

18 So if you'd like to add to that,
19 Mr. Willis, we'd love to put you on the spot.

20 MR. WILLIS: (Inaudible.)

21 SENATOR GONZALEZ: Okay, good. I did
22 well for you. Thank you.

23 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Was any
24 nongovernment employee assisting in the drawings
25 of these lines?

1 SENATOR GONZALEZ: Not that I know of.
2 I'm not sure why you would infer that. Again,
3 this is a -- this is an attack on Californians.
4 This is an attack on Californians. Let's be very
5 clear here what is happening.

6 There are Texas legislators that are
7 being locked up and required to be with law
8 enforcement because they're just trying to do
9 their job representing their communities.

10 So our response is absolutely going to
11 say we want as Californians to combat that. How
12 in the hell are we going to say that Medicare --
13 children that are on Medicare, it's okay to
14 continue to cut 3.4 million Californians off of
15 Medicare?

16 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: So I ask --

17 SENATOR GONZALEZ: Would you be okay
18 with that --

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: I ask --

20 SENATOR GONZALEZ: -- telling your
21 residents in the district that it's okay to cut
22 them from Medicare?

23 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: So I'm asking
24 the questions.

25 SENATOR GONZALEZ: Disabled children.

1 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: And one of the
2 main things that we wanted to know on this is
3 because we want to know who wrote the maps.
4 There was a report done by KCRA that stated that
5 the DCCC had a direct involvement with this.

6 In this legislation, it states that the
7 maps were created, prepared by, by the Assembly
8 Committee. That's inaccurate. That's why it's
9 pertinent to this.

10 But moving on, do you believe that
11 Members have a vested interest in these maps
12 passed?

13 SENATOR GONZALEZ: We do in the sense
14 that we want to protect Medicare. We want to
15 make sure that Medicare is not continued to be
16 cut. We want to ensure that SNAP benefits for
17 children -- why are they being cut?

18 Why -- can you go back to your district
19 and really tell them, we're going to cut your
20 SNAP benefits, we're going to cut your Medicare,
21 we're going to continue to racially profile you
22 in Los Angeles because you're an immigrant?

23 And on top of that, we might just decide,
24 if we lose this election, that Trump might be
25 elected for a third term. Because now we're

1 electing kings all of a sudden. We cannot do
2 that. We cannot and we won't.

3 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. Let's have order,
4 please.

5 SENATOR GONZALEZ: You might think it's
6 laughable, but this is where we're at right now.

7 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: No, but
8 Senator.

9 SENATOR GONZALEZ: This is true -- this
10 is true stuff.

11 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: I appreciate
12 you truly being honest with that.

13 SENATOR GONZALEZ: Absolutely.

14 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: I really do,
15 like honestly.

16 That's fairly surprising, understanding
17 the urgency done with this and how we're moving
18 it through, that it was openly admitted that
19 we -- that the Members of this legislative
20 Committee and this body have a vested interest.
21 Thank you.

22 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I appreciate
23 that we not misrepresent the answers that are
24 given.

1 SENATOR GONZALEZ: That was not what was
2 said, but --

3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Given that
4 this -- given this -- given this is being rushed
5 through --

6 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Every member of
7 California has a vested interest in our
8 democracy, Mr. Tangipa.

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- with zero
10 research --

11 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay.

12 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: I realize that
13 we like to play gotcha games today, but let's
14 keep it in check.

15 CHAIR PELLERIN: Let's keep our
16 questions --

17 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Thank you.

18 CHAIR PELLERIN: -- to the merits of this
19 bill, AB604, please.

20 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Given this is
21 being rushed through with zero research or
22 consideration of implication, I feel it's kind of
23 worthless to ask. But, you know, have you read
24 the study by Jones's regarding partisan
25 gerrymandering and turnout?

1 CHAIR PELLERIN: Do you have questions
2 about AB 604, the merits of the bill, what is
3 contained in the bill?

4 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Well, it's --

5 CHAIR PELLERIN: I don't see how that's
6 relevant.

7 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: In the bill it
8 states that it's the gerrymandered map, and I'm
9 asking about research done on gerrymandering.

10 CHAIR PELLERIN: The maps are publicly
11 posted on the Assembly Committee's website for
12 everybody to see. The voters will be the
13 ultimate say on whether these districts are
14 approved or not for the temporary basis until
15 2032.

16 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But I believe
17 that gerrymandering is pertinent to it, and there
18 is multiple studies that have to deal with
19 gerrymandering that I think are very relevant to
20 the bill since it's in the bill.

21 SENATOR GONZALEZ: We have not read it.
22 What is your point? Can you tell us what your
23 question is? That'd be great to know.

24 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Well, it's the
25 fact that gerrymandering happening anywhere else

1 or everywhere else, when we have empirical data
2 that it does not help the people of California,
3 why would we bring that here if it shows us.

4 And it tells us that in these studies --
5 you know, there's a study done by BMC Starkey
6 that actually talked about the relationship
7 between gerrymandering, redistricting.

8 ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: Voters
9 will decide.

10 CHAIR PELLERIN: Yeah.

11 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- and infant
12 mortality and deaths.

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: The voters
14 will decide.

15 CHAIR PELLERIN: Am I taking this to be a
16 position that you support independent
17 redistricting for the entire 50 states in the
18 United States?

