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FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

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Ford Speaks Out Against Abduction of Nigerian Schoolgirls

SPRINGFIELD, IL – More than a month after hundreds of schoolgirls in Nigeria were abducted by an Islamist extremist group, state Rep. La Shawn K. Ford, D-Chicago, is speaking out in favor of efforts to secure the safe return of the girls to their homes.

“The world should not forget this travesty until all of the girls are returned to their families,” Ford said. “As a father of a 10-year-old daughter, I sympathize with the families who sent their daughters to school to help provide a brighter future for them, and their lives were turned upside down when their child did not return home. We have to support these families during this difficult time and do whatever is needed to bring back the students and to bring these kidnappers to justice.”

Rep. Ford introduced House Resolution 1081 to urge President Obama to do everything in America's power to assist in the release and return of the young ladies abducted by Boko Haram militants in April.

Boko Haram militants attacked the Chibok Government Girls Secondary School in Borno State, Nigeria and abducted hundreds of girls from the campus. Roughly translated, Boko Haram means ‘Western Education is a Sin’ and the group opposes educating women. Due to conflicting reports, it is hard to know the number and condition of the girls, and some have taken ill, died or escaped. The Nigerian government has had no success in recovering them. Rep. Ford hopes to raise awareness on this issue in efforts to rescue the students and return them home.

“Every child deserves an opportunity to go to school and receive an education, and we have to fight to make sure that girls have that basic human right,” Ford said. “We need to send the message that these hateful acts will not be tolerated and that the world will unite against violence and hate.”

For more information, please contact Ford's constituent service office: 4800 W. Chicago Avenue in Chicago at 773-378-5902.