



LA SHAWN K. FORD

STATE REPRESENTATIVE - EIGHTH DISTRICT



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State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford's Legislation and Activities in Childhood Obesity Prevention

Improving Access to Good Nutrition

- Introduced legislation that became law establishing the Farmers' Market Technology Improvement Program Act, which helps people use their LINK cards (Food Stamps) at Farmers' Markets (Public Act 096-1088)
- Chief House Sponsor for successful legislation that amends the Local Food, Farms and Jobs Act to establish an electronic database to facilitate the purchase of fresh produce and food products by schools (Public Act 096-1095)
- Chief House Sponsor for legislation that became law requiring the State Board of Education to develop and maintain a nutrition and physical activity best practices database (Public Act 096-1223)
- Introduced legislation (97th GA – HB1600) to ban trans fats in foods served by food facilities – passed the House, defeated in the Senate
- Sponsors Austin Holiday Food Drive, collecting 10,000 items for local food pantries in 2010
- Promoted Healthy Eating as part of Black History Month at a local grocery store, Leamington Foods

Fighting Childhood Obesity

- Member of Community Action Team for Healthier Kids (CATH-K), a coalition of 20 organizations working to decrease childhood obesity in Oak Park, River Forest, and Forest Park
- Member of the External Advisory Board for Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children (CLOCC)
- Since 2008, commemorating the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, has sponsored the Family Health Challenge Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., for elementary and junior high students in efforts to combat childhood obesity – more than 400 students participate. Has been held in Chicago, Berwyn and Oak Park. The 5th Annual Health Challenge will be Saturday, January 21, 2012 at Christ the King Jesuit College Preparatory High School, Chicago

Community Health Education

- Sponsors community health fairs in conjunction with Circle Family HealthCare Network, Concerned Organization Who Cares, St. Catherine-St. Lucy, and local aldermen
- Sponsored "What's Killing Us?" Community Health Fair during Black History Month in association with American Heart Association, Circle Family Health Care Network, Loretto Hospital, TACTS, Black Nurses Association, American Cancer Society, ChildServ, Chicago Department of Health, and IDPH
- Speaker, "Update on LINK cards at Farmers Markets", Green Town 2011, Oak Park
- Active with Building a Healthier Chicago, promoting and participating in the Walk Across Austin
- Featured Panelist, Illinois Action for Children Community Forum on Childhood Obesity, Broadview

Expanding Access to Health Care

- Early in the debate about national health care reform, introduced and passed House Resolution 0569 (96th GA) urging the President and Congress to enact comprehensive health care reform
- Went to Washington, D.C. in July 2009 to lobby Illinois' congressional delegation to advance health care reform efforts

Other Health-Related Activities

- Introduced and passed House Resolution 0468 (97th GA) urging that social justice be the guiding principle in decision-making in the Illinois House of Representatives
- Previous Member, Board of Directors, Circle Family HealthCare Community Health Center, Chicago
- Trustee of West Suburban Hospital Medical Center, Oak Park