

# Media Advisory...



FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

**For Immediate Release:**

August 25, 2013

**For More Information:**

State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford

773 379-4663

## **Dream Lives on 50 Years Later with** **New Law for Hope and Change**

**CHICAGO** – Continuing with efforts to provide every child in Illinois with an opportunity to receive a quality education, state Rep. La Shawn K. Ford (D-Chicago) worked with state Senator Kimberly A. Lightford (D- Maywood) to initiate legislation being signed into law today which lowers the compulsory minimum school age from 7 years to 6 years.

Rep. Ford issued this statement: “As we commemorate the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom held in 1963, we must be inspired by the dream to work for a more fair and just society. If we truly want Dr. King’s dream to become a reality, it starts with the will to provide equal opportunities to a quality education. Studies show that by the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> grade, low-income students are already two years behind grade level. By the time they reach the 12<sup>th</sup> grade, they are four years behind. This new law will help to reduce truancy and strengthen a child’s ability to grasp the critical foundation of basic skills for a successful school career.

“Article 10 of Illinois’ Constitution provides that a fundamental goal of the people of the state of Illinois is the educational development of all persons to the limits of their capacities. Article 10 further states, ‘The state shall provide for an efficient system of high quality public educational institutions and services.’

“This new law is the Change and Hope that Illinois needs for stronger workforce, stronger families, stronger communities, and a stronger future for a better Illinois.”

For more information, contact one of Ford’s constituent service offices: 816 S. Oak Park Avenue in Oak Park at [708-445-3673](tel:708-445-3673), 4800 W. Chicago Avenue in Chicago at [773-378-5902](tel:773-378-5902) or in the Stratton Office Building in Springfield at [217-782-5962](tel:217-782-5962).

<b>What:</b>	<b>Bill Signing Creating Law Lowering School Age in Illinois</b>
<b>Who:</b>	<b>Governor Pat Quinn, State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford, other officials</b>
<b>When:</b>	<b>Sunday, August 25, 2013, 1:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Where:</b>	<b>Henry H. Nash Elementary School 4837 W. Erie St. Chicago, Illinois 60644</b>