

**State Defendants' Response to Plaintiff-Intervenors'
and TXNAACP Motion for Preliminary Injunction**

Exhibit A

Senate Special Committee on Congressional Redistricting, Video Recording August
21, 2025: 00:39:41-43:22.

TRANSCRIPTION OF VIDEOTAPE

SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2025

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRMAN KING: The Senate Special Committee on
3 Congressional Redistricting will come to order. The Clerk
4 will please call the roll.

5 THE CLERK: Senator King.

6 CHAIRMAN KING: Here.

7 THE CLERK: Senator Creighton.

8 VICE CHAIR CREIGHTON: Here.

9 THE CLERK: Senator Alvarado.

10 SENATOR ALVARADO: Here.

11 THE CLERK: Senator Hinojosa.

12 SENATOR HINOJOSA: Here.

13 THE CLERK: Senator Hughes.

14 SENATOR HUGHES: Here.

15 THE CLERK: Senator Miles.

16 SENATOR MILES: Here.

17 THE CLERK: Senator Parker.

18 SENATOR PARKER: Here.

19 THE CLERK: Senator Paxton.

20 (No audible response.)

21 THE CLERK: Senator Sparks.

22 SENATOR SPARKS: Here.

23 CHAIRMAN KING: Eight present, a quorum has been
24 established.

25 Members, the purpose of today's hearing is to lay

1 out a bill. Members, as stated on the posting, we will not
2 be taking public testimony today.

3 And let me pass the gavel at this time to Senator
4 Creighton.

5 VICE CHAIR CREIGHTON: Okay. Thank you, Chairman.

6 At this time the Chair lays out House Bill 4 and
7 recognizes Senate Sponsor Senator King to lay out the bill.
8 Senator King.

9 CHAIRMAN KING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and
10 Members. I've just got a little bit I've got to go over
11 here.

12 I reintroduced SB 4 on August the 15th, the first
13 day of the special session. Our committee heard SB 4 on
14 Sunday, August 17th, and favorably passed it out.

15 Now before us today is HB 4, the companion to SB 4
16 that passed out of the House yesterday. There are some
17 minor differences between SB 4 and HB 4 that I will review
18 with you shortly.

19 It is my understanding that the House Select
20 Committee on Congressional Redistricting drew this revised
21 version of the map with its outside counsel and experts.

22 My counsel has reviewed this as well and concluded
23 that it complies with all applicable law.

24 Now, as I said, on August 15th I reintroduced
25 Senate Bill 4, which was identical to the bill that the full

1 Senate passed out in the first special session.

2 This Committee held a hearing for public testimony
3 on August 17th, and we heard from 42 witnesses. That means
4 this Committee has heard testimony over this special and
5 last special, if my math is correct, from 247 people
6 testifying on redistricting.

7 At the conclusion of the August 17th hearing, this
8 Committee favorably reported SB 4 out of committee by a vote
9 of six ayes to three nays.

10 Now, where we're at this morning, on August the
11 18th, as I said, the House Select Committee on Congressional
12 Redistricting introduced a substitute bill for House Bill 4
13 which they passed out of committee at that time.

14 The substitute, which is now HB 4 engrossed and
15 before us today, affected 12 congressional districts,
16 including CDs 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 14, 17, 18, 22, 29, 36, and 38,
17 while maintaining the five now Republican-leaning districts,
18 CDs nine, 28, 32, 34, and 35.

19 Additionally, HB 4 slightly changed CD-16 and 23
20 to move Fort Bliss into CD-16 and the El Paso general
21 region.

22 And, again, what I'm trying to do here is compare
23 SB 4 to the engrossed HB 4 that's before us today.

24 It keeps whole Navarro County which had previously
25 been split, placing all of Navarro County into CD-6. It was

1 partially on CD-17.

2 It also moved Liberty County into CD-9 where it
3 was previously in CD-36.

4 The House Committee stated their overall intent of
5 the changes was to increase political performance in
6 existing Republican districts from the proposed plan.

7 A review of the map -- again, we're talking about
8 HB 4 engrossed. A review of the map shows that it
9 accomplishes those goals through fairly minor changes.

10 Nine of the 12 districts affected are Republican
11 performing districts -- again, this is relative to SB 4 --
12 six of which improved their Republican performance in the
13 House substitute. Those are CDs two, eight, nine, 17, 22,
14 and 38.

15 The remaining three Republican districts, CD-6,
16 14, and 36, slightly decrease Republican performance but
17 remain 60 percent plus Trump 2024 districts.

18 Two out of the three Democrat-performing
19 districts, specifically CDs seven and 29, slightly decrease
20 in political performance for Democrats but will still
21 strongly perform for Democrats.

