

**State Defendants' Response to Gonzales Plaintiffs'
Motion for Preliminary Injunction**

Exhibit N

2025 0818 2CS, House Committee Transcript

TRANSCRIPTION OF VIDEOTAPE

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING

RE: HB 4

MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2025

P R O C E E D I N G S

CHAIRMAN VASUT: The time is 5:02 p.m. The House
Select Committee on Congressional Redistricting will come to
order. The Clerk will call the roll.

THE CLERK: Chair Vasut.

CHAIRMAN VASUT: Here.

THE CLERK: Vice-Chair Rosenthal.

VICE-CHAIR ROSENTHAL: Here.

THE CLERK: Representative Garcia.

(No audible response.)

THE CLERK: Representative Geren.

REPRESENTATIVE GEREN: Here.

THE CLERK: Representative Gervin-Hawkins.

REPRESENTATIVE GERVIN-HAWKINS: Present.

THE CLERK: Representative Guerra.

REPRESENTATIVE GUERRA: Here.

THE CLERK: Representative Guillen.

REPRESENTATIVE GUILLEN: Here.

THE CLERK: Representative Hefner.

REPRESENTATIVE HEFNER: Here.

THE CLERK: Representative Hickland.

REPRESENTATIVE HICKLAND: Here.

THE CLERK: Representative Hunter.

REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: Here.

THE CLERK: Representative Manuel.

1 (No audible response.)

2 THE CLERK: Representative McQueeney.

3 REPRESENTATIVE MCQUEENEY: Here.

4 THE CLERK: Representative Metcalf.

5 REPRESENTATIVE METCALF: Here.

6 THE CLERK: Representative Moody.

7 REPRESENTATIVE MOODY: Present.

8 THE CLERK: Representative Pierson.

9 REPRESENTATIVE PIERSON: Here.

10 THE CLERK: Representative Spiller.

11 REPRESENTATIVE SPILLER: Here.

12 THE CLERK: Representative Tepper.

13 REPRESENTATIVE TEPPEER: Here.

14 THE CLERK: Dean Thompson.

15 REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON: Here.

16 THE CLERK: Representative Turner.

17 REPRESENTATIVE TURNER: Here.

18 THE CLERK: Representative Wilson.

19 REPRESENTATIVE WILSON: Here.

20 THE CLERK: Representative Wu.

21 REPRESENTATIVE WU: Here.

22 CHAIRMAN VASUT: A quorum is present. The Chair
23 lays out House Bill 4. Representative Hunter offers up a
24 Committee substitute to House Bill 4. And the Chair
25 recognizes Representative Hunter to explain the Committee

1 substitute.

2 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3 Are we on?

4 CHAIRMAN VASUT: There we go.

5 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: Third time's a charm.

6 So before you is the Committee substitute. And
7 let me give everybody a summary of the Committee substitute.

8 The proposed changes to HB 4 affect the following
9 congressional districts: 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 14, 17, 18, 22, 29,
10 36, 38.

11 As based in my previous commentary on Rucho, this
12 map is based on partisanship, political performance. And
13 for all of you here, it has enhanced and increased
14 Republican partisanship enhanced performance.

15 The intent of the changes was to increase
16 Republican political performance in existing Republican
17 districts from the proposed plan.

18 Nine out of the 12 that I just listed are
19 Republican-performing districts. Six out of these nine
20 Republican-performing districts, 2, 8, 9, 17, 22, 38,
21 improve the Republican political performance in the
22 Committee substitute compared to the other plan.

23 While remaining three Republican districts, which
24 are 6, 14, 36, they remain strongly Republican at 60 percent
25 plus Trump.

1 CD-18 remains a majority/minority Black CVAP from
2 the proposed plan, and compactness stays the same overall.

3 Harris County, there are changes. CD-19, we're
4 increasing Republican performance. CD Republic 9 --
5 Republican political performance increases from
6 57.24 percent Trump to 59.41 percent Trump. It now includes
7 all Liberty County.

8 CD-2, Republican political performance increases
9 from 60.19 percent Trump to 60.80 percent. It also
10 increases from 57.38 percent Cruz to 58.05 percent.

11 CD-8, the Republican political performance
12 increases from 61.68 percent Trump to 63.10 percent, and
13 58.57 percent Cruz to 60.08 percent.

14 These are examples in the 12 that we've laid out.

15 CD-36, the Republican political performance
16 remains strong. Trump at 61.75 percent, Cruz both high
17 performance.

18 CD-38 increases Republican political performance
19 from 59.46 percent Trump to 59.64. Cruz would increase from
20 56.57 percent to 56.73 percent.

21 Now, CD-22, it increases Republican political
22 performance from 59.47 percent Trump to 60.05 percent. It
23 takes a portion of Brazoria from CD-14.

24 The CD-14 Republican political performance remains
25 very strong, 61.5 percent and above.

1 Navarro County area changes, CD-17 removes the
2 split from Navarro County and places Navarro wholly in CD-6.
3 The Republican political performance increases from 59.97 to
4 60.09.

5 CD-6 now gains all of Navarro County to make it
6 whole, and the Republican political performance remains
7 strong, over 60 percent.

8 So, Members, these 12 districts were impacted.
9 Many that I have laid out have focused on Harris County
10 primarily. And there is a Navarro County area change. It
11 increases Republican performance.

