

Press Release...



FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

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For More Information:

State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford

773-378-5902

Ford and Leving Call For Full and Active Council on Responsible Fatherhood

CHICAGO – In honor of Father’s Day 2013, State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford (D-Chicago) and Responsible Fatherhood Council Chair Jeffery M. Leving call for a fully appointed and active state Council on Responsible Fatherhood to promote responsible fatherhood and to save the state money. The Illinois Council on Responsible Fatherhood (ICRF) is a state commission established to promote the positive involvement of fathers in their children’s lives.

In 2011, it was reported that nearly a quarter of the more than 300 boards and commissions in the state of Illinois have been inactive in recent years. In 2013, Governor Quinn signed an order eliminating 75 state boards and commissions. State boards and commissions are intended to draw citizens into government, and most citizens serve without any compensation. These boards and commissions exist to help keep elected leaders honest and to make sure tax dollars are not wasted.

The ICRF has not had an appointment for more than a year, and currently has six vacancies. The 21 members serve at the pleasure of the Governor, and report yearly to the General Assembly. The Chair of the Council, Jeffery M. Leving, states, “The ICRF has a unique opportunity and an essential obligation to make Illinois a better place for fathers and children in all communities. Father’s Day is only one day, but many fathers and children in Illinois will never hold those lifelong memories because the ICRF is struggling to fulfill its own mission because of the lack of support from some of its own council members. This needs to change.”

“Promoting responsible fatherhood could also save the state money,” said Ford. “The state continues to carry the burden of deadbeat fathers who have the ability to pay child support but refuse to do so, costing taxpayers millions of dollars in Medicaid, cash assistance, legal actions against deadbeats, and other expenses,” said Ford. “To further activate and energize the Council on Responsible Fatherhood, I urge Governor Quinn to appoint persons to fill the six vacant unpaid positions on the Council in honor of Father’s Day. By having a full and active Council, we will significantly decrease the number of children in Illinois who rely on the state, and we will increase the number of children in Illinois who grow up with a responsible father in their lives,” said Ford.

For more information, please contact Rep. Ford’s constituent service office at 773-378-5902.

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