



Photo Release

FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

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Gov. Quinn Signs Two Bills to Improve Access to Healthy Foods

OAK PARK, IL. – On Saturday, Governor Patrick Quinn signed into law legislation introduced by State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford (D-Chicago) that aims to improve access to healthy foods available at farmers markets and other non-traditional fresh food markets for those who have LINK cards (Food Stamps). Establishing the Farmers' Market Technology Improvement Program, the law will assist fresh food markets develop the capability to accept electronic benefit cards using wireless devices.

"The new law is a proactive effort of many stakeholders working to provide access to fresh fruits and vegetables and other healthy foods in every community across the state," said Ford. "It is my hope that the bridges we have built will continue to get stronger, in an effort to make this new law as effective as its mission. Our continued efforts to implement this new law can help erode away one of the health disparities affecting many communities across the state, and help to make our vision more visible in the communities needing access to fresh, healthy foods," Ford stated.

At the same bill signing, Governor Quinn also signed legislation into law that was introduced by Senator Linda Holmes (D-Plainfield), and sponsored by Rep. Ford which amends the Local Food, Farms and Jobs Act to create a database to make it easier for schools to buy fresh produce and other healthy, locally grown foods.

More than 20 organizations were represented at the bill signing, supporting the cause of improving access to healthy, locally grown food. "I am aware that the work is not complete, and I look forward to continue to work with all interested stakeholders to help farmers and farmers markets grow their businesses in an effort to make the citizens of Illinois healthier," said Ford.

(continued)



For more information, please contact Ford's constituent services office at (708) 445-3673.

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