12 The five districts that are new Republican
13 performing districts still exist in the plan. But it exists
14 -- in addition to those five, you're seeing an increase and
15 an enhancement in other Republican areas.

16 So based on Rucho, based on Petteway, this,
17 Mr. Chairman, is what the Committee substitute addresses.

18 CHAIRMAN VASUT: Thank you, Mr. Hunter.

19 Chair will show Representative Manuel now present.

20 Members, questions for the bill author on the
21 substitute.

22 REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON: Yes, sir.

23 CHAIRMAN VASUT: Chair recognizes Dean Thompson to
24 question the author on the substitute.

25 REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, would you

1 tell me the changes you made in CD-9?

2 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: CD-9, the -- we increased
3 in the CD-9 area, the particular detail and the lines, it
4 includes now all of Liberty County.

5 And we made sure that that particular
6 congressional district has an increase to almost 60 percent
7 Republican.

8 REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON: May I ask you an
9 additional question, please?

10 CHAIRMAN VASUT: Yes.

11 REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON: So you -- when you move
12 to include all the Liberty County, you eliminated what part?
13 Because you moved it eastwardly.

14 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: Well, all I can --

15 REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON: -- if you --

16 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: -- show you is if you take
17 nine, all of Liberty is in it. And you can pull up your
18 district viewer and it will show you where the lines now are
19 with nine in the other county.

20 REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON: On -- let me ask you a
21 question on 18. What did you say you did in 18?

22 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: In 18, it remains a
23 majority/minority Black CVAP. The compactness stays the
24 same overall.

25 CD-18 decreases Black CVAP slightly from

1 50.81 percent to 50.71 percent, but increases Hispanic CVAP
2 from 22.40 percent to 23.83 percent.

3 REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON: So that was a decrease
4 in the CVAP of the African Americans but an increase in the
5 Latino in that area, right?

6 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: Very, very small, but
7 you're correct.

8 REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON: I noticed that also that
9 looked like that little part looked like a little boot, you
10 put that in what area?

11 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: You would have to pull up
12 the district viewer and see exactly where those lines are.

13 REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON: Okay. Thank you so
14 much.

15 CHAIRMAN VASUT: Thank you, Dean.

16 Representative Manuel, recognize question bill
17 author on the substitute.

18 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Thank you so much.

19 Chairman Hunter, just some really quick questions.
20 Thank you for laying out the layout of the districts, where
21 they are with President Trump and Vice President Harris.

22 What I was wondering is looking at CD -- just to
23 start off with CD-30 and 33, has there been any concern
24 about the fact that historically CD-30 has always had an
25 economic engine of the airport in their district and now it

1 is no longer there?

2 And the reason I ask that is because not that
3 anybody deserves to have an airport or to have -- deserves
4 to have any economic interest because people move their
5 districts headquarters wherever they choose to.

6 But there's some historical economic engines that
7 have been in 30 that are now -- and have been moved to
8 Congressional District 33 that were in a predominantly
9 Black, African American area; and was wondering if that was
10 a part of any decision-making when it comes to the maps, as
11 part -- as one of the questions.

12 CHAIRMAN VASUT: So, Representative Manuel, I
13 think that -- those two districts that you referenced were
14 in the original and unchanged in the substitute. So the
15 questions I think -- the only thing pending before the
16 Committee at this time is --

17 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Is the substitute.

18 CHAIRMAN VASUT: -- the substitute and --

19 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: So --

20 CHAIRMAN VASUT: -- whether to adopt it. So it --
21 yeah, questions I think have to be limited only to the
22 substitute, yes, sir.

23 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Okay. So let me ask this
24 way into the substitute.

25 Are all of the economic engines that were in

1 Congressional District 30, are they still in that
2 congressional district now?

3 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: That's again the
4 underlying bill. Again, that's the underlying bill. You're
5 not asking me about -- I told you at the top two, 6, 7, 8,
6 9, 14, 17, 18, 22, 29, 36, and 38 are the changes.

7 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Okay, sir.

8 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: But --

9 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Okay.

10 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: -- like I told Dean
11 Thompson, if you'll go on district viewer --

12 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Yeah.

13 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: -- and look at the
14 original 30, it'll tell you exactly where the line is.

15 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Okay. So as of right now,
16 just -- and I'm so sorry, I promise --

17 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: Oh, you're fine.

18 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: -- I'm not trying to be
19 facetious.

20 Can you tell me those districts one more time?

21 And I know it is --

22 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: Absolutely.

23 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: -- completely my fault.

24 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: No, no, no. 2, 6, 7, 8,
25 9, 14, 17, 18, 22, 29, 36, 38.

1 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Okay. I'm glad you said
2 that. So I have two questions because you answered my
3 question.

4 So there aren't any changes to 30 and 33, it's
5 only to these lists from 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 14, 17, 18, 22, 29,
6 36, and 38, just wanted to make sure.

7 Okay. So you answered my question. So there
8 aren't any changes to those.

9 As it relates to CD-9 and CD-29 -- and if -- and I
10 completely understand if you don't have the answers to it
11 because I know sometimes we just don't know.

12 Are there any changes in the economic engines to
13 CD-9 and CD-29? And the reason I ask is because those are
14 traditionally districts that have had minority
15 representation and were minority coalition districts
16 previous.

