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FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

For Immediate Release:

February 14, 2013

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Ford Calls on State Agencies to Deal with Violence

Chicago – State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford (D-Chicago) calls on Illinois' health care and social service agencies to help communities deal with the mental impact experienced by youth and their families struggling with the overwhelming burden of violence. This challenge calls for the Illinois Departments of Healthcare and Family Services, Human Services, Children and Family Services, Public Health and West Side community health providers to work together to serve these particular needs for affected families and youth. An upcoming meeting to bring stakeholders together will be hosted by the CEO of Vanguard West Suburban Medical Center, William Brown.

“Our youth experience pain and mental stress because of violence in their communities. These issues deserve immediate intervention if we want to help our youth and their families heal as they confront the violence. It is crucial that we open centers available to the community in order to grow through peace and love,” said Ford.

“It is not enough to just have a war on guns. We must take a lesson from the late American theologian Reinhold Niebuhr who said, ‘God, give me grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, Courage to change the things which should be changed, and the Wisdom to distinguish the one from the other’,” said Ford.

“We can never end violence totally, but with political will and action, we can make our communities healthier and more just. I will work with the Governor and the directors of Illinois' agencies that deal with health issues in order to create a plan to begin to help the communities in need,” Ford concluded.

For more information, contact one of Ford's constituent service offices: 816 S. Oak Park Avenue in Oak Park at 708-445-3673, 5104 W. Chicago Avenue in Chicago at 773-378-5902 or in the Stratton Office Building in Springfield at 217-782-5962. More information is also available at www.lashawnford.com.