



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 Calls on Governor Pritzker to Address State of Emergency in Chicago's Austin Community

SPRINGFIELD IL- State Representative La Shawn K. Ford (D-CH) stood on the floor with other members of the House and calling for a State of Emergency in Chicago's Austin community. The State of Emergency came after the death of a mother who was trying to shield her baby daughter in the North Austin community.

Austin, located on Chicago's West Side, is the second largest community by population and the second largest community geographically in Chicago. Austin is a community plagued with poverty and the Nation's highest death rates due to chronic diseases and senseless violence. Austin is also known as the epicenter of the opioid crisis in the state of Illinois.

"Right now Chicago's Austin community is in a State of Emergency," said Ford. "People here are experiencing the worst conditions possible. This is the second largest community in Chicago and it seems that it is being ignored by Illinois."

Nearly half of all homicides reported in 2017 occurred in the Austin community. Last year, 530 murders were reported in Chicago, but about 48.7 percent of those were from the Austin community.

"Illinois can no longer stand by while people in Austin are dying in high rates everyday by violence and drugs," said Ford. "The people of Austin deserve better from the state of Illinois and Springfield needs to recognize Austin is currently in a State of Emergency. It is in my hopes Governor JB Pritzker will address the issue."

The General Assembly recently adopted a resolution raising the awareness of the dangers of Chicago. HR0435 commends every endeavor to address the critical issues plaguing the Austin community, especially the Loretto Hospital for their public health approach to violence, which sees violence as preventable and not just inevitable.

See [HR0435 HERE](#)

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

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