17 So I'm wondering if there's been any changes to
18 those coalition districts as it relates to their economic
19 engines that have been used to help prop up those
20 communities in those districts.

21 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: Okay. Now, as a
22 preference, we've already gone through the two, Rochu (sic)
23 and Petteway. So as you remember, there's a different view
24 on the legal involvement --

25 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Right.

1 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: -- of the coalition.

2 Do I specifically know? The answer is no.

3 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Okay.

4 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: You could go on district
5 viewer. But being a coastal guy, now that CD-9 --

6 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: We're both coastal.

7 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: -- has Liberty County, I
8 think that's a great economic energy area. So I think you
9 gained a whole bunch.

10 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Well, we're both coastal
11 guys, I will agree on that.

12 What I will say is all the refinery and industry
13 that is traditionally in the areas are between mainly
14 Jefferson, Galveston, parts of Orange, but mainly Jefferson
15 and Orange.

16 I'm not seeing what industry there is that is in
17 Congressional District 9 because I know that we have had
18 prospects of what could come to those areas. But they've
19 all been vastly working class, industrial areas.

20 And the reason I ask, because I did -- I brought
21 this up before, is that Congressional District 14, which is
22 Jefferson and Orange, which -- well, and Galveston, which
23 predominantly used to not look like this, that brought
24 really bad economic interests to our area because we were --
25 we ended up being merged with a predominantly blue collar

1 retail industry, and it caused us to lose a massive amount
2 of GDP, it caused us to have a massive amount of
3 underemployed Blacks, Whites, Hispanics, Latinos, and
4 biracial people.

5 And I'm just wondering if that was the case that
6 was happening in CD-9 from where it used to be, and CD-18 as
7 well.

8 So I got that understanding, you don't know if
9 there are any economic engines that have been changed in
10 Congressional District 19 or Congressional District 29. But
11 we're assuming that that should be better for us as coastal
12 members.

13 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: On 19, you mentioned --

14 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Sorry, not 19, I'm sorry,
15 9 and 29, I apologize.

16 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: Yeah, 9 and 29 as I
17 indicated, you can go on district viewer to look. Do I know
18 specifically without going to that? I do not.

19 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Okay.

20 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: I do think, as you know,
21 at the top political performance was used, and that was our
22 factor.

23 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Okay. And I think this
24 should be the last question, because I don't want to be a
25 liar.

1 May I ask what was the reason for the changes in
2 the congressional districts from what we had previous? Like
3 what was the reasoning for changing those districts previous
4 to now --

5 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: To make it more
6 Republican.

7 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: To make it more
8 Republican. So it was --

9 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: That's right,
10 partisanship, political performance. That's what I said at
11 the very top. Absolutely they've been enhanced, and it
12 makes it stronger, and it allows a Republican performance,
13 partisan under the U.S. Supreme Court.

14 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Okay. So please forgive
15 me, Chairman, I'm really not trying to be adversarial, I
16 promise.

17 So we're making sure that now these districts are
18 purely political when the last time we were here -- and I
19 really don't mean that as a pun intended -- that we talked
20 about how some of these districts were predominantly now
21 going to be Hispanic or Latino opportunities.

22 So now it's not that. We are doing this, you're
23 saying, because it's purely because of President Trump's
24 performance in an election. So it has -- that's -- is that
25 what we're saying is the reason that we're changing CD-9 and

1 the rest, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 14, 17, 18, 22, 29, 36, and 38,
2 correct?

3 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: No, I don't agree with
4 you. The U.S. Supreme Court, as we've already talked in
5 many, many hours, Rucho, says a jurisdiction may engage in
6 in constitutional political gerrymandering, recognizing that
7 politics and political considerations are inseparable from
8 districting and apportionment.

9 It says that you can use partisan interest, it can
10 use political performance. It indicates that this is
11 absolutely a factor. This is a U.S. Supreme Court, and we
12 are able to use that. It's the same premise that I provided
13 in the prior presentation.

14 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Has the U.S. Supreme Court
15 ever put a precedent on doing mid-districting -- mid-decade
16 redistricting?

17 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: We've done it before.

18 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Well, no, I know we've
19 done it before, but he went to jail. So that's the reason
20 I'm asking, is have we ever -- have they placed anything in
21 there that says that --

22 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: I don't agree with that.
23 I think that's a remark that I would not agree with. To
24 bring up somebody went to jail, I can give you 14 other
25 reasons why maybe the other side was wrong. I don't think

1 we want to shoot at each other in the hearing.

2 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: No, no, no, I get that.

3 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: No, I know. But you

4 don't --

5 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: It's --

6 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: I don't agree with that.

7 There's nothing that prevents this congressional

8 redistricting.

9 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: No, no, no.

10 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: And we could do it again.

11 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: I'm not saying that. What

12 I'm saying is I'm going to go back to the previous last

13 hearing is my district was redistricted mid-district -- mid-

14 decade redistricting in 2003.

15 And because of that, Tom DeLay was sentencing to

16 jail because there were things that he had done during that.

17 And Tom DeLay's probably going to get me so I pre-

18 apologize --

19 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: This doesn't really have

20 any --

21 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: So, no, what I'm saying is

22 that --

23 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: -- about this committee's

24 substitute.

25 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: No, I'm asking is because

1 you brought up the Supreme Court. That's the only -- I
2 promise. I'm not an attorney. I think you all know that
3 I'm just a former simple staffer who's been here for
4 21 years in October.