22 The compactness also stays the same overall with
23 some slight changes from the SB 4 map. As a reminder, both
24 SB 4 and HB 4 have five districts that now lean Republican
25 in political performance. Those five are CD-9, Houston; CD-

1 28 in the RGV; CD-32 in the Dallas region; CD-34 in costal
2 south Texas.

3 At this time this morning, I would ask for your
4 favorable consideration of House Bill 4 as engrossed. This
5 would be the map under Plan C-2333, Charlie 2333.

6 I believe these changes -- I believe the changes
7 that it makes are minor relative to SB 4, and that they are
8 consistent with the goals that I've set forth for this
9 legislation.

10 Those goals include: one, complying with
11 applicable law; two, strengthening Republican congressional
12 performance; and, three, maintaining compact districts.

13 Now, HB 4 also corrects a concern that was
14 mentioned by witnesses from the El Paso area in one of our
15 previous hearings and brought up by Senator Blanco about
16 Fort Bliss.

17 And, again, what HB 4 engrossed does -- is moves
18 Fort Bliss, or portions of it, the portions they were
19 concerned about, back into CD-16, as requested by the El
20 Paso constituents in testimony and by Senator Blanco.

21 And with that, Chairman, I'd be happy to take
22 questions.

23 VICE CHAIR CREIGHTON: Thank you, Senator King.

24 Members, questions?

25 SENATOR ALVARADO: Yeah.

1 VICE CHAIR CREIGHTON: Senator Alvarado.

2 SENATOR ALVARADO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3 Chairman King, you know, this map had some
4 significant changes. And there was not a public hearing in
5 the House Committee, there's not one here.

6 And I'm just going to focus on now what is my
7 Congressional District 9. It has split up the east end
8 community and has paired us with Liberty.

9 What we have in common with Liberty, I don't know.
10 And I don't know how that decision was based. But it seems
11 like -- well, no, you said it very plainly, the goal was to
12 create more opportunity for Republican wins in these
13 districts.

14 And I just -- I wish that especially my folks in
15 the east end would have been able and come and give public
16 testimony.

17 You talked about one of the goals being to keep
18 districts compact. But if you look at CD-9, by extending
19 all the way out to Liberty, it's not compact. Can you talk
20 about that a little bit, CD-9?

21 CHAIRMAN KING: Well, as you mentioned, CD-9 moved
22 into Liberty County. It made it a better performing
23 Republican district, which was one of the objectives.

24 From a compactness perspective -- and compactness
25 is a couple of different measurements for that. But even

1 looking at it visibly it, it's obviously contiguous.

2 It's still -- is amazingly more compact than many
3 of the congressional districts that are on this map across
4 the state of Texas.

5 I can tell you that as you mentioned, that was not
6 in the original SB 4 configuration. But it still meets the
7 goals that I had for the legislation, and that's why I
8 brought HB 4 before us today.

9 SENATOR ALVARADO: You said one of the other goals
10 was to create more opportunity for Republican wins, right?

11 CHAIRMAN KING: Yes. The intent was to improve
12 political performance specifically for the five
13 congressional districts I mentioned.

14 SENATOR ALVARADO: And who -- where did you get
15 that idea from?

16 CHAIRMAN KING: Well, I think that's been
17 discussed a great deal between all the Republicans in the
18 Senate and in the House.

19 And it's been discussed by the Government. And
20 it's been in the media. I think it's been a very prominent
21 issue even nationally.

22 SENATOR ALVARADO: Well, it was discussed amongst
23 you all. But before that who put the bug in your ear about
24 that?

25 CHAIRMAN KING: I first learned about it probably

1 the same way you did, through the media.

2 SENATOR ALVARADO: And who were you -- who was
3 quoted?

4 CHAIRMAN KING: Well, I heard a number of people
5 quoted. I've heard congressional members quoted, I've heard
6 White House officials quoted, I've heard Governor Abbott
7 quoted.

8 SENATOR ALVARADO: Speaking of congressional
9 members, did we have any testimony from Republican members
10 of Congress?

11 CHAIRMAN KING: No. And I've specifically not --
12 I have not spoken to -- and I've said this before. I have
13 not spoken to anyone in the White House, I haven't spoken to
14 anyone in the Justice Department. I haven't spoken to any
15 members of the congressional leadership.

16 The only two congressional members I've spoken to
17 are ones I talk to all the time, and those just happen to be
18 my two congressional members and good friends. And we
19 didn't talk in detail about the map.

20 SENATOR ALVARADO: Okay. Well, it seems like in
21 the regulation session nobody was even contemplating this.

22 SENATOR MILES: Nor would they.

23 SENATOR ALVARADO: Would you agree? In the
24 regular session.

25 CHAIRMAN KING: I heard discussions of it before

1 we adjourned, before we sine die from the regular session.