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yes.

20 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. Good to know.

21 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yes, of course
22 I do.

23 CHAIR PELLERIN: That's great to hear.

24 SENATOR GONZALEZ: We can actually align
25 on that.

1 CHAIR PELLERIN: Yeah. Anything you
2 could do to help Texas and Florida, let them know
3 that that position would be greatly appreciated.

4 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: And I will say
5 that time and time again. I've gone to advocate.
6 But I also understand my position as a Legislator
7 in the State of California is to the California
8 people, and we can't react to what other states
9 do, what everybody else does.

10 Because the way I think about it, seven
11 months ago, there's a different person in the
12 federal administration and in the White House.
13 Cost of living was still \$825,000 in the state.
14 25 percent of residents, 20 percent of residents
15 still couldn't afford it.

16 So if we created our policies, which it
17 feels like here in this legislative body is
18 reacting to everybody else, we're doing a
19 disservice to the people of California. That's
20 why it's important.

21 So, yes, I agree with you and everybody
22 else here. I wish we would continue to be the
23 model to the rest of the nation that they should
24 adopt ours.

1 But instead, it seems like we've
2 forgotten the statement that was made by Michelle
3 Obama that when they go low, we go high. But
4 instead, now we've -- this -- the leadership here
5 in the state says when they go low, we'll go
6 lower. When they go authoritarian, we'll be more
7 authoritarian.

8 CHAIR PELLERIN: And did you have more
9 questions about the merits of the bill?

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yes, ma'am,
11 I -- yes. I do.

12 CHAIR PELLERIN: Please go ahead and ask
13 those.

14 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: You know, there
15 are just so many empirical studies that are done
16 on this. When we're looking at the maps, how did
17 we take into consideration communities of
18 interest?

19 You know, were they done to protect race,
20 religion, all the ideologies that we have right
21 now to make sure that we're protecting the voters
22 of California? Was that done in that
23 consideration?

24 SENATOR GONZALEZ: It's a partisan
25 gerrymander. That's what we're talking about

1 here. This is partisan politics is what we're
2 talking about here.

3 If Texas wants to -- again, if Trump
4 gives them a call and says, literally, as he did
5 with Governor Abbott, find me five seats, well,
6 we're not going to sit back and just say, well,
7 it's okay, find the five seats. And you know
8 what? Six million people will be taken off of
9 Medicare in California.

10 We are not going to stand by for that.
11 So, no, this is completely partisan politics
12 here. Obviously, that is happening. And we're
13 doing so with the intent of supporting and
14 bringing forward the quality of life issues that
15 have been so affected by Californians, regardless
16 of what your party affiliation, regardless of
17 where you live in the state.

18 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Do you know if
19 the maps were made sure -- to make sure that we
20 were protecting communities of interest?

21 Because it's stated in the bill. It
22 states that these maps --

23 MR. BRENNAND: Yes.

1 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- were created
2 to protect communities of interest, and it
3 defines that, too.

4 MR. WILLIS: Yeah, I'll just go back to
5 what has been said several times, which is this
6 map -- the main architecture of this map is from
7 the Redistricting Commission.

8 And the Redistricting Commission issued a
9 voluminous report and maps all about how they
10 followed that, or how they followed the Voting
11 Rights Act, how they followed communities of
12 interest --

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: When you say --

14 MR. WILLIS: -- how they followed
15 geographic integrity.

16 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Just for
17 clarity for me, you mean the Redistricting
18 Commission --

19 MR. WILLIS: Right.

20 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- on the
21 independent -- and you guys.

22 MR. WILLIS: That's correct. That's
23 right.

1 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- utilize
2 those to create -- okay. So that was just for
3 clarity on my part.

4 MR. WILLIS: Correct. Yes. And -- but
5 that -- as many people have said already, that is
6 the basis, the fundamental basis, the beginning
7 part for this map.

8 And as people have said over and over
9 again, 76 percent of that map is baked into this
10 map.

11 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But what I
12 heard from some of the testimony from SEIU, too,
13 that the communities of interest were taken into
14 account to make this map.

15 MR. BRENNAND: As they were by the
16 Commission, correct.

17 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Okay.

18 MR. BRENNAND: They followed the same
19 criteria, Fair Maps Act, the criteria for the
20 Commission and consistent with the State
21 Constitution.

22 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: So all of
23 those --

24 CHAIR PELLERIN: And you have just over
25 two more minutes.

1 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yep. Thank
2 you.

3 No, I appreciate it. I appreciate the
4 clarity provided here. You know, I -- you know,
5 I really do wish that I had more time, that
6 everybody had more time as we get to see this as
7 it's changing so quickly.

8 So thank you for being here and thank you
9 for the honesty.

10 CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you.

11 We'll now move on to Assembly Member
12 Solache.

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: Thank you,
14 Madam Chair and Committee Members.

15 I do appreciate the second part of
16 today's meeting a little more with decorum. And
17 I do encourage all of us to remember that we are
18 ambassadors of Californians and that our
19 constituents want to see us behave with decorum.
20 So I want to just thank my colleagues all that
21 the second part has been a little more -- with
22 more class and more respect to each other.

23 That being said, thank you to both
24 Majority Leaders for today's presentation. I

1 know this is informational. That continues part
2 of the process.