5 And I was just wondering if -- it been that long.
6 I know, I have nothing else important to do in my life.

7 I'm wondering if since we are bringing up the
8 Supreme Court has said that we can do this because of
9 performance -- and totally understand that, Chairman Hunter
10 -- was wondering if the Supreme Court had ever issued out a
11 statement saying that mid-decade redistricting is something
12 that is not an issue because, again, the only reason I'm
13 saying that is because the last person in Texas who did that
14 did go to jail.

15 Not saying you are or anyone else. I'm saying the
16 last person who did that in Texas went to jail because he
17 was doing things on a federal level that was --

18 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: Representative, you're off
19 on --

20 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: -- found to be for him
21 criminally to spend time in jail.

22 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: -- not the Committee's
23 substitute.

24 CHAIRMAN VASUT: Yeah.

25 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: You're going off. You

1 know, this was all discussed August 1st.

2 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Yes, sir.

3 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: This is August 18th.

4 We're on a Committee substitute. And we're not re-arguing
5 those areas. If you have questions --

6 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Okay.

7 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: -- on this plan, I will
8 focus on it. We will not --

9 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: I do actually have one.

10 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: -- agree, I understand.
11 We will respectfully disagree with each other.

12 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: I hope so.

13 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: Mr. Chairman, let's focus
14 on the subject here.

15 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Okay. I want to focus on
16 the subject. And I'll just say this. Focusing on the
17 Committee substitute, has there ever been a Supreme Court
18 ruling that --

19 CHAIRMAN VASUT: Well, --

20 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: -- says the Committee
21 substitute --

22 CHAIRMAN VASUT: Well, --

23 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: -- for redistricting --

24 CHAIRMAN VASUT: I think, Representative, I feel
25 you in the sense of trying to tie the question to it.

1 It really -- the questions I think pending before
2 the Committee at this time are just about the changes that
3 have been made in the Committee substitute compared to the
4 introduced, and --

5 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Okay.

6 CHAIRMAN VASUT: -- the explanations for those, as
7 opposed to the constitutionality of mid-decade
8 redistricting, which I think --

9 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Perfect.

10 CHAIRMAN VASUT: -- doesn't touch the changes on
11 the map.

12 So if you have a question about, you know, a
13 particular change, certainly fair game.

14 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Perfect. Okay. I do
15 actually have one.

16 When it comes to Congressional District 33,
17 Chairman Hunter, would you mind again -- and I pre-apologize
18 -- can you give me the breakdown and the reasoning for
19 Congressional District 33 changing from where it was to why?
20 Like why we're moving it or changing it to where it is now.

21 CHAIRMAN VASUT: So on that one, Representative,
22 so 33 did not change.

23 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: So 30 changed.

24 CHAIRMAN VASUT: 30 did not change either.

25 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: So it was 36.

1 CHAIRMAN VASUT: 36 and 38.

2 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Okay. So question of the
3 chair then.

4 CHAIRMAN VASUT: Sure.

5 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: And please forgive my
6 novice --

7 CHAIRMAN VASUT: No, you're fine.

8 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: -- for asking this
9 question. I thought that when we changed any congressional
10 district even by one voter, it changed every congressional --

11 CHAIRMAN VASUT: Fair --

12 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: -- district because we had
13 to move people.

14 CHAIRMAN VASUT: Fair question.

15 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: So maybe that's where
16 I'm --

17 CHAIRMAN VASUT: So in -- what you'll see on your
18 district -- your -- and in front of you, Representative, if
19 you'll see, there's a handout that has at the top in red
20 Plan C-2331, and in --

21 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Yes.

22 CHAIRMAN VASUT: -- black underneath it, Plan
23 C-333. So this is -- this shows obviously just with the
24 limit of an 11 by 17 piece of paper the changes that were
25 made between --

1 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Right.

2 CHAIRMAN VASUT: -- the introduced and the
3 Committee's substitute.

4 The introduced is the redlines, you see those?

5 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Yes.

6 CHAIRMAN VASUT: And the substitute is the colored
7 areas that are shaded. And so --

8 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Okay.

9 CHAIRMAN VASUT: -- what you'll see, for example,
10 your question's there about --

11 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Real quick. Is that the
12 dark shaded part or the red shaded part?

13 CHAIRMAN VASUT: Any type of color shading is the
14 --

15 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Okay.

16 CHAIRMAN VASUT: -- Committee substitute. And any
17 type of redline is the introduced.

18 And so if you'll look, Representative, the top
19 right corner of that, --

20 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Oh, okay.

21 CHAIRMAN VASUT: -- you'll see 30 and 33, see how
22 they line --

23 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Yes.

24 CHAIRMAN VASUT: -- up perfectly?

25 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: So like in 38 -- sorry,
not 38. So like in 22, you see where --

1 CHAIRMAN VASUT: Yes.

2 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: -- it used to be in this
3 boundary --

4 CHAIRMAN VASUT: Yes.

5 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: -- up here next to Waller
6 County, but it's now drawn somewhere different. So that's
7 actually going to be --

8 CHAIRMAN VASUT: Yeah. So --

9 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: -- within Waller County.

10 CHAIRMAN VASUT: So you can ask the
11 Representative --

12 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: The questions --

13 CHAIRMAN VASUT: -- about -- questions about --

14 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Okay.