2 SENATOR ALVARADO: When was that?

3 CHAIRMAN KING: I would say -- I don't know. I
4 think -- I really don't remember. I just remember during
5 maybe middle of the regulation session I started hearing
6 some discussion about it in the media and among just
7 Republicans talking.

8 SENATOR ALVARADO: That's interesting because this
9 is the first time I'm hearing you even mention that, I mean,
10 because we've talked about it in the hearings. And I don't
11 recall any discussion until President Trump talked about it.

12 And that -- I don't remember exactly the date of
13 that, but I don't think it was during the regular session.
14 I could be wrong. Maybe somebody can check.

15 Anyway, that's all I have for now. I'll save the
16 rest -- I'll have more to say tomorrow. Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN KING: Thank you.

18 VICE CHAIR CREIGHTON: Members, additional
19 comments or questions? Senator Miles, you're recognized.

20 SENATOR MILES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21 Let me ask the obvious question, Mr. Chairman.
22 Why are we not hearing testimony on the substitute map?

23 CHAIRMAN KING: Well, as I mentioned, we've
24 already had testimony from over 200 people on redistricting.
25 And then we had 43 people testify just the other day on

1 SB 4.

2 The -- this is the companion to SB 4. And it's
3 been very common practice in the Senate forever that if it's
4 a companion bill and you've already had a hearing on it and
5 already had a lot of testimony, that you do not have to take
6 -- or do not need to take public testimony again when you're
7 considering the companion in the committee.

8 So we -- the parliamentarian has affirmed this.
9 And, again, it's common practice we do a lot of times every
10 session when companion bills catch up.

11 SENATOR MILES: Would you agree, Mr. Chairman, two
12 things; that, one, this is not an ordinary situation that
13 we're -- that is redistricting?

14 CHAIRMAN KING: I think we're -- the process we're
15 taking for redistricting in this special session is the
16 common practice that we have taken in every redistricting
17 session that I've been a part of.

18 SENATOR MILES: Okay. Would you agree that by us
19 voting on a committee substitute on which no testimony can
20 be given or was given in the House, we are actually shutting
21 out even more constituents from this process?

22 CHAIRMAN KING: No. Not at all. As I said, we've
23 had over 200 people testify during the course of what, the
24 last six weeks or so.

25 SENATOR MILES: But this substitute is making some

1 changes; is that correct?

2 CHAIRMAN KING: It is different than the companion
3 SB 4.

4 SENATOR MILES: And would you agree with me that
5 we're not allowing constituents to comment on the
6 differences that you just agreed that we're making?

7 CHAIRMAN KING: No. I think anybody -- the public
8 portal is still open. Anyone can still file comments about
9 it. And they can of course reach out to us.

10 And we're just taking the same process that we use
11 all the time on all different types of bills and subject
12 matters with regard to when a companion bill catches up with
13 the bill filed before the Senate.

14 SENATOR MILES: Okay. Let me move on, Mr.
15 Chairman.

16 Chairman Hunter insinuated that the public was
17 lucky that hearings on these matters were held at all. I'm
18 going to quote him. He said: "We held three public
19 hearings. We're not required to hold those hearings."

20 With redistricting about -- affecting about 31
21 million people in this state overwhelmingly without their
22 consent, do you agree on that statement, Mr. Chairman?

23 CHAIRMAN KING: I think we held six hearings in
24 the Senate. And with regard to the 2020 redistricting data
25 on which this is based, I think there's been a total of 21

1 hearings in the Senate over the course of -- well, since
2 2020.

3 And so I think we've had a tremendous amount of
4 input. I think we had over 3800 clicks to the online when
5 we were doing our teleconference hearings.

6 And then again just for SB 4 and this special, we
7 had 70 something people I believe register to testify. And
8 we had I think it was 43 give us testimony on the companion
9 to HB 4.

10 SENATOR MILES: So that you're -- are you saying
11 that you agree with him or you don't agree with that
12 statement?

13 CHAIRMAN KING: No. I think we've had quite a bit
14 of testimony and --

15 SENATOR MILES: So you don't agree with that
16 statement.

17 CHAIRMAN KING: Well, I'm not saying whether I
18 agree with it or disagree with it. I'd have to ask you to
19 read it to me again but -- and I didn't hear him say that.

20 SENATOR MILES: I'd be happy to, Mr. Chairman.

21 CHAIRMAN KING: Please.

22 SENATOR MILES: Chairman Hunter stated: "We held
23 three public hearings. We are not required to hold those
24 hearings."

25 And my question to you was with redistricting

1 about to affect over 31 million people statewide
2 overwhelmingly with their consent, do you agree with that
3 statement?

4 CHAIRMAN KING: I can only speak for the Senate.
5 I believe we've had a sufficient number of hearings before
6 the Senate.