3 And I know that one of the questions that
4 was asked multiple times, is there any vested
5 interest? Well, I just want to, for the record,
6 point out that in 2026, I have zero interest
7 running for Congress. Want to put that on the
8 record.

9 I'm very happy to represent a half a
10 million people in my Assembly district, and I am
11 very proud to represent and so I will continue
12 working with -- for them.

13 That being said, also, I actually want to
14 appreciate some of the comments made today by the
15 public, specifically those that were in
16 opposition. Why? Because they were raising the
17 alarm of representation.

18 And I cannot tell you how much I agree
19 with you when I represent a district that's
20 highly immigrant, highly undocumented, and they
21 want a voice, a voice of their families being
22 taken, their families being kidnapped by this
23 administration.

24 And I will tell you firsthand that
25 maybe -- I can't say a hundred percent, but a

1 good amount of examples where there's no
2 warrants, there's no documentation and showing it
3 to snatch people around. Take them. Just take
4 them. So my district, who I probably represent,
5 will not stand for that.

6 And what I'm very happy, including in the
7 panel earlier that spoke in opposition, very
8 credible individuals that spoke about the process
9 of the Independent Commission and how they were
10 part of the process. And, yeah, they shared that
11 there's -- there are no sides.

12 But they spoke about the process, the
13 public comment, what it took to get to this
14 point. And as they say, as California goes, the
15 nation goes.

16 So now that we're talking about how this
17 process was great and meaningful, I could tell,
18 as a formal council member of my district, we
19 were part of that process in public hearings and
20 raising our hand and saying that this city should
21 be part of that city, that this city that.

22 It just -- it was a process that at least
23 as a local council member I was part of. And I
24 could tell you that it felt good to be part of a
25 process of what our districts look like, not only

1 for congressional, for State Senate and for State
2 Assembly.

3 I'm happy -- because I will be honest
4 with you, I had some concerns of this, moving
5 forward with this. But when I read in the bill,
6 because I read it, too, that it would be
7 temporary and that it will return back to the
8 Independent Commission, I was very proud.

9 And I think Independents out there in
10 California, not looking at either representation
11 of a party, I think that's very meaningful
12 because this is very direct to my pro tem, my
13 majority leader's comments.

14 She said, you know, this is a temporary
15 approach. That once we get back to the regular
16 schedule, Californians will have a Commission
17 that they support and they like, Independents,
18 Republicans and Democrats. So that being said is
19 a temporary approach.

20 And I respect the opposition's comments,
21 but I also have to represent in my district. As
22 Senator Cervantes earlier said, when she goes to
23 the district -- we were out for -- in the
24 district for 30 days and I heard from community,

1 how are you going to protect me? How are you as
2 being a state rep?

3 You were a local mayor, and now you're a
4 state rep. You now have, quote, unquote, I quote
5 the resident, more power now. And they see it as
6 more authority, more power.

7 I see it as more of a voice. And I'm
8 bringing that voice to my constituents to say,
9 yes, this is how we're going to react.

10 And the biggest part of this process,
11 unlike Texas, where they're going to legislate
12 and do this and ram it down people's throats,
13 we're going to give the voters of California a
14 voice, say you decide.

15 And so everyone talked about a process of
16 how we got here. Fully understand and fully
17 respect my colleagues on the other side of how we
18 got here. Fully respect that.

19 But I can assure you that one of the
20 questions that I asked in this process is, how
21 were these maps put together?

22 And I think within time of us moving
23 forward, we will see that the process of the
24 Commission was mirrored in protecting
25 communities. Protecting -- is it a hundred

1 percent? To my Majority Leader's comment, it's a
2 process to protect community. It's not going to
3 be a hundred percent favorable for everyone, but
4 it's temporary. It's going to be three cycles,
5 '26, '28 and '30. Back in '32, we're going to go
6 back to the Commission.

7 And I will happily, Mr. Tangipa, with
8 you, and I will co-author a resolution saying
9 that we should have all 50 states do this. I
10 will co-author that with you with as Republican
11 and Democrat, saying all states should do this
12 moving forward. Happily would do that because
13 it's the right thing to do.

14 And once the voters decide that this
15 might be a temporary approach to protect
16 democracy, and we will happily do that today, at
17 least my vote for my constituents, that we go
18 back in 2032 and the voters go back to this
19 Commission that they fully support, Independents,
20 Republicans, Democrats, based on today's public
21 comment.

22 But SNAP programs, Medi-Cal, Medicaid are
23 on the line.

24 And I will not stand for any one more of
25 my community members to be taken and snatched

1 from my community. Because one part of our
2 nation, one part of our state, one part of our
3 city is being targeted. So I welcome the support
4 of community.

5 Let's make this a temporary approach.
6 And last thing I'll say is, if Texas and any
7 other states backs down, so will California.
8 Because it's very clear in the language that if
9 no one else does anything, California will remain
10 and we will continue respecting the lines that
11 the Commission put together.

12 So with that, I look forward to
13 Californians of 20 million voters. Is that what
14 we said?

15 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Twenty plus.

16 ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: Twenty plus
17 million voters will have a say at the ballot box
18 November 4th. And respecting everyone's opinion,
19 they will decide what happens next.

