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**La Shawn K. Ford**  
**State Representative**  
**8<sup>th</sup> District**

Happy Labor Day 2013!

Labor Day, a federal holiday in the United States, gives workers a day of rest and celebrates their contributions to the American economy. As Chairman of the Illinois House Small Business Empowerment/Workforce Development Committee, I am happy to announce the passage of the Illinois Small Business and Workforce Development Task Force Act, Public Act 98-0515. Christopher Kennedy, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois, has been called to be the Chairman of the Task Force. The goal for the Task Force is to help identify issues of importance to small businesses that may be addressed by the 98<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and future General Assemblies that may be turned into action. The Task Force will make recommendations regarding identified issues to improve small businesses and ways to put people to work in Illinois.

I am confident that Mr. Kennedy's experience and leadership in business, civic activities and at our great state university, will help provide a new perspective to government in Illinois to help improve business policies, help create jobs, and help repair the revenue problem in Illinois.

On this Labor Day, we all should be inspired by last week's commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and freedom. Let's never give up the fight for a better America, where everyone is afforded real opportunities to live the American Dream and to contribute to a better America for all of us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "La Shawn K. Ford". The signature is stylized and fluid.

La Shawn K. Ford  
State Representative – Eighth District

Christopher Kennedy is on the board of trustees of the mutual funds managed by Ariel Investments, a Chicago-based investment-management firm. Since 1996, he has been a member of the Economic Club of Chicago, a group established in the 1920s with the goal of aiding "the creation and expression of an enlightened public opinion on the important economic and social questions of the day". Since 1997, Kennedy has also been a member of the Executives Club of Chicago, which brings world leaders and practices to the local business community to establish productive relationships and explore the issues facing the business world in today's business environment. From 1997-1999, Kennedy served as chairman of the Chicago Convention and Tourism Bureau, a sales-and-marketing organization promoting Chicago to the tourism and convention industries. Since 2000, Kennedy has been a member of the City Club of Chicago, a group that brings together civic and cultural leaders to discuss and debate issues affecting the Chicago area. Since 2005, he has been a member of The Commercial Club of Chicago, a group that brings together the city's business, educational, and cultural leaders on projects to improve central industries and create new economic opportunities. Illinois Council on Economic Education an organization dedicated to ensuring all Illinois students are afforded an education in economics in order to be productive members of the workforce, informed consumers, and active community members. Mr. Kennedy has been Chairman of the University of Illinois Board of Trustees since 2009.