7 SENATOR MILES: Sufficient answer.

8 Mr. Chairman, Chairman Hunter also stated on
9 yesterday that he consulted with counsel to make sure that
10 this new map was VRA compliant.

11 You also stated that you wouldn't vote on a map
12 unless it was -- the lawyer told you it was VRA compliant;
13 do you still stand by that statement, Mr. Chairman?

14 CHAIRMAN KING: I do.

15 SENATOR MILES: Thank you.

16 And two more questions, Mr. Chairman. According
17 to the Texas legislative counsel, as of this moment, 38.6
18 percent of those voting age population in District 9 is
19 Black.

20 In newly created District 9, only 10.2 percent of
21 the voting age population is Black. This is a negative
22 change, Mr. Chairman, of 28.4 percent. Does that 28.4
23 percent drop in Black voting population seem race blind to
24 you?

25 CHAIRMAN KING: So I haven't looked at any racial

1 data. The -- you mentioned citizen voting age population,
2 or CVAP. I haven't looked at CVAP. I will tell you that
3 CVAP is not really census data. CVAP is an annual estimate.
4 It is very problematic in its accuracy.

5 But this map is based on 2020 data. And, again, I
6 haven't looked at racial data myself.

7 I did ask our counsel to give HB 4 engrossed a
8 very good scrubbing. They have reported back to me that it
9 complies with all applicable law, which of course would
10 include the VRA.

11 SENATOR MILES: So this is a House map. And
12 you're saying that you didn't look at it, Mr. Chairman,
13 before you brought it to us.

14 CHAIRMAN KING: I learned about it probably when
15 you did on Monday, when it was presented. I learned about
16 the changes then.

17 And before I took a hard look at it, I asked our
18 counsel to scrub it and to tell me whether or not it was
19 legally sufficient. When they did, then I tried to do a
20 deep dive into it. And that deep dive is what I tried to
21 relate in my opening remarks.

22 SENATOR MILES: Okay. So just so we're clear on
23 something, Mr. Chairman, a 28.4 percent drop in Black
24 population in the redo of District 9 and done -- just
25 coincidental and that you're saying that this is not race-

1 based.

2 CHAIRMAN KING: Again, I haven't looked at any
3 racial data. And I have tried very hard to not do anything
4 that was race-based.

5 SENATOR MILES: Okay. Let's go on to District 18.
6 According to alleged counsel again, Mr. Chairman, District
7 18, which hasn't had real representation for almost a year
8 now, would go from 34 percent of voting age population being
9 African American to 45 percent.

10 All of this happening while Hispanic votes age
11 population drops 7.7 percent from 3.9 to 32 percent, and the
12 Anglo population dropping 4.7 from 19.4 percent to 14.7
13 percent.

14 Would you agree that it's very much looks like
15 based on the data that we are just packing African American
16 votings into District 18, moving everyone else out?

17 CHAIRMAN KING: I can't respond with regard to
18 racial data.

19 What I can tell you is that I'm told that -- or
20 I'm aware that CD-18 will -- should still perform very
21 strong as a Democrat district.

22 SENATOR MILES: It should, that's a correct
23 statement, Mr. Chairman.

24 Senator King, my objection to this racist-rigged
25 districting is not changed with this new map. In fact, my

1 opposition gets even stronger because now we're -- it's
2 obvious that we're packing Senate District 18.

3 And it's obvious that these maps are actually race
4 -- they're not race blind as you stated they are. But now
5 there is literally zero opportunity for public to have any
6 input in this map.

7 You break up communities but take no
8 responsibility for them, as my counterpart said. And I'll
9 be giving a no vote on this and any other committee
10 substitute that comes before this committee, Mr. Chairman.
11 Thank you for now.

12 CHAIRMAN KING: Thank you.

13 VICE CHAIR CREIGHTON: Thank you, Senator Miles.
14 Senator Alvarado, you're recognized.

15 SENATOR ALVARADO: Thank you.

16 I -- you know, I'm just -- I can't let this go,
17 Mr. Chairman.

18 You mentioned that you heard about this middle of
19 the session. But if I recall, I think Lieutenant Governor
20 Patrick on sine die talked about, you know, not seeing us
21 until the next regular session.

22 Governor Abbott has talked about let's get this
23 all done, we don't want to go into a special.

24 And the first reports of anything having to do
25 with this redistricting efforts came on right around June

1 the 9th or 11th.

2 But you're saying that you heard some talk about
3 this in the middle of the regular session. So that's just
4 not jiving for me.

5 CHAIRMAN KING: I didn't take notes on the dates.
6 And maybe I'm a little bit off. But I seem to remember
7 discussions maybe even a little bit in the media, but I seem
8 to remember discussions before the session was over.

9 Maybe I'm wrong. Maybe I'm thinking about the
10 period between sine die and, you know, the first few weeks
11 of June or something.