20 And the last, last part of that process,
21 they will have 78 days to look at the maps. It's
22 public now. I have the link. If anyone wants, I
23 can send it to you. There's a link of our
24 Assembly website where our Chair has put the
25 maps, and it shows clearly.

1 You could tap on it. It's pretty
2 interesting, to be honest. You tap on it.
3 There's a demographics, population. It's pretty
4 interesting how the map is.

5 And again, these are, these are three
6 years, three cycles. So I look forward for
7 Californians, Republicans, Democrats,
8 Independents and anyone that votes to have the
9 right to say, we do like these maps, we don't
10 like these maps.

11 It's not politicians voting. It's just
12 giving Californians the option of do you want
13 these maps or not. And in my district, we need
14 to protect democracy to the fullest.

15 Thank you so much, Madam Chair.

16 CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you so much.

17 Any other Members have questions,
18 comments?

19 Assembly Member Macedo.

20 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Well, I have great
21 news for all of you. AJR 21 is in print and you
22 are welcome to join on with us. That sends the
23 message to all 50 states that we would like
24 independent redistricting commissions. So we --

1 CHAIR PELLERIN: We do have that in the
2 Constitution as well, the ACA.

3 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Yes, absolutely.

4 So with that being said, there's a couple
5 of things that I -- I mean, it's really so
6 fundamental.

7 But before I begin, sir, who are you one
8 more time, I'm sorry, here to answer technical
9 questions?

10 MR. WILLIS: Tom Willis.

11 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: With who?

12 MR. WILLIS: I'm with the law firm Olson
13 Remchon.

14 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: And who are you
15 representing today?

16 MR. WILLIS: I think we've gone over
17 this. That the -- that we're not going to get
18 into that today. And happy to answer any legal
19 questions.

20 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Are you being paid
21 for your time to be here today?

22 MR. WILLIS: Again, I'm not going to get
23 into (inaudible).

24 CHAIR PELLERIN: Again --

25 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Okay.

1 CHAIR PELLERIN: -- if you have questions
2 to the merits of the bill, AB 604, that's what
3 we're --

4 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Well, he's been
5 testifying, so I would like to know who he is
6 testifying on behalf of.

7 CHAIR PELLERIN: He is a technical
8 witness. He's identified himself and his law
9 firm.

10 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Okay. Well, I'm sure
11 we'll figure that in a courtroom.

12 But who drew these maps? And I'm not
13 saying general groups. I'd like specific names.
14 Who specifically drew these maps?

15 ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: So these
16 are the legislators' maps, the Legislature's
17 maps. We did three important things. We took
18 the knowledge and public input from the
19 independent Commission. We keep the more cities
20 whole than the Commission's map. And we are
21 letting our voters see the map to make the
22 ultimate decision.

23 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Madam Majority
24 Leader, I understand. I've heard all that.

1 Who drew the maps? It's a very simple
2 question. Names, preferably.

3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER SOLACHE: The Assembly.

4 ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: The
5 Assembly did.

6 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Okay. I'm in the
7 Assembly and I did not draw these maps.

8 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: Well, you're
9 not the leadership, though.

10 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: No, and I'm aware of
11 that.

12 But the same way that in this bill it
13 says that the Assembly Elections Committee, not
14 Chair Pellerin, not Assembly Member Solache, not
15 Assembly Member Bennett.

16 I am a part of that group. So by
17 association, I have been lumped in, Mr. Bennett.

18 So I'm asking, who drew these maps? Not
19 a general group.

20 ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: The
21 Legislature drew the maps.

22 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Who specifically in
23 the Legislature?

24 ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: The
25 Legislature drew the maps.

1 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: This is transparency
2 that we don't get to know who drew the maps?

3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: The
4 Legislature drew the maps.

5 SENATOR GONZALEZ: Again, over
6 76 percent --

7 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: That's not what I'm
8 asking.

9 SENATOR GONZALEZ: But you are, though.

10 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: I've heard --

11 SENATOR GONZALEZ: This is where the maps
12 are coming from.

13 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: I have heard --

14 SENATOR GONZALEZ: (Inaudible.)

15 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: -- your response to
16 that. I am asking you a specific question --

17 SENATOR GONZALEZ: The Citizen
18 Redistricting Commission, which is bipartisan.

19 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: -- that you are --

20 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. Let's have one
21 person speak at a time, please.

22 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: And my question has
23 not been answered. The information you've given,
24 I've already heard. I've got it here.

1 CHAIR PELLERIN: The question has been
2 answered. You just don't like the answer.

3 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: You said the
4 Legislature. I am the Legislature. I am part of
5 the Legislature. Is that correct, Madam Chair?

6 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: Madam Chair,
7 can I try again?

8 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Because I'm not a
9 Democrat, I'm not (inaudible).

10 CHAIR PELLERIN: Assembly Member Bennett,
11 you may --

12 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: Can I just try
13 and answer in good faith?

14 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Is my time paused?

15 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: Yeah, you could
16 pause the time.

17 But when we say the Legislature, all
18 kinds of things happen in the Legislature. We're
19 not all involved in every one. But they're all
20 controlled by the legislative leadership. The
21 legislative leadership wrote these maps. A
22 combination -- we have a leader right here.

23 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: So --

24 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: And she's part
25 of the leadership.