15 CHAIRMAN VASUT: -- the differentials between the
16 shaded areas and the redlines basically; does that make
17 sense?

18 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Yes, no, no, no.

19 CHAIRMAN VASUT: You bet.

20 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Absolutely. So --

21 CHAIRMAN VASUT: So do you have a question for the
22 Representative about --

23 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Yes.

24 CHAIRMAN VASUT: -- anything on that? Yeah. Go
25 ahead.

1 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: I do, if you just give me
2 -- because my biggest --

3 CHAIRMAN VASUT: Take your time.

4 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: -- concern is --

5 CHAIRMAN VASUT: Just let us know.

6 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: And, again, I -- Chairman,
7 I appreciate you taking the time. I promise I'm not going
8 to try to belabor the moment because I know people are
9 probably already irritated as it is.

10 Looking at this, in those redlines of it, looking
11 at 29 and 18, the only changes have been is that
12 Congressional District 18 has been -- basically it has
13 increased its population of Black people while also keeping
14 its economic engines that it traditionally had; is that
15 correct? Or are we only going off of race?

16 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: No. Again, as I answered
17 Dean Thompson, CD-18 decreases Black CVAP from 50.81 percent
18 to 50.71 percent. But conversely --

19 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Wait, 50 point -- sorry,
20 50 point?

21 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: -- 50.81, one to 50.71.

22 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Seven one, okay. So it
23 increases --

24 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: But it increases the
25 Hispanic CVAP from 22.40 percent to 23.83 percent.

1 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Okay. And just trying to
2 make sure that I'm staying in the sub, Chairman, so sorry
3 about that.

4 When we're looking at Congressional District 30,
5 there are no changes to that.

6 CHAIRMAN VASUT: Again, stipulated no changes in
7 the Committee's sub to 30.

8 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Okay. No, I'm sorry. I'm
9 trying to look at the map.

10 And there also are not any changes to 33; is that
11 correct?

12 CHAIRMAN VASUT: That's correct.

13 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Okay. So it's 2, 6, 7, 8,
14 9, 14, 18, 22, 29, 36, 38 and --

15 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: No, no.

16 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: No.

17 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: 2, --

18 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: That's right.

19 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: -- 6, 7, 8, 9, 14, 17, 18,
20 22, 29, 36, 38.

21 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Okay. Last question I
22 very much promise.

23 What were the changes in economic engines to
24 Congressional District 18?

25 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: As I responded to Dean

1 Thompson, you would have to go to the district viewer and
2 look exactly at those lines.

3 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Okay. So looking at the
4 district viewer we will be able to see --

5 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: You'll see exactly where
6 the lines are.

7 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: -- what those lines are.

8 And I shouldn't have lied and said last question.
9 I promise this is it.

10 So if there are any congressional districts --
11 sorry. If there are any severe economic --

12 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: If we can get you to vote
13 for this, you can ask me ten more questions. I'm counting
14 on you voting yes.

15 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: I live on the Gulf --

16 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: That's the economic engine
17 right there.

18 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: I live on the Gulf Coast
19 and I would be easily --

20 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: Come on down.

21 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: -- be able to set a draft
22 -- adrift.

23 When it comes to CD-18, if there are any severe
24 economic changes to the economic congressional power of 18,
25 would that be something that we as a Committee -- or

1 shouldn't -- maybe I shouldn't ask the question.

2 If there are any severe economic changes to
3 Congressional 18, which is historically Black district that
4 has been historically underrepresented now in this moment
5 that has had a very serious need and has been vacant by the
6 time someone would take the seat over a year, would we take
7 that into serious consideration to understand the economic
8 poverty that people who live in 18, particularly Black and
9 Brown people who live in those districts, have historically
10 had to deal with since before the voting rights and after
11 have gone into effect?

12 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: As I have answered, you'll
13 have to go to the district viewer, look at the exact lines
14 to see where exactly the indicators that you're looking at
15 are or not.

16 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: And then bring that to you
17 on the floor and see if maybe --

18 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: Sure.

19 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: -- there's a way we can
20 see about making --

21 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: I am --

22 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: -- it better?

23 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: I'm opening to visit with
24 anybody.

25 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Perfect. Thank you so

1 much, Chairman. I really do appreciate your time for that.
2 Thank you.

3 REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, --

4 CHAIRMAN VASUT: Dean Thompson, for what purpose?

5 REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON: May I ask -- make an
6 inquiry, please?

7 CHAIRMAN VASUT: Yes.

8 REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman Hunter, the
9 Senate yesterday voted on a map. And we have a substitute.
10 What is going to pass? Do we vote the Senate map out? We --
11 is it going to be the House substitute?

12 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: Now, I can't predict, but
13 I sure do love the House map and the authors.

14 REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON: All right. Thank you.
15 You've answered my question.

16 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN VASUT: Thank you.

18 Governor Hawkins, for what purpose?

19 REPRESENTATIVE HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20 CHAIRMAN VASUT: You're recognized.

21 REPRESENTATIVE HAWKINS: Chairman Hunter, I'm just
22 trying to understand since I'm a little new to
23 redistricting.

24 When I look at the map, I'm looking at a -- when
25 you look at that what I call a hodgepodge of 2, 38, 29, 18,

1 all those, so does that mean that all of that little area
2 have all those different congressional people?

3 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: I'm not clear on the
4 question.