12 But for some reason I seem to recall having heard
13 discussions, not that I generated, but I seem to have heard
14 discussions during the regular session.

15 Maybe some of the other senators would remember
16 that as well or remember differently. I don't know. I
17 wasn't taking notes. I wasn't thinking about redistricting
18 at the time. But I think that's when I first started
19 hearing about it.

20 SENATOR ALVARADO: Well, I mean, I can't obviously
21 speak for you. But I would strongly disagree because when
22 you laid out the resolution for the rules, you mentioned
23 that the only reason we were doing this, because it was
24 asked, and you said because the Governor put it on the call
25 for the special.

1 And then there was some talk, some reference to
2 the DOJ letter. All of that happened in the special. There
3 was no mention of any of this in the regular session.

4 If so, I can't imagine why the governor and
5 lieutenant governor would be talking about not coming back
6 for a special, let's get this all done, and then here we
7 are.

8 So I just want to be clear because when we're
9 talking about making changes to people's congressional
10 representatives, this is a serious topic.

11 I'm really bothered by this new map because it's
12 taking my home, my east end community, splitting it, and
13 putting us with Liberty County, and not having any
14 opportunity for the public to come and address this.

15 And these changes were made just in the last
16 couple of days.

17 CHAIRMAN KING: I understand your point. Where I
18 -- my home is, I think it was during the 1980 redistricting
19 cycle in which there were a number of court cases and other
20 changes, I think I went through three state senators without
21 ever moving in a ten-year period. So I understand.

22 But that just occurs in redistricting. But --

23 SENATOR ALVARADO: When was that you mentioned?

24 CHAIRMAN KING: I think that was during the 1980s.

25 SENATOR ALVARADO: Okay. But that was probably

1 done in a regular redistricting process, not in mid-decade.

2 CHAIRMAN KING: No, I -- well, I mean, it's a long
3 time ago, I don't remember.

4 But I remember there were some court cases and
5 things moved from -- so during that ten-year period, I
6 changed senators. During that ten-year period, I changed
7 congressional members without ever moving. I mean, that's
8 just kind of the nature of redistricting.

9 And we've talked before about how many times I
10 think we've had changes during the interim in maps. I
11 believe -- have to go back and look at my notes, but I
12 believe every redistricting cycles beginning 1960.

13 And so -- and I -- my home county is split as
14 well. And that's just part of the -- part of trying to meet
15 the one person, one vote population requirement as well.

16 SENATOR ALVARADO: Yeah. And I wrote down those
17 years that you mentioned. There were quite a few. But that
18 has been driven by mainly court cases, not because whoever
19 was in the White House said they needed more congressional
20 districts of their party. That's a big difference.

21 CHAIRMAN KING: Well, I know in 2003 it was -- it
22 was because the Republicans took a majority in the House for
23 the first time since -- well, in the legislature for the
24 first time since 1870. And we did redistricting at that
25 time in 2003.

1 SENATOR ALVARADO: Wasn't that because the courts
2 did it and then so you wanted to come back and have the
3 legislature do it?

4 CHAIRMAN KING: No. In '03, we did the
5 legislature because you had a Republican Senate and a
6 Democrat House, and a Republican governor. They were unable
7 to pass a House, Senate, or congressional map.

8 In 2001, the redistricting board drew the House
9 and Senate map. In the 2002 elections, again, for the first
10 time I think since the 1870s, the Democrats lost control of
11 redistricting.

12 And in 2003, in the special -- in a special
13 session Governor Perry put congressional redistricting on
14 the call, and we took it up.

15 And I think we went through three special
16 sessions, because the Democrats left the state again then as
17 well, and produced a congressional map.

18 SENATOR ALVARADO: Okay. Well, it -- on what I'm
19 being told and what I'm just reading back, it seemed like it
20 was following the court case and legislature coming back --

21 CHAIRMAN KING: There wasn't any --

22 SENATOR ALVARADO: -- with the new --

23 CHAIRMAN KING: -- court case. We just had not
24 done any congressional redistricting in 2001. And tried to
25 do state Senate and House and were unable to pass a bill.

1 And so the redistricting board again took up House and
2 Senate, and then we did congressional in 2003 --

3 SENATOR MILES: Okay.

4 CHAIRMAN KING: -- because we hadn't done it in
5 2001.

6 SENATOR ALVARADO: And was there -- was that --
7 did that come from the White House, whoever was in power, or
8 was that something --

9 CHAIRMAN KING: I don't --

10 SENATOR ALVARADO: -- the state leadership and the
11 legislature decided?

12 CHAIRMAN KING: I don't recall. I just recall it
13 being put on the call.

14 SENATOR ALVARADO: Okay. So right now as it
15 stands, in Congress there are 25 Republicans and 13
16 Democrats, right?

