

Photo Release

...from the Illinois House of Representatives

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FOR MORE INFORMATION:
State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford
(773) 378-5902

Ford Sponsors Restorative Justice Town Hall



Caption: State Reps. La Shawn K. Ford, Greg Harris, John Cabello, and Kelly Cassidy (left to right) listen to town hall participants discuss restorative justice issues at Loyola University, Saturday.

CHICAGO – State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford (D-Chicago) and fellow members of the House Restorative Justice Committee participated in a town hall meeting at Loyola University Saturday, discussing issues of fairness in the justice system, and equal access to education, jobs and health care.

“As chairman of the Restorative Justice Committee, I am excited that we came together to continue the work to restore justice in Illinois,” Ford said. “This meeting proves that we can work together on the policy changes necessary to make Illinois a land of opportunity for everyone.”

Loyola law students also helped to organize the event and help lead group discussions on policies promoting civil liberties and rehabilitation in the justice system. The town hall was coordinated by Johanne Verpil, a second year law student at Loyola Law School.

“There is so much work ahead for all of us if Illinois is to make a genuine shift, embracing restorative justice principles over punitive practices,” said Mary Bird, professor at the Loyola School of Law and Director of Public Service Programs. “I was pleased to see our law students jump in and participate in a wonderful hands-on opportunity, learning from restorative justice practitioners, legislators, and people affected by the current criminal justice system. I am grateful to Rep. Ford for involving Loyola in this learning experience.”

“It is exciting and encouraging that Illinois legislators like Rep. La Shawn Ford and members of the House Restorative Justice Committee are looking at restorative justice as an effective, economical and common-sense approach to reducing violence, increasing public safety and improving educational outcomes,” said Cheryl Graves, Executive Director of the Community Justice for Youth Institute.

For more information, contact one of Ford’s constituent service offices: 816 S. Oak Park Avenue in Oak Park at (708) 445-3673, 5104 W. Chicago Avenue in Chicago at (773) 378-5902 or in the Stratton Office Building in Springfield at (217) 782-5962.

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