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FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

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Ford and Flowers Honor 50th Anniversary of March on Washington

CHICAGO – State Reps. La Shawn K. Ford (D-Chicago) and Mary Flowers (D-Chicago) have introduced a House Resolution to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. HR0549 (http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus_pf.asp?DocNum=0549&DocTypeID=HR&LegID=76923&GAID=12&SessionID=85&GA=98) salutes those who marched in the pursuit of freedom and justice for all.

The resolution recognizes the efforts of the Council for United Civil Rights Leadership in organizing the march and putting forth a series of well-defined goals, including: the passage of meaningful civil rights legislation; the immediate elimination of school segregation; a program of public works, including job training, for the unemployed; a federal law prohibiting discrimination in public or private hiring, a nationwide minimum wage, the withholding of federal funds from programs that tolerate discrimination, the proper enforcement of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution by reducing congressional representation from States that disenfranchise citizens, a broadened Fair Labor Standards Act to currently excluded employment areas, and the granting of authority for the Attorney General to institute injunctive suits for constitutional right violations.

The March on Washington culminated with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. rousing the crowd, the nation, and the world with his “I Have a Dream” speech. The March is widely credited for leading to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

“50 years after that historic day, if look at the goals of the March, we can see that we are still fighting for some of the same objectives that brought our nation together during the March on Washington,” said Ford. “Many African-American communities still face endemic problems of widespread unemployment, high crime levels, and discrimination; African-American employment rates are more than twice the rate for whites in the State of Illinois, while African-Americans are incarcerated at nearly 6 times the rate of whites throughout the nation and account for 75.5% of homicide victims in the State of Illinois,” said Ford. “While we commend and honor the men and women who marched on August 28, 1963, we must further commend and honor those who continue the struggle for equal rights, freedom, and justice for all in accordance with the principles of social and restorative justice,” said Ford.

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