17 CHAIRMAN KING: Yes. That's --

18 SENATOR ALVARADO: Okay.

19 CHAIRMAN KING: -- part of the Texas delegation.

20 SENATOR ALVARADO: Okay. and you said that one of
21 the objectives was to create more Republican congressional
22 districts. Why did you feel that was important?

23 CHAIRMAN KING: I always feel that's important.

24 SENATOR ALVARADO: Okay. Because now it's going
25 to -- from 30 to eight. I'm just -- you know, --

1 CHAIRMAN KING: I --

2 SENATOR ALVARADO: -- when is enough enough?

3 CHAIRMAN KING: Are you asking me personally? I
4 am very proud of the work that the U.S. House has done and
5 the President and the U.S. Senate over these past eight
6 months now.

7 I was very concerned and disturbed with what was
8 done during the Biden administration.

9 And I'm very concerned that if the Republicans
10 lost the majority in the U.S. House, that the next two --
11 that the two years following the midterms could be very
12 harmful to Texas and to the United States.

13 And so I want us to maintain a Republican majority
14 and hopefully increase a Republican majority in the U.S.
15 Congress. And it's my purpose for being willing to carry
16 this map.

17 SENATOR ALVARADO: Well, I think all the work that
18 the Trump administration's been doing, I think all those
19 issues and policies and bills should stand on their own and
20 let the American people make those decisions and not this
21 rigged districting. Thank you.

22 VICE CHAIR CREIGHTON: Thank you, Senator
23 Alvarado.

24 Senator Hinojosa, --

25 SENATOR HINOJOSA: Thank you.

1 VICE CHAIR CREIGHTON: -- you're recognized.

2 SENATOR HINOJOSA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3 And I just have simple points and questions --
4 points of clarification.

5 I know Senator Miles asked -- it wasn't clear, but
6 the changes that were made in Senate Bill 4 by House Bill 4
7 in those congressional districts, those voters didn't have a
8 chance to express their opinion after the changes were made.
9 There was no public hearings on that point.

10 CHAIRMAN KING: So as far as the Senate, this is
11 the hearing that -- the hearing that we're having today is
12 the only hearing on HB 4 engrossed before the Senate.

13 However, it's the companion to SB 4, and we've had
14 a previous public hearing with public testimony on SB 4.

15 SENATOR HINOJOSA: But we haven't had any on this
16 side, on the Senate side. I know it gets overexplained.

17 But the point is that I'm trying to make is there
18 was no public feedback or no public testimony on the changes
19 that were made to those congressional districts that came
20 across from the House on House Bill 4 as compared to Senate
21 Bill 4.

22 CHAIRMAN KING: My only answer, sir, is that we're
23 following standard Senate process in dealing with a
24 companion bill when it catches up to the Senate bill.

25 SENATOR HINOJOSA: And I understand that. But, I

1 mean, it's just a pretty simple question. I mean, no, we
2 didn't have any hearings pretty much on this changes made in
3 the -- on our Senate bill from House Bill 4.

4 CHAIRMAN KING: I understand.

5 SENATOR HINOJOSA: The other one is there seems to
6 be a contradiction between the three goals that you stated
7 as it relates to improving Republican performance and then
8 keeping communities of interest compact.

9 And the reason I say that because I look on
10 Hidalgo County, which that's where I live in McAllen. You
11 look at Congressional District 15 and Congressional District
12 28, you cut Hidalgo County in half.

13 Not only that, you separate Edinburg, the
14 university, from the City of McAllen. Even DHR, doctors
15 hospital, which has part of the hospital is in McAllen, the
16 other half is in Edinburg, is split.

17 And you look at that's -- and if you look, you
18 even split the city of Pharr in the House Bill 4. Pharr-San
19 Juan-Alamo, which is one school district, is split in half.
20 So how does that compare trying to keep community of
21 interest compact?

22 CHAIRMAN KING: Well, first off, you know, if you
23 look at the existing congressional map or the House and
24 Senate map, in trying to do one person, one vote, it's
25 inevitable that a lot of cities and counties are divided,

1 and school districts.

2 For one reason, cities and counties and school
3 districts don't all share the same boundaries naturally.

4 But, you know, compactness has -- communities of
5 interest has to do with a lot more than just geography.
6 Communities of interest, as you mentioned, can be a city.
7 They can be an historic neighborhood.

8 They can be a school district. But they can also
9 be a water district, they can also be a water basin, they
10 can be a transportation district, they can be an economic
11 district of some sort. They can be any number of things
12 that draw people together in common.

13 And I use my -- I guess I use my home district.
14 My district stretches all the way from far east Tarrant
15 County out into west Texas. And some of those counties have
16 4,000, one of them does, 4,000; another one has just 10,000.

