Ada William Prince

S. Seattle 8/9

9 August 2011

MISSION

OneAmerica advances the fundamental principles of democracy and justice at the local, state and national levels by building power within immigrant communities in collaboration with key allies.

Testimony on Behalf of OneAmerica
For the Washington State Redistricting Commission

On behalf of OneAmerica and its members, I write to urge the committee to consider redrawing district lines to better reflect the growing presence and power of communities of color and immigrant and refugee communities in Washington State. We believe the United for Fair Representation's "Unity Maps" accomplishes this goal.

As you know, OneAmerica is a member-based organization and the largest immigrant advocacy organization in the state and our mission is to advance the fundamental principles of democracy and justice through building power in immigrant communities, in collaboration with key allies. Our members are across the state, and include immigrants and allies from multiple communities including African, Latino, Asian, and many other ethnicities. Our members have participated in nearly every single public hearing held by the commission because we recognize that the redrawing of district lines will have a profound impact on the representation of immigrant and refugee communities at different levels of government across Washington State. What our members and allies all share, in spite of where they come from or where they were born, is a desire to participate fully in our democracy and to have their interests represented.

The demographics of Washington State continue to change and the redistricting process must account for these shifts in population. We all benefit when our communities can elect leaders who fully understand, respond to and represent the issues important to the health and well-being of those communities. A majority people of color district will allow our communities, who share a tremendous amount in common as people of color, to elect someone who prioritizes these issues first and foremost on their agendas.

On that note I want to highlight three issues—health, wealth and education—that demonstrate clearly that unifying our communities through a unity map would **give a voice to urgent community and family needs (slides attached).**

The reality is that with major issues impacting our communities like high rates of diabetes, low birth weight rates, and lack of maternal health, closing the educational achievement gap, and radically improving outcome for all kids, those living in South Seattle have more in common with those living in Kent or Federal Way than Lake Washington or North Seattle, making it a viable community of interest. Redrawing the map means that **these communities will have the power to influence whether or not elected officials feel obligated to respond to the community's needs and take action to reduce health disparity and support educational equity.**

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OneAmerica is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization

ONEAMERICA
With Justice for All
Formerly Hate Free Zone

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For too long our organization has fought to convince our members and immigrant and refugee voters that their votes count, In part, this is because the maps have not been drawn in a way that allows votes of people of color and immigrants to be kept together and garner enough weight. The Unity Map and the majority people of color district begins the path to changing all of this. It is what we need in this state. And it is what establishing true democracy requires.

Thank you for your consideration and please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

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South Seattle and South King County Communities Face Similar Challenges

- The Unity Map would give voice to urgent community and family needs:
  - Wealth Disparities
  - Health Disparities
  - Educational Achievement Gap

Suburbanization of Poverty

- The suburbs are now home to more people living in poverty than the central cities: Approximately 72,000 people are living in poverty in Seattle and Bellevue, whereas 97,000 people live in poverty in the rest of the County.

Source: http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/partnerships/CPPW/kcprofile.aspx

Health Disparities

- People who live in south Seattle and south King County bear a disproportionate burden of poor health and socioeconomic deprivation.
- 15% of all Seattle residents are obese while between 15% and 31% of residents are obese in the south Seattle and south King County focus communities.
- 13% of all Seattle residents are current cigarette smokers, while the corresponding percentage is between 14% and 20% of residents in the focus communities.

Source: http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/healthpartnerships/CPPW/kcpmfile.aspx

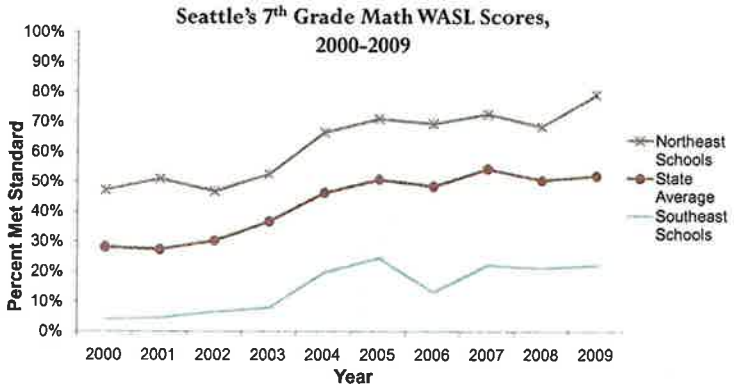
Risk Factors Highest in South

Table 2: Indicators of Risk in Focus Communities

Community	Residents	% < 200 % FPL	% Non-white	% Obese	% Low Physical Inactivity	Avg. F/V Servings Daily	% diabetes
King County	1,867,045	19.6	24.7	19.8	14.9	3.97	5.4
Auburn	67,435	27.8	16.6	30.8	19.5	3.75	8.3
Burien area	55,856	18-24	24.5	18.8	22.0	3.91	5.6
Federal Way	120,977	21.1	27.2	28.1	19.1	3.67	7.5
Kent	142,333	22.8	25.3	27.4	19.5	3.81	8.5
Renton	112,609	20.9	33.3	25.6	17.9	3.71	7.4
Tukwila, SeaTac	29,587	28.8	34.7	24.3	22.5	3.54	8.3
White Center	58,108	35.6	36.1	20.0	23.3	3.7	8.1
Southeast Seattle	65,181	29-36	70.3	18.4	20.7	3.94	7.7
Central Seattle	95,248	34-46	46.7	14.9	13.2	3.81	4.6
Delridge	78,878	34.0	28.8	22.9	13.6	4	5.6

Sources: 2004-2008 BRFSS, 2000 Census.