1 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: So you wrote the
2 map --

3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: So the
4 leadership team --

5 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: -- or helped write
6 the map?

7 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: The leadership
8 team --

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: The team
10 did.

11 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: Leadership
12 team --

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: I didn't
14 personally write the maps.

15 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: So, then, there you
16 go. She's in leadership, and she just said she
17 didn't write the maps.

18 ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: No.
19 There's others that are in the leadership.

20 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BENNETT: She had some --
21 she was part of the leadership team. That
22 doesn't mean everybody on the team (inaudible).

23 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. Can we bring the
24 debate back to the Chair, please?

25 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: So who is the team?

1 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay.

2 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: You know who the team
3 is?

4 SENATOR GONZALEZ: I think we've answered
5 the question.

6 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: No, you have not.

7 CHAIR PELLERIN: The question has been
8 answered. Do you have another question?

9 And I'm sorry, did you have a comment you
10 wanted to make?

11 MR. WILLIS: I just wanted to say -- you
12 can all verify this -- this week's edition of
13 Capitol Weekly Podcast had Paul Mitchell as their
14 guest from Political Data. He spoke about the
15 fact that he foregone an Italian vacation with
16 his family in order to work on redrawing these
17 maps.

18 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Fantastic. Why can
19 we not have Paul Mitchell here, then, to testify?

20 SENATOR GONZALEZ: We're the authors of
21 the bill.

22 CHAIR PELLERIN: Yeah.

23 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Okay.

24 CHAIR PELLERIN: Do you have other --

25 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: You are witnesses --

1 CHAIR PELLERIN: Do you have other
2 questions about --

3 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Yes. I have lots of
4 them.

5 CHAIR PELLERIN: Let's go ahead and move
6 forward with those questions.

7 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Okay. So then my
8 question is, is how much was Paul Mitchell paid?
9 Does anybody know?

10 Okay. Well, if it was over \$5,000, he
11 would have to register as a lobbyist.

12 So did any lobbyists help with this? No?
13 Okay.

14 How many versions of these maps were
15 created?

16 SENATOR GONZALEZ: I'm sorry?

17 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: How many versions of
18 the maps have been created to this point?

19 SENATOR GONZALEZ: This is the version
20 you see here. There were tweaks done yesterday
21 at 8:00 a.m. They were timestamped. The
22 changes --

23 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: How many versions?

24 SENATOR GONZALEZ: This is the version
25 you see here as Friday at 8:00 -- Friday --

1 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: You guys have been
2 well prepped by Legal, let me tell you.

3 SENATOR GONZALEZ: Friday of last week we
4 saw the maps.

5 UNIDENTIFIABLE SPEAKER: You're welcome.

6 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: What safeguards are
7 there to prevent legislators or staff with
8 conflicts of interest from manipulating the maps?

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: Repeat
10 that again.

11 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: What safeguards
12 prevent legislators or staff with conflicts of
13 interest from manipulating the maps?

14 ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: My morals
15 and my ethics. Let's start -- just start there.

16 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: I -- and I know,
17 Ms. Curry, that you are.

18 But I'm asking, within the language, what
19 are we doing to safeguard that? Not just a
20 handshake and a promise.

21 CHAIR PELLERIN: The maps are publicly
22 posted on the Election Elections Committee's
23 website.

24 SENATOR GONZALEZ: The public has 78
25 days, as we've been mentioning. This is a much

1 more transparent process than our colleagues in
2 Texas who, as has been mentioned by the good
3 Assembly Member from southeast Los Angeles, that
4 has been just a nontransparent process and have
5 locked up legislators.

6 I mean, is that what we want to do? We
7 don't. We want to provide the public an ability
8 to look at these maps and then have an option to
9 weigh in, which they have been able to do over, I
10 think, 4,000 or 5,000 people.

11 You know more than I do, Madam Chair, on
12 this good work that you've done to be able to
13 make the maps very public.

14 ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: So the
15 maps were based, remember, on knowledge and
16 public input from the Independent Commission, so
17 we agree with that.

18 And the proposed map splits fewer cities
19 than the Independent Commission map. We agree
20 with that.

21 The map reduces the number of split
22 cities from 60 to 57. This map makes 26 cities
23 whole that have been split up under the current
24 lines.

1 So I'm going to give you a little bit
2 example because I did overhear your conversation
3 before, Assembly Member Tangipa, because you were
4 concerned about the City of Clovis; is that true?

5 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yes.

6 ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: Okay.

7 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Yes. The
8 original map that I'd seen --

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: So I did a
10 little bit of --

11 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- Clovis was
12 split into three --

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: I did a
14 little bit of --

15 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. Okay.

16 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: -- but the map
17 yesterday put it in one.

18 ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: So it's
19 great. I'm glad you were looking at the maps to
20 understand the impacts on your communities.
21 Because of this legislation, every Californian
22 will be able to do that.

23 So specific to the city of Fresno, the
24 city was already split by the Redistricting
25 Commission into three districts.

1 Specific to the City of Clovis it was
2 previously whole and is split by this plan.

3 However, there are 26 cities that were
4 split by the Redistricting Commission that this
5 plan makes whole.

6 So as a result, the total number of
7 cities split is reduced from 60 to 57, and two of
8 those involve zero people.

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: That was
10 direct. Can I respond?