17 And then I have Tarrant County that's a large
18 metropolitan area. Yet they share the same transportation
19 district, they have two water basins that -- river basins
20 that provide the water for most of the entire area that have
21 to work together.

22 They have -- they're in the same TXDOT region. I
23 believe they're in the same DPS region. Actually, they
24 share two TXDOT regions.

25 Their economic driver is the same for most of the

1 district, all coming out of the metroplex area.

2 So there's a lot of things that create communities
3 of interest besides just the geography of a county or a city
4 or a school district.

5 SENATOR HINOJOSA: Well, the -- all the factors
6 you mentioned are being violated in the way Hidalgo County
7 was being split.

8 And the communities that I know and I live in all
9 my life, McAllen, you split it from Edinburg, you split the
10 (indiscernible) school district, it's one school district
11 and it's split in half.

12 So those are very important to our community and
13 keeping those community of interest because congressional 15
14 goes all the way up to almost San Antonio.

15 The other one-half supposed to be Corpus Christi,
16 Nueces County. There's another county which has been
17 completely split.

18 If you look, some of the neighborhoods you have --

19 CHAIRMAN KING: Sorry. Which district are you
20 going to?

21 SENATOR HINOJOSA: That's -- be District 34.

22 And --

23 CHAIRMAN KING: Thank you. I'm up with you now.

24 SENATOR HINOJOSA: That district is also split and
25 that part of the district runs all the way out to San

1 Antonio. And you split the Hillcrest Black historical
2 community.

3 You split the Port of Corpus Christi which is an
4 economic driver you mentioned a while ago from the
5 university.

6 So it splits all this communities. They have no
7 relationship to the way the congressional districts are
8 drawn. They go way up north or way into rural counties that
9 do not have committee of interest, same economic drivers, or
10 the same historical roots.

11 So, I mean, those are issues that I think are very
12 important to my congressional districts that now we have to
13 sort of get to know a different congressional congressman
14 and -- congress person.

15 I mean, I know the district as well as the one
16 that was previously there. So those are very important
17 factors to consider because my constituents are what I call
18 they require a lot of help, they require a lot of
19 assistance.

20 So this -- the way the map was drawn for south
21 Texas is not very in the best interest of my community.
22 That's my comment.

23 CHAIRMAN KING: I understand. Thank you.

24 VICE CHAIR CREIGHTON: Thank you, Senator
25 Hinojosa.

1 Senator Miles, you're recognized.

2 SENATOR MILES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3 Senator King, did the -- we established previous
4 conversation, previous meetings that the Republican
5 Redistricting Committee is the one who drew our map; we
6 established that, correct?

7 CHAIRMAN KING: I don't know if they had any --

8 SENATOR MILES: You spoke on that previously.

9 CHAIRMAN KING: Are you talking about SB 4 or HB 4
10 engrossed?

11 SENATOR MILES: SB 4.

12 CHAIRMAN KING: SB 4. Yes, we had talked about
13 that they had -- well, so again I understand they were
14 involved in that. I wasn't involved in that process with
15 them. We -- I adopted and filed the House map when it
16 became stalled in the House.

17 SENATOR MILES: Okay.

18 CHAIRMAN KING: And so I don't have all the
19 history on how it was drafted.

20 SENATOR MILES: So let's check off. You
21 established the House map and that's what you filed,
22 correct?

23 CHAIRMAN KING: When the House map stalled in the
24 House, I picked it up and filed it in the Senate --

25 SENATOR MILES: Okay.

1 CHAIRMAN KING: -- as a companion.

2 SENATOR MILES: And in previous conversation on SB
3 4, we had conversation on this daises that the Republican
4 Redistricting Committee is the one who we're referring to
5 draw the map, correct?

6 CHAIRMAN KING: Okay. It's my understanding that
7 they were involved in the drafting of the original HB 4.

8 SENATOR MILES: Okay. Have you heard back from
9 the DOB, Mr. Chairman?

10 CHAIRMAN KING: No. I haven't talked to anyone
11 with the DOJ.

12 SENATOR MILES: Okay. And is it -- do you
13 understand, Mr. Chairman, that when Black folks and
14 minorities tend to lean democratic, do you agree with me on
15 that statement for the most part?

16 CHAIRMAN KING: I don't know how to answer that.
17 I don't -- I think that I hope the people look at issues.

18 And I will just say that I can tell you on the map
19 before us whether these historically will be -- have been
20 Democrat or Republican in performance. But I don't want to
21 speak about someone's political preference based on race.

22 SENATOR MILES: So you have no idea that Black and
23 minorities tend to lean democratically.

24 CHAIRMAN KING: So I just want to say that I do
25 not want to take racial data into consideration in my

1 promotion of this map. And what I have looked at and what
2 I'm considering is how areas have historically voted. And I
3 can tell you that --

4 SENATOR MILES: Well, --

5 CHAIRMAN KING: I can tell you in any one of these
6 districts whether I think they'll perform strong or weak or
7 split or Republican and Democrat.

