

News...



FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

For Immediate Release:

March 5, 2014

For More Information:

State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford

773-378-5902

Ford Advances Bill to Create Task Force to Study Feasibility of Elected School Board in Chicago

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – To research the need for an elected school board in Chicago, state Rep. La Shawn K. Ford (D-Chicago) has sponsored legislation to establish the Chicago Educational Governance Task Force.

“Many of my constituents have expressed to me a need for better local representation through an elected school board in Chicago,” Ford said. “Chicago has the only school district in Illinois that does not have an elected school board; instead, members are appointed by the Mayor. Exploring how citizens can be more involved in these decisions is important. I intend for this Task Force to bring everyone to the table to get a better understanding of whether or not this change can benefit our students and our community.”

House Bill 1152 proposes that the Task Force include members from the General Assembly, Chicago Public Schools, the Chicago Board of Education, Chicago Teacher’s Union, a principal’s association and a student representative. This bill passed out of the House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee Wednesday and moves to the House Floor for further consideration.

“I am looking forward to hearing perspectives on all sides of the issue of an elected school board, and I would like an objective and comprehensive discussion on this polarizing issue,” Ford said. “We must put politics aside and focus on the needs of our children.”

Ford’s legislation is also backed by several community leaders and local organizations.

“I’m supporting Representative Ford’s House Bill 1152 because it provides unparalleled transparency,” community organizer Valerie Leonard said. “For the first time, there will be a public body to assess the current structure and selection process for the Chicago Board of Education and ways it may be improved. It is my belief that the task force can objectively evaluate the pros and cons of an elected school board, study best practices from other elected school boards and look at ways to ensure authentic voice from a diverse group of stakeholders throughout the City of Chicago, all within public view.”

For more information, please contact one of Ford’s constituent service offices: 4800 W. Chicago Avenue in Chicago at 773-378-5902 or 239-E Stratton Office Building in Springfield at 217-782-5962.

###