

Press Release...



FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

For Immediate Release:

November 15, 2016

Ford Urges President Obama to Support HR 1011 and Establish a Study on the Impact of Slavery

CHICAGO – Earlier this year, Illinois State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford, D-Chicago, introduced House Resolution 1011 to the Restorative Justice Committee of the Illinois House of Representatives in Springfield requesting President Obama commission a study on the impact of slavery in the United States. The Restorative Justice Committee unanimously recommended that the Resolution be adopted, which the House did on June 30, 2016. Ford is pushing for President Obama, in his last sixty-five days in office, to seriously consider the study. HR 1011 is an effort to study the impact of slavery that continues to have an impact on Black Americans and the progress of America.

“It is imperative - now more than ever before, with the recent election - that before he leaves office, the first and only black president commissions a study dealing with the impact of slavery to address the inequalities experienced by African Americans,” said Ford.

Ford, Chairman of the House Restorative Justice Committee, presented the HR 1101 initiative to request President Obama launch a federal commission to study the economic impact of the slave trade and the use of slave labor. President Abraham Lincoln’s 1863 Emancipation Proclamation, while freeing slaves of their literal bonds and ending an immoral practice, did not guarantee equality in education, employment, housing, and access to quality affordable health care. The proposed commission of the descendants of past slaves in America would help to study the obstacles that still exist today in education, employment, housing, health care, and justice.

“Many years ago, it was promised to slaves and the descendants of slaves they would be repaid, not only for the forced labor that helped build this country to its current greatness, but for the terror that was slavery,” said Ford. “Given the real history of our country and the role slavery played in it, launching a commission now to study the impact of slavery is more appropriate than ever before.”

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), or visit www.lashawnford.com.

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