5 (Vice-Chair Rosenthal/Representative Hawkins confer
6 off mic.)

7 REPRESENTATIVE HAWKINS: All right. Thank you.

8 Chairman Hunter, thank you, you don't have to
9 answer my question and/or interrupt me because my neighbor
10 here just gave me my answer.

11 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: Well, I am glad he's
12 supporting my map. Keep talking to him.

13 REPRESENTATIVE HAWKING: Well, I don't think he's
14 supporting your map, --

15 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: Oh.

16 REPRESENTATIVE HAWKINS: -- let's be clear,
17 because again, I may be losing this, but I'll tell you this,
18 it sure looks fishy to me in terms of how this is all coming
19 out.

20 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: But not to the
21 Republicans.

22 REPRESENTATIVE HAWKINS: And I get that. But it's
23 like you folks (indiscernible) the Democrats are entitled to
24 their viewpoint.

25 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: And really you're supposed

1 to be asking questions about the map on the substitute. But
2 we just disagree, like you and I talked, on August 1st,
3 17 days ago.

4 REPRESENTATIVE HAWKINS: Sure.

5 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: I don't agree with you.
6 And I'm following Rucho, the U.S. Supreme Court in Petteway.
7 And it allows us to do this substitute.

8 REPRESENTATIVE HAWKINS: Well, Mr. Chair, with all
9 due respect, why could you finish your statement and I can't
10 finish mine without interruption? Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN VASUT: Thank you, Ms. Governor Hawkins.

12 Now, Dean Thompson, you had a question. You
13 thought you saw something had changed on 16?

14 REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON: Yes, a change on 16.

15 CHAIRMAN VASUT: I didn't see any change on 16.

16 REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON: Okay.

17 CHAIRMAN VASUT: Well, okay, not in this
18 substitute.

19 MALE SPEAKER: Yeah. It looks pretty significant
20 in the substitute.

21 CHAIRMAN VASUT: Well, I think what you're -- what
22 we're looking at right now, just to be clear for the record,
23 is we're looking at the difference between the substitute
24 and the introduced.

25 REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON: Okay. I'm looking at

1 16. And 16 has under the substitute and under the one
2 that --

3 CHAIRMAN VASUT: Dean, I think maybe what we do is
4 once this substitute's adopted, and then I think that's a
5 question for the introduce on the bill itself because that
6 was a difference between the introduced and HB 4 from the
7 first special session. Does that make sense?

8 REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON: Yes, sir. I'm talking
9 about the plan on 23.

10 CHAIRMAN VASUT: Sure. So just the record was
11 clear, so what we have pending before the Committee at this
12 time is whether to adopt the Committee substitute. And so
13 the questions were about the substitute versus the
14 introduced.

15 Once the substitute's adopted and we're back on
16 the bill, then I think you could ask a question about 16
17 because that was a difference with the bill.

18 Thank you, Dean Thompson.

19 Mr. Vice Chair, for what purpose?

20 VICE-CHAIR ROSENTHAL: Mr. Chairman, can I ask a
21 question?

22 CHAIRMAN VASUT: Go for it.

23 VICE-CHAIR ROSENTHAL: All right. So just so
24 we're clear, in this map that we've been handed in front of
25 us, just today, which is what we're trying to ask questions

1 about -- and sorry for the protracted questioning.

2 But since this is the first that we've seen of it,
3 and now we're going to adopt the substitute and then we're
4 going to have some conversation about that, right?

5 So just to be clear, Plan C-2193 was the original
6 introduced bill; is that correct?

7 CHAIRMAN VASUT: Yeah. Good question, Vice-Chair.

8 So Plan C-2193 is the plan that was adopted in the
9 88th Legislative Session, a duplicate of what was adopted in
10 the 87th is the current lines of the congressional
11 districts.

12 VICE-CHAIR ROSENTHAL: Right.

13 CHAIRMAN VASUT: If on your other piece of paper
14 that has Plan C-2331 on your left hand right here, so Plan
15 C-2331 is House Bill 4 as introduced in the Second Special
16 Session.

17 VICE-CHAIR ROSENTHAL: Got it. And then --

18 CHAIRMAN VASUT: And in black underneath that is
19 the substitute pending before the Committee.

20 VICE-CHAIR ROSENTHAL: Got it. Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN VASUT: Absolutely.

22 Representative Turner, you're recognized to
23 question. What is it? The author.

24 REPRESENTATIVE TURNER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

25 Chairman Hunter, when we were last here, I asked

1 you on the previous plan that we had before us if you knew
2 who draw the -- drew the plan, drew the map, and you -- I
3 think you had said you got it from a law firm but didn't
4 know who actually drew it.

5 Do you know who drew this map?

6 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: Be the same answer.

7 Everything I've gotten is from the law firm. Don't know who
8 drew it. Same answer as previous.

9 REPRESENTATIVE TURNER: Okay. Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN VASUT: Thank you, Mr. Turner.

11 Members, any other questions for the author on the
12 substitute?

13 (No audible response.)

14 CHAIRMAN VASUT: Hearing none, the question occurs
15 on the -- well, actually, Members, is there any objection to
16 the adoption of the Committee substitute?

17 MALE SPEAKER: Yes.

18 CHAIRMAN VASUT: Okay. There is objection. Since
19 objection has been made, the Clerk will call the roll. And
20 this is -- the question before the Committee is on the
21 adoption of the Committee substitute.