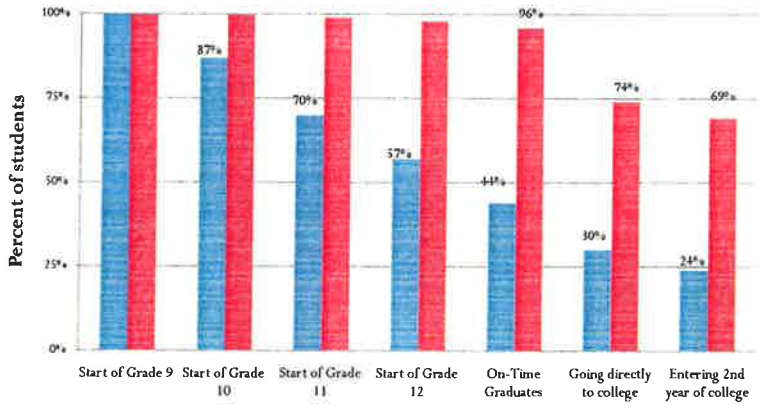
Seattle Has a Distinct Geography Gap



Source: Analysis of data from OSPI website

Road Map for Education Results www.ccedresults.org

A Child's Zip Code Matters: Cleveland HS vs. Bellevue HS



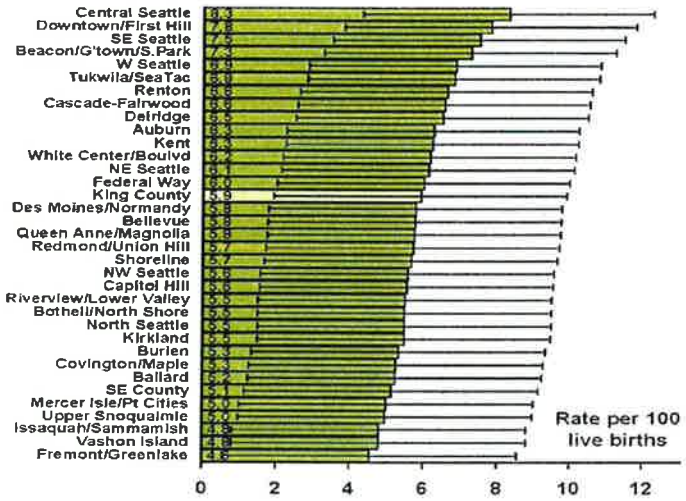
Source: Graduation data from OSPI for Class of 2008, college data from College Tracking Data Services (BERC Group) for Class of 2008

Cleveland HS Bellevue HS

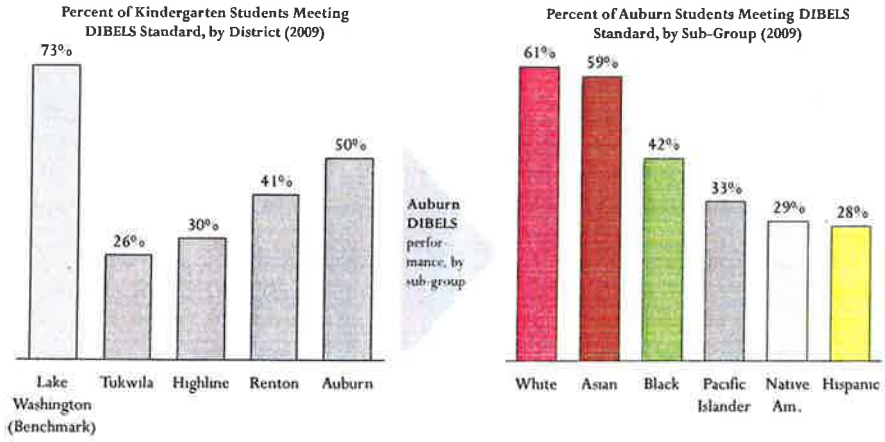
Road Map for Education Results www.ccedresults.org

Low Birth Weight Rates Highest in South

Low Birth Weight Rates by Health Planning Area,
King County King County, 1999-2003 Combined



The Majority of Children in "Unity Map" District are Not Ready for School When They Begin Kindergarten



Source: 2009 DIBELS data from PSESD

Road Map for Education Results www.roadresults.org