11 CHAIR PELLERIN: We're going to go back
12 to Vice Chair Macedo. She had the floor here.
13 Let her continue with her questioning, please.

14 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: I'm not expecting an
15 answer to this, but I'll ask it anyway.

16 Did anyone with a conflict of interest,
17 including potential candidates for Congress --
18 Mr. Solache, I know this takes you out of it, so
19 don't worry -- participate in drawing or
20 reviewing the maps, any potential candidates for
21 Congress?

22 ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: Not to my
23 knowledge.

24 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Okay. If these maps
25 are challenged in court, how long could

1 Californians be left uncertain about who
2 represents them in which districts they reside?
3 That probably would be a question for the
4 attorneys.

5 MR. WILLIS: Can you repeat the question?

6 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: If these maps are
7 challenged in court, which I'm assuming they
8 likely will be, how long could Californians be
9 left uncertain about who represents them and in
10 which districts they reside?

11 MR. WILLIS: I think they will always be
12 certain -- I mean, they will always be certain on
13 who represents them and what maps apply to each
14 election.

15 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: So you don't see any
16 challenges in court delaying this?

17 MR. WILLIS: I think that these maps are
18 legally sound, absolutely.

19 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Interesting. Okay.
20 Whoever is paying you I'm sure will maybe agree
21 with you.

22 How can the Legislature justify
23 abandoning the transparent voter-approved
24 Commission process in favor of a secretive
25 process controlled by, like you just said,

1 partisan interest? Because this is a partisan
2 gerrymander.

3 SENATOR GONZALEZ: Yeah. Texas started
4 it. I mean, if Texas -- when President Trump
5 calls the Governor of Texas to find him five
6 seats -- let's be clear what happened. Just like
7 he did in Georgia during the '20 -- the last
8 election.

9 So you want to talk about conflict of
10 interest and corruption? Let's talk about it.
11 Let's absolutely talk about it because I think
12 the public should know what exactly is going on
13 here.

14 So what we're doing in the very legal way
15 and transparent way is providing a reaction to
16 the Texas phone call that Trump decided to do to
17 ask for five seats to basically circumvent our
18 democracy, to supersede and to take away
19 healthcare from people.

20 That's the reason why we have a bunch of
21 working family organizations that are here today
22 because they're tired of it. Rural hospitals are
23 going to be completely decimated. I mean, all of
24 it. You know this. And it's going to be really
25 tough.

1 And I would actually just say, too, if --
2 I'm down with you. I think if you want to create
3 a constitutional amendment at the federal level,
4 you all have the opportunity to do that. You can
5 go to the White House and ask for it now to
6 create a 50 state nationwide independent
7 redistricting plan. That would be fantastic. I
8 think we can all do it.

9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: Do it for
10 us. Thank you.

11 SENATOR GONZALEZ: Absolutely.

12 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: If you keep -- you
13 guys keep bringing up Texas. Why is other
14 states --

15 ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: And
16 Missouri.

17 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Well, so now you
18 bring it up, Majority Leader, but that's -- I
19 mean, this isn't a -- this isn't about Texas.

20 ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY:
21 (Inaudible.)

22 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: And I understand what
23 you guys are going at. Listen, Texas does not
24 have the independent redistricting commission.
25 And this -- whether we want to talk about it or

1 not, this started with Democrat groups suing the
2 State of Texas for their maps.

3 And, yes, then afterwards we can talk
4 about what happened and disagree on it.

5 SENATOR GONZALEZ: Over the Voting Rights
6 Act.

7 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: So they had to redo
8 their maps because Democrat groups told them they
9 had to. That's what this all started with.

10 SENATOR GONZALEZ: It wasn't democratic
11 groups.

12 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: That was exacerbated,
13 likely, by other things.

14 But my question is, is what consideration
15 was given to compliance with California's
16 requirement that districts be contiguous and
17 compact?

18 Because there's one district that is, I
19 believe, 30 miles wide and 40 -- or, I'm sorry,
20 30 miles wide and 400 miles long, or something
21 like that.

22 MR. BRENNAND: Are you talking about the
23 current Kevin Kiley district? Because that's the
24 case.

25 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: No, it's not.

1 MR. BRENNAND: It goes from Lake Tahoe to
2 Death Valley.

3 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: I'm not speaking
4 of --

5 MR. BRENNAND: Is that the district --

6 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: No.

7 MR. BRENNAND: -- that exists now.

8 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. If we could bring
9 comments through the Chair here as well.

10 MR. BRENNAND: Oh, I'm sorry.

11 CHAIR PELLERIN: Let's go ahead and have
12 the Vice Chair continue to ask her questioning of
13 the authors.

14 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: What consideration
15 was given to compliance with California's
16 requirement that districts be contiguous and
17 compact?

18 ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: I don't
19 have legal (inaudible) for that.

20 SENATOR GONZALEZ: (Inaudible)
21 Redistricting Commission requirements as well.
22 So, again, I'm going to continue to hit this
23 point, and I know you don't want to hear it, but
24 76.7 percent of this map currently is based off
25 of the 2020 Redistricting Commission.

1 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: So just yes or no.

2 SENATOR GONZALEZ: All of the parameters
3 that are required under that --

4 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: No consideration was
5 given, then, to the compliance with California
6 requirements?

7 ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: There are
8 more contiguous now than they've been before.

