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FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

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Rep. Ford Requests Study of Impact of Medicaid Cuts

Introduces House Resolution

CHICAGO – Today State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford (D-Chicago) introduces a House Resolution requesting that the Governor issue an Impact Study Report before the Illinois House of Representatives votes on any Medicaid cuts. An Impact Study Report will help to explain the long-term impact and any short-term benefit of the Governor's proposed cuts to Medicaid.

“These cuts will mean that some people now served by Medicaid will not be able to get needed medications or important healthcare services. This could ultimately lead to more severe medical problems which could cost the state even more money. These Medicaid cuts could possibly jeopardize matching Federal funds. We know that in many cases, cutting one expense may cost us more than we might save,” said Ford.

“We know that throwing people off Medicaid puts them in expensive emergency rooms as they seek even routine primary care. Primary care should be delivered in doctors’ offices, not emergency rooms, and we should support the concept of a medical home with a primary care doctor for the best, most cost-effective outcomes. In addition, cuts in Medicaid will only further decimate emergency room services and specialty care at safety net hospitals that rely on Medicaid reimbursement, and the State already owes millions of dollars for healthcare services already provided,” said Ford.

“We also need to look at the effect these cuts will have on jobs and economic vitality. Safety net health centers, clinics and hospitals may need to close if they do not receive the support they need as they provide health care to those in their communities who need their assistance,” said Ford.

A bipartisan group given the task of cutting the state's Medicaid budget by \$2.7 billion failed to come up with a plan by the set deadline, and Gov. Quinn set forth his proposal to the General Assembly on April 19, 2012. Medicaid is a joint state-federal program that provides

health coverage to some low-income citizens. In Illinois, Medicaid covers low-income pregnant women, families with children, some single adults determined to be disabled, and some who are medically needy, including some elderly.

“The Impact Study Report should include an analysis the proposed reductions will have on employment and services by race, gender and age. I am worried these proposed cuts to Medicaid will impact those who need health care services the most. We need to be sure that we fully understand the possible outcomes of these proposed cuts so we do not leave anyone behind,” said Ford.

For more information, please call one of Ford's constituent service offices: call the Oak Park office at (708) 445-3673 or the Chicago office at (773) 378-5902.

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