8 SENATOR MILES: Well, if you don't want to take
9 that position, then let me make it clear that it is
10 impossible based on the statement that you made that you
11 drew the map and you're proud that you've drawn the map for
12 more Republican congressional seats is what you said to my
13 colleague Alvarado just earlier, that you're proud of that
14 for more Republican seats.

15 So knowing what I know, and knowing what's -- what
16 is the obvious, that minorities and African American vote
17 democratically, it's simply impossible to draw those maps
18 race blind that you have done.

19 It's simply impossible knowing and making the
20 statement that you're proud of the fact that you've drawn
21 more Republican seats in the state of Texas, okay, with the
22 fact knowing that African American and minorities lean
23 democratically.

24 It's simply impossible, Mr. Chairman, impossible
25 to have drawn these maps race blind. And I close.

1 CHAIRMAN KING: If I may respond, Chairman.

2 VICE CHAIR CREIGHTON: Senator King.

3 CHAIRMAN KING: It's actually incredibly easy to
4 draw a map when you don't take race into consideration and
5 when you're just trying to meet one person, one vote and
6 look at Republican and Democrat voting patterns. It's
7 really very easy to --

8 SENATOR MILES: You're looking at --

9 CHAIRMAN KING: -- draft a map. And, frankly, if
10 I'd really wanted to sit down and draw one, I could have
11 drawn one that elected more Republican seats probably.

12 SENATOR MILES: May I respond that?

13 VICE CHAIR CREIGHTON: Senator Miles.

14 SENATOR MILES: If I can respond to that, if
15 you're taking voting patterns into place, then you know that
16 minorities and African Americans vote democratic, if you're
17 taking voting patterns into consideration.

18 CHAIRMAN KING: All I'm saying is you don't have
19 to look at race to draw a legal map that meets partisan
20 objectives.

21 SENATOR MILES: Well, if you say you can do that,
22 Mr. Chairman, I find it awful funny that you didn't draw a
23 map, you just took the House map.

24 CHAIRMAN KING: I took the House map because it
25 met the objectives that --

1 SENATOR MILES: Which is to gain --

2 CHAIRMAN KING: -- I had for a map.

3 SENATOR MILES: Which is to gain more Republican
4 seats, I understand, Mr. Chairman.

5 VICE CHAIR CREIGHTON: Members, any other
6 questions or comments?

7 (No audible response.)

8 VICE CHAIR CREIGHTON: Okay. At this time,
9 Members, we'll take a vote on House Bill 4. Senator Parker
10 moves that House Bill 4 be reported favorably to the full
11 Senate with the recommendation that it do pass and be
12 ordered, not printed. The Clerk will call the roll.

13 THE CLERK: Senator Alvarado.

14 SENATOR ALVARADO: No.

15 THE CLERK: Senator Hinojosa.

16 SENATOR HINOJOSA: Nay.

17 THE CLERK: Senator Hughes.

18 SENATOR HUGHES: Yes.

19 THE CLERK: Senator Miles.

20 SENATOR MILES: Not no but Hell no.

21 THE CLERK: Senator Parker.

22 SENATOR PARKER: Aye.

23 THE CLERK: Senator Paxton.

24 (No audible response.)

25 THE CLERK: Senator Sparks.

1 SENATOR SPARKS: Aye.

2 THE CLERK: Senator Creighton.

3 VICE CHAIR CREIGHTON: Aye.

4 THE CLERK: Senator King.

5 CHAIRMAN KING: Aye.

6 THE CLERK: It's five to three, one absent.

7 VICE CHAIR CREIGHTON: There being five ayes,
8 three nays, and one absent, House Bill 4 will be reported to
9 the full Senate with a favorable recommendation.

10 CHAIRMAN KING: Thank you, Members. Is there --

11 VICE CHAIR CREIGHTON: Gavel back to you, Chairman
12 King.

13 CHAIRMAN KING: All right, thank you.

14 Members, is there any other business to come
15 before the Committee?

16 (No audible response.)

17 CHAIRMAN KING: Hearing none, Senator Creighton
18 moves that the Committee stand in recess subject to the call
19 of the Chair.

20 Thank you, everyone.

21 (Adjourned.)

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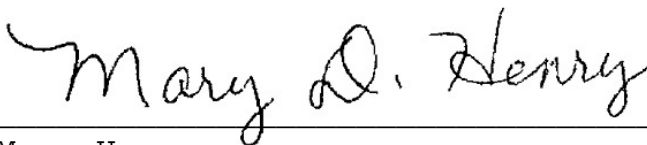
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