9 SENATOR GONZALEZ: Yes.

10 ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: The new --
11 the maps that are out there now --

12 SENATOR GONZALEZ: Less splitting.

13 ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: -- are
14 more contiguous and more compact.

15 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: So just that
16 particular compliance rule, I wasn't -- I'm not
17 part of leadership, as Mr. Bennett pointed out.
18 So I don't know if this was, hey, we need to make
19 sure we're doing this.

20 Was is it talked about? Was it, hey, we
21 need to make sure we're doing this, or you're
22 just saying it's done?

23 ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: As far as
24 I'm concerned, it's done.

1 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Okay. If the
2 Commission's maps are already constitutional and
3 enforceable, what public interest is served by
4 passing AB 604 besides giving the middle finger
5 to President Trump?

6 ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: Taking
7 care of our constituents.

8 SENATOR GONZALEZ: I think we've given
9 you a lot of the data. I mean, again,
10 6.4 million Californians are on Medicare. And as
11 you've seen here, we've got health workers that
12 are in the audience that have supported this bill
13 because 3.4 million are under attack and may lose
14 their healthcare based on what this big,
15 beautiful, ugly, horrible bill just did. And so
16 that is a direct attack on Californians.

17 And I don't know how I can go back to my
18 district, if I were a Republican, and say, I
19 allowed this and I'm not even speaking up on it,
20 and I'm not going to even fight up against it.
21 I'm not going to try to even in one slightest bit
22 try to claim five more seats to actually protect
23 my constituents, which is what we were all
24 done -- which we all decided to do when we took
25 the oath to become State Representatives.

1 And, you know, I think SNAP benefits,
2 education, you name it. We're getting a
3 \$1 billion ransom now from the Trump
4 administration against UCLA. This is horrendous.
5 For research grants to (inaudible) cancer.

6 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: I'm glad that you
7 brought up rural -- like healthcare.

8 CHAIR PELLERIN: And just a couple more
9 minutes here.

10 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: I'm glad that you
11 brought that up because I, as a Republican, have
12 gone back to my districts. Because I've been
13 asking Gavin Newsom why he left billions of
14 dollars ready to be reimbursed to our Medi-Cal
15 system that he didn't even bother to turn in the
16 application for. I have fought for reimbursement
17 for providers in rural hospitals because they are
18 leaving.

19 So as a Republican, I can tell you I'm
20 fighting for my constituents. But the same way
21 that we don't have jurisdiction over the federal
22 government, I don't have jurisdiction over Texas
23 electeds. I'm trying to focus on what I can do
24 here with the dollars we have here.

1 With that being said, there was
2 disparaging comments made about myself and my
3 colleague's vote on a redistricting bill. And I
4 would like to clarify, if the Chair would allow
5 me that vote.

6 SENATOR GONZALEZ: I'm not sure what this
7 has to do with the bill.

8 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: It was brought up
9 previously.

10 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. Can we hold on
11 that? And we'll allow that at the end of the
12 hearing here.

13 VICE CHAIR MACEDO: Well --

14 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay.

15 CHAIR PELLERIN: Try to continue on
16 AB 604.

17 Any other comments from Members on the
18 dais?

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Quick comments.
20 I know there's been a lot of conversation and
21 bipartisan support, which is amazing, for federal
22 independent redistricting legislation.

23 The good news is we have a template for
24 that because it has been passed by the House of
25 Representatives at the congressional level twice.

1 There was the For the People Act in 2019
2 legislative session, and the Freedom to Vote Act
3 in the 2021 legislative session.

4 Both versions passed the House. Both
5 versions were filibustered by -- unanimously by
6 Republicans in the Senate. So we would have this
7 in the United States if Republicans at the
8 federal level would support it.

9 I want to encourage my -- because I know
10 y'all have more sway with Republican Senators, US
11 Senators, than I do. I'd encourage you to reach
12 out to them and let them know, hey, this is
13 important for America. This is important for
14 democracy. Because right now it's Republican
15 United States Senators that are blocking the
16 ability for us to have that in the United States.

17 And I will say kudos to my former
18 colleague, Congressman Kevin Kiley, for finding
19 Jesus on this issue when all of a sudden he has
20 concerns about his political future and
21 introducing his legislation. I don't care what
22 caused him to all of a sudden support independent
23 redistricting. I just support him in that
24 effort.

1 And so I want to say, everybody get out
2 there. Get Mike Johnson, the Speaker, to let
3 Kevin Kiley bring his bill and let's have that be
4 a vote in the United States Congress. And then
5 let's get Republican U.S. Senators who oppose it
6 prior to support it now because that's the best
7 solution to this problem, to this situation.

8 And I'm happy to move the bill if it
9 hasn't happened already.

10 CHAIR PELLERIN: This is just am
11 informational hearings, so we're just --

12 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: No motions. No
13 motions.

14 CHAIR PELLERIN: -- we're just hearing
15 each other out.

16 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: There will be no
17 votes.

18 CHAIR PELLERIN: And is there any Member
19 who has not spoken yet that would like to say a
20 few words or have any questions?

21 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But, Madam
22 Chair, because this is an informational hearing,
23 can we ask more questions?

24 CHAIR PELLERIN: Absolutely, no.

25 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Why?

