

# Media Advisory...



FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

**For Immediate Release:**  
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## Ford to Announce Today Filing of Legislation to Change History Teaching Standards

**CHICAGO** – Alarmed that traditional history teaching has failed to provide students with a comprehensive education that includes the perspectives of marginalized communities, state Rep. La Shawn K. Ford, D-Chicago, will unveil language and discuss details of his proposal to update the state’s history curriculum at a press conference scheduled today at 10 a.m. at the DuSable Museum of African American History, located at 740 E. 56th Pl. in Chicago.

“To the detriment of many, the teaching of history has often been viewed through the lens of one perspective,” Ford said. “This limited narrative has rarely taught our children about the marginalization of women, people of color, persons with disabilities and other minority groups. As a result, this summer I worked with a diverse group of stakeholders to put together a legislative proposal that can immediately begin to update our teaching standards. I’m grateful for their input, and I look forward to taking the next step to put our plan into action.”

Ford’s plan would establish a commission to review and update the state’s history curriculum so that textbooks, class discussion and other course material more accurately reflect an examination of history through the inclusion of diverse perspectives. With certain credit exceptions, under Ford’s proposal, schools would shift to civics teaching instead of history teaching during the 2021-22 school year until recommendations from the commission are implemented. The commission would be expected to complete its work by the end of next year, with new curriculum fully adopted by June 30, 2022.

Ford has been an advocate for strengthening history curriculum, previously introducing House Bill 4954 to expand instruction regarding pre-enslavement Black history and the American civil rights renaissance.

"Both of these bills, House Bill 4954 and The American History Bill, have to pass," said advocate Meleika Gardner of We Will. "It will speak volumes of a House Representative who would vote against chipping away at systemic racism by stopping the miseducation of our children. Both of these bills will build better race relations starting at the kindergarten grade level because they will come to understand and respect each other's identity in this nation. As of right now, the American History text books portray Caucasians as the only heroes and inventors who built this nation. We know that this is not true. Black people, Native Americans, Latinx, women, the Jewish community, and etc. helped to build this country."

For more information, please contact [RepFord@LaShawnFord.com](mailto:RepFord@LaShawnFord.com).

Who: State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford

What: Introduction of legislation to update school history curriculum

When: Friday, Oct. 9; 10 a.m.

Where: DuSable Museum of African American History; 740 E. 56th Pl., Chicago (Press conference will take place in the Harold Washington Wing "1919" exhibit space)

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