22 Noted.

23 THE CLERK: Chair Vasut.

24 CHAIRMAN VASUT: Aye.

25 THE CLERK: Vice-Chair Rosenthal.

1 VICE-CHAIR ROSENTHAL: Nay.

2 THE CLERK: Representative Garcia.

3 (No audible response.)

4 THE CLERK: Representative Geren.

5 REPRESENTATIVE GEREN: Yes.

6 THE CLERK: Representative Gervin-Hawkins.

7 REPRESENTATIVE GERVIN-HAWKINS: No.

8 THE CLERK: Representative Guerra.

9 REPRESENTATIVE GUERRA: No.

10 THE CLERK: Representative Guillen.

11 REPRESENTATIVE GUILLEN: Aye.

12 THE CLERK: Representative Hefner.

13 REPRESENTATIVE HEFNER: Aye.

14 THE CLERK: Representative Hickland.

15 REPRESENTATIVE HICKLAND: Aye.

16 THE CLERK: Representative Hunter.

17 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: Yes.

18 THE CLERK: Representative Manuel.

19 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: No.

20 THE CLERK: Representative McQueeney.

21 REPRESENTATIVE MCQUEENEY: Aye.

22 THE CLERK: Representative Metcalf.

23 REPRESENTATIVE METCALF: Aye.

24 THE CLERK: Representative Moody.

25 REPRESENTATIVE MOODY: No.

1 THE CLERK: Representative Pierson.

2 REPRESENTATIVE PIERSON: Aye.

3 THE CLERK: Representative Spiller.

4 REPRESENTATIVE SPILLER: Aye.

5 THE CLERK: Representative Tepper.

6 REPRESENTATIVE TEPPER: Aye.

7 THE CLERK: Dean Thompson.

8 REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON: No.

9 THE CLERK: Representative Turner.

10 REPRESENTATIVE TURNER: No.

11 THE CLERK: Representative Wilson.

12 REPRESENTATIVE WILSON: Aye.

13 THE CLERK: Representative Wu.

14 REPRESENTATIVE WU: No.

15 CHAIRMAN VASUT: There being 12 ayes, eight nays,
16 the substitute is adopted.

17 Dean Thompson, you wanted to ask a question on the
18 bill I believe. You're so recognized.

19 REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20 Mr. Chairman, I was asking about CD-16. Let me
21 flip --

22 CHAIRMAN VASUT: Okay.

23 REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON: Okay. I got to flip
24 my papers.

25 CHAIRMAN VASUT: We're going to -- we're working

1 on the little microphones for just a second. Dean, I think
2 you're -- you got your mic on now, you're good.

3 REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON: Thank you.

4 In July of 2025, CD-19 had 79.8 CVAP Latino,
5 Hispanics. And under the Committee substitute, it has 79.2,
6 so there's a difference of .6. And I was just asking the
7 Chairman, you know, for an explanation on that.

8 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: Were you asking about 19?

9 REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON: No, 16.

10 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: And what is the question
11 on 16?

12 REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON: I -- you made an
13 adjustment there, and I was asking the rationale of it.

14 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: You talking about Fort
15 Bliss, just to cut through it and -- 2021 we heard testimony
16 about Fort Bliss from El Paso testifiers and people that
17 talked to us. And an adjustment was made in 2021.

18 In 2025, during the hearings we heard and received
19 information from folks in the West Texas to El Paso area
20 because the proposal had it split.

21 And there was a request -- and I think El Paso
22 Chamber may have been one of them -- there you go. See,
23 they're -- even they're talking about it.

24 But the bottom line is the request was to keep
25 Fort Bliss whole like it had previously been done in 2021 by

1 me. And so that's all that was done.

2 I didn't -- there wasn't any negotiation. There
3 wasn't any -- it was basically to be consistent with 2021.

4 And I do think probably El Paso -- I'm talking for
5 people there -- that probably want the Fort wholly in an
6 El Paso region versus being in another region of the state.
7 And that was all that it was.

8 And I made that decision. It was me. But there
9 wasn't anything else. There wasn't any big negotiations
10 consistent with what we did in 2021 to 2025.

11 And add a little history to it -- and you were
12 there with me when we did it. And that's all it was.

13 REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON: Thank you.

14 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: And that was it. And
15 thank you for asking.

16 CHAIRMAN VASUT: Thank you, Dean. Okay.

17 Members, the Chair moves that House Bill 4 as
18 substituted be reported to the full house with the
19 recommendation that it do pass and be printed.

20 Does any member wish to make a statement?

21 (No audible response.)

22 CHAIRMAN VASUT: Seeing none -- oh, I'm sorry.
23 Representative Wu, you're recognized to make a statement.

24 REPRESENTATIVE WU: Mr. Chair, once again, we
25 object to these maps and the way that this process has been

1 done.

2 These maps have been altered. The public has not
3 had time to view them, much less have testimony on them.
4 There has been no public input on these new maps at all.

5 And this is a significant change to many of these
6 districts. And it should be incumbent upon this body to be
7 transparent to the voters and to the people to which we
8 govern.

9 And I again object to the way that this process
10 has been handled, hiding the maps, refusing to say who
11 helped draw them, refusing to reveal why they're being drawn
12 until the last minute, or what basis they're being drawn on,
13 and the general lack of transparency throughout this
14 process. Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN VASUT: Let me -- so, Members, anyone
16 else need to make a statement?