1 CHAIR PELLERIN: Yeah, yeah.

2 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But it's an
3 informational hearing.

4 CHAIR PELLERIN: I know. I know. And
5 you have had more than 15 minutes of time to ask
6 your questions.

7 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Because I
8 believe the people of California, which this
9 affects 40 million people, they deserve more than
10 15 minutes.

11 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: And they're
12 going to get 75 days.

13 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. So we are going
14 to allow the authors to have any close, and then
15 I'm going to have a few closing statements as
16 well.

17 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: So the 40
18 million people, they don't get more than 15
19 minutes? But not only that --

20 CHAIR PELLERIN: We're going to have
21 our --

22 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: They're going to
23 have 78 days, Assembly Member Tangipa.

24 CHAIR PELLERIN: -- co-authors go ahead
25 and close.

1 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Seventy-eight
2 days.

3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But
4 Mr. Berman --

5 CHAIR PELLERIN: Okay. We are not doing
6 cross talk.

7 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: Part of what
8 I --

9 CHAIR PELLERIN: I am speaking to the
10 authors.

11 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: It's an --

12 CHAIR PELLERIN: -- and I would like you
13 both to just please give me a little bit of time
14 and respect.

15 ASSEMBLY MEMBER BERMAN: Yes, Madam
16 Chair.

17 CHAIR PELLERIN: So thank you.

18 I'm now going to turn it over --

19 ASSEMBLY MEMBER TANGIPA: But I asked for
20 more time.

21 CHAIR PELLERIN: --to our co-chair -- our
22 co-authors to go ahead.

23 ASSEMBLY MEMBER AGUIAR-CURRY: Thank you
24 very much. Thank you. Thank you very much.
25 Thank you very much for the lively discussion

1 today. I appreciate it. I appreciate some of
2 the commitments my colleagues have made today.

3 But remember, we didn't pick this fight
4 or this timing, but our process will be most
5 transparent in the nation. Finally, our voters
6 will decide. And you can smirk all you want.

7 Thank you for all your thoughtful
8 consideration. And we will move forward and we
9 will do the right thing. The voters will decide.

10 CHAIR PELLERIN: Did you have any
11 comments?

12 SENATOR GONZALEZ: Thank you, Madam
13 Chair. I just want to say thank you. I respect
14 you so very much and all of your incredible work
15 in the elections world. And I know that
16 Californians will have an opportunity to have the
17 final say in November.

18 We're very thankful to the witnesses and
19 the testimony in support, and the many working
20 people that rely on this. They're really looking
21 to us and the eyes are on us to make this the
22 best decision for them. Their health, their
23 safety, education, we're safeguarding that by
24 this bill today.

25 CHAIR PELLERIN: Thank you. Thank you.

1 Now, I would like to say a few words.
2 First of all, I just want to thank the Members of
3 this Committee for being here today and
4 participating in this hearing. I appreciate your
5 time, your thoughtfulness, your care, your
6 concerns. I feel your comments. I feel your
7 ideas. And it's very important for the public to
8 hear from all of us.

9 I do want to say to you, Assembly Member
10 Tangipa, I'm so sorry about your family
11 situation. That truly does break my heart, and I
12 know how difficult that is. So you have my
13 condolences.

14 These are definitely difficult, uncertain
15 and trying times right now, and we have got to
16 find a way to move forward and to protect the
17 people of the State of California.

18 In my over 27 years serving as a chief
19 elections official, I fought very hard to ensure
20 that we had independent redistricting commissions
21 to draw these lines.

22 And we are no longer governing in a
23 democracy that I love. We are governing with a
24 President who is an authoritarian fascist, who

1 does not care and concern himself with the well-
2 being of the residents of this state.

3 And I was thinking about this. I spent a
4 lot of time, a lot of hours at home struggling
5 with where we are at this particular point in
6 time.

7 And I thought about what would happen if
8 someone broke into my home and attacked my
9 children. Would I be able to fight that person?
10 And I would. I would do whatever it took to
11 protect what I love.

12 What is happening now in this nation is
13 an attack on the people of this state. We have
14 seen children torn from their families. We have
15 children without enough food. We have seniors
16 who cannot support their healthcare.

17 We have a climate existential crisis on
18 our hands and we are throwing out science and
19 scientists. We are closing education, so
20 children that need special education no longer
21 going to get those services.

22 So damn right I'm ready to fight. And
23 these bills is not my fight alone. This is the
24 fight for the people of the State of California.

1 We are not jamming this down your throat.
2 We are not doing it in a closed room. We are
3 doing it openly and transparently. And the
4 voters, the 40 million voters of this state,
5 every one of you have a right and a
6 responsibility to stand up and cast your vote for
7 these measures.

8 And they will be on your ballot November
9 4th of 2025. And I expect every eligible
10 registered voter of this state to make their
11 voice heard.

12 And with that we are concluding this
13 hearing.

14 (Hearing concluded.)
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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, MARY ANN SCANLAN, hereby certify that I transcribed the California Assembly Elections Committee meeting held on August 19, 2025, as completely and correctly to the best of my ability.

I further state that pages 1 through 286, inclusive, constitute an accurate and complete transcription of the video recording for the proceedings specified.

Dated: November 1, 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary Ann Scanlan', is written over a horizontal line.

Mary Ann Scanlan, CSR

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