

# Press Release...



FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

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**For More Information:**

State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford

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## State of the State is Unfair

**CHICAGO** – As newly-elected Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner prepares for his State of the State address to the General Assembly on Wednesday, state Representative La Shawn K. Ford, D-Chicago, urges him to include the issue of fairness in the state of Illinois. “The great amount of unfairness in our state must be addressed, and I hope to hear Governor Rauner address this lack of fairness in his State of the State address, said Ford. “Governor Rauner ran a very great campaign across the state of Illinois, and I give him a lot of credit for taking note of the needs in the most troubled communities. It is now time to put a fair plan in place that affords opportunities for people in those communities. I urge the governor to hire a more diverse administration to help him govern a state as diverse as Illinois.”

“We must provide individuals and families with real opportunities to succeed and be stronger as persons and as families,” said Ford. “Building stronger families with opportunities in Illinois will empower and strengthen the whole state of Illinois