



Press Release...

from State Representative La Shawn K. Ford

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford

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Ford Files Bill for Struggling Families with Child Care Copayments

CHICAGO- Illinois State Representative La Shawn K. Ford, D-Chicago, has filed House Bill 5963 in order to help with copayments for struggling families. Ford is currently working with the governor's office and the secretary of the Department of Human Services and is advocating for an executive order.

"Copayments have a major impact on struggling families in Illinois," said Ford. "Children could possibly be left out of a safe learning environment. Proper child services should not be out of reach for families because of a significant cost burden."

According to an article in the Denver Graduate School of Social Work, when families begin to earn more, they lose benefits, causing their real income to drop dramatically. The loss of child care assistance in particular can result in one of the steepest drops in income for low-income families due to the high cost of child care.

"Child care services are essential to many low income families," said Ford. "Families should not have to worry to choose between maintaining child care services or improving their quality of life. For a lot of families, higher child care rates may potentially cause the end of their child care services."

HB5963 proposes that, beginning July 1, 2019, a family eligible for child care services whose income is at or below 185% of the most recent United States Department of Health and Human Services Federal Poverty Guidelines for the applicable family size shall pay a \$1 fee as a co-payment for child care services. The legislation also deletes a provision that: (i) requires the Department of Human Services to establish, by rule, a co-payment scale that provides for cost sharing by families that receive child care services, including parents whose only income is from assistance under this Code; and (ii) that require co-payments to be based on family income and family size and other factors as appropriate. It also removes a provision that authorizes the Department to raise parent co-payments.

For more information, please contact Rep. Ford's district office at 773-378-5902 or email repford@lashawnford.com.

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