17 (No audible response.)

18 CHAIRMAN VASUT: The Chair now members a question
19 occurs on the motion. Again, that was -- I moved to report
20 House Bill 4 as substituted to the full House with
21 recommendation that it do pass and be printed.

22 FEMALE SPEAKER: Had his hand up.

23 Oh, I -- did we have any?

24 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Yes. I was --

25 CHAIRMAN VASUT: Oh.

1 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: No, I was
2 (indiscernible) --

3 CHAIRMAN VASUT: That's why I didn't see you. So
4 I haven't called the roll so we're still good.

5 Mr. Manuel, you'll be recognized to make a
6 statement.

7 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: I would just -- despite
8 politics, despite irritation and everything, I really hope
9 that we look at some of these districts that have been
10 historically underrepresented, and that we would take an
11 opportunity, not -- obviously not here in committee, but
12 when we get to the floor for the Chair and the author of
13 HB 4 to please heavily consider looking at what are the
14 losses to historically Black, Brown, Latino districts and
15 White and Latino districts, but these districts that have
16 historically been underrepresented to (glitch in the audio)
17 engines that have been historical to keeping these people
18 afloat because of the fact that we have statistics endowed
19 on everyone's side that has shown that the lack of economic
20 interest, the lack of economic engines can help bring about
21 a more extreme version of poverty.

22 And I hope that we look at those when we are on
23 the floor, and that the Chair and the author of the bill
24 would make amendments to these if they are seeing that
25 they're taking out these interests because having poor

1 people in a state actually increases crime.

2 And if we are increasing economic interest,
3 increasing economic value in communities, it brings everyone
4 who is in poverty out of it without them having to use
5 government assistance.

6 And also it puts us in a place where we can be a
7 shining example of if Republicans can truly do this the way
8 that you all keep saying that you can do this by having more
9 representation, I would hope that you all would make sure
10 that our districts would not be underrepresented in a way
11 that has been historically used during the teardown of
12 reconstruction throughout our country.

13 CHAIRMAN VASUT: Mr. Manuel.

14 Members, any other statements?

15 (No audible response.)

16 CHAIRMAN VASUT: Chair hears none.

17 Members, the question occurs on the motion. The
18 Clerk will call the role.

19 THE CLERK: Chair Vasut.

20 CHAIRMAN VASUT: Aye.

21 THE CLERK: Vice-Chair Rosenthal.

22 VICE-CHAIR ROSENTHAL: Nay.

23 THE CLERK: Representative Garcia.

24 (No audible response.)

25 THE CLERK: Representative Geren.

1 REPRESENTATIVE GEREN: Yes.

2 THE CLERK: Representative Gervin-Hawkins.

3 REPRESENTATIVE GERVIN-HAWKINS: Nay.

4 THE CLERK: Representative Guerra.

5 REPRESENTATIVE GUERRA: No.

6 THE CLERK: Representative Guillen.

7 REPRESENTATIVE GUILLEN: Aye.

8 THE CLERK: Representative Hefner.

9 REPRESENTATIVE HEFNER: Aye.

10 THE CLERK: Representative Hickland.

11 REPRESENTATIVE HICKLAND: Aye.

12 THE CLERK: Representative Hunter.

13 REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER: Yes.

14 THE CLERK: Representative Manuel.

15 REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL: Absolutely not.

16 THE CLERK: Representative McQueeney.

17 REPRESENTATIVE MCQUEENEY: Aye.

18 THE CLERK: Representative Metcalf.

19 REPRESENTATIVE METCALF: Aye.

20 THE CLERK: Representative Moody.

21 REPRESENTATIVE MOODY: No.

22 THE CLERK: Representative Pierson.

23 REPRESENTATIVE PIERSON: Absolutely aye.

24 THE CLERK: Representative Spiller.

25 REPRESENTATIVE SPILLER: Aye.

1 THE CLERK: Representative Tepper.

2 REPRESENTATIVE TEPPER: Aye.

3 THE CLERK: Dean Thompson.

4 REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON: No.

5 THE CLERK: Representative Turner.

6 REPRESENTATIVE TURNER: No.

7 THE CLERK: Representative Wilson.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WILSON: Aye.

9 THE CLERK: Representative Wu.

10 REPRESENTATIVE WU: No.

11 CHAIRMAN VASUT: There being 12 ayes, eight nays,
12 and zero present not voting, the motion prevails.

13 There being no further business before the
14 Committee, the Chair moves to adjourn, subject to the call
15 of the chair. Is there objection?

16 (No audible response.)

17 CHAIRMAN VASUT: The Chair hears none. The House
18 Selection Committee on Congressional Redistricting stands
19 adjourned subject to the call of the Chair at 5:48 p.m.

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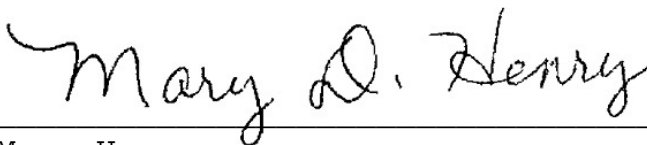
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I further certify that I am neither counsel for, related so, not employed by any of the taking parties to the action in which this deposition was taken, and further that I am not financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO under my hand and of office on this 15th day of September, 2025.



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