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FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

For Immediate Release:
April 16, 2013

For More Information:
State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford
(773) 378-5902

Ford Continues Fight to Hold CPS Accountable, Protect Local Schools

CHICAGO – Continuing his efforts to encourage education and support area students, Rep. La Shawn Ford (D-Chicago) is pushing a measure to withhold state funding from Chicago Public Schools (CPS) until action is taken to improve the status of its schools and the decision to close 54 vital schools is reevaluated.

“If we don’t provide a quality education for our children, then we are setting them up for failure,” Ford said. “We cannot afford to ignore this problem. I will not give up on our children or on our public schools. We need to take a firm stance on the issues of education and school closings. This resolution will push CPS to revisit their decision to close local schools and to allow residents, parents, and educators a seat at the table in discussions on the future of our students.”

Ford’s proposed resolution also notes underperformance, truancy and low graduation rates as issues facing Chicago schools and encourages the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to withhold state funding from CPS until they come up with a serviceable plan for academic achievement. Ford notes the importance of providing an efficient system of high quality, public educational institutions and services in Illinois.

“It would be in the best interest of our youth, for CPS to work with ISBE, local residents and other education advocates to address school closings and the obstacles that our students are facing. If they close, students will have to travel farther, possibly making their route to school more dangerous. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution so that we can bring real positive change to our schools and support Chicago families.”

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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