

**A Written Testimony by the Korean American Resource & Cultural Center  
at Public Hearing by Illinois Senate Redistricting Committee  
on March 28, 2011**

Submitted by  
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**A. Organization and Community We Serve**

The Korean American Resource & Cultural Center (KRCC), established in 1995, has worked hard to empower the Korean American community of greater Chicago, now estimated at 80,000, through education, organizing and advocacy, and social service and culture. KRCC's commitment to community servicing and successful advocacy campaigns distinguishes it amongst Korean and Asian American organizations in greater Chicago.

KRCC believes that those most affected by an issue must be central in shaping the strategy and solution. To this end, KRCC reflects and organizes the most vulnerable members of the community including the low income, limited English proficient, seniors, women and youth in the decision making process of the organization.

**B. Specific Views on Redistricting**

This hearing is a very precious opportunity for organization like KRCC representing an ethnic minority to submit its opinion about redistricting freshly brought about mainly by the Illinois Voting Rights Act of 2011.

Since KRCC works in a community without geographical borders, it has placed more emphasis on using effective strategies to serve Korean Americans by applying overall principles: contiguity, convenience, connectivity, and conviviality. KRCC would like to view and evaluate redistricting schemes from viewpoint of these same principles.

We Korean Americans have an inclination of living as independent households without having any specific area preferences. Major areas of residence are Northbrook, Glenview, Arlington Heights, Schaumburg, Niles, Morton Grove, Skokie, and North Chicago area. This makes it, therefore, very difficult to see Korean American district any time soon in the future. Asian Americans including Korean Americans may be clustered to form a crossover, coalition, or

influence districts. But it may not seem good and viable idea because it simply tries to create another district for the sake of Asian American district.

### C. Specific Interest Groups and Concerns

In this testimony, however, KRCC would like to focus on Illinois Legislative District (LD) 7 in the City of Chicago. About eight hundred Korean American seniors live in eight major senior apartments with other ethnic groups at this district. The other three senior apartments that house more than three hundred Korean American seniors are located in LD8. They are in a couple of streets away from the west of LD7, i.e. Lawrence & Kedzie, Lawrence & Pulaski, and Lawrence & Elston.

These seniors are in contiguous areas and are well connected through local churches, super markets, and small stores run by Korean Americans. By remapping these two separated senior citizen blocs and merge them into one LD, most of Korean American seniors living in the City of Chicago can enjoy same services and convenience stemming from stable and consistent state legislative care and funding. This could help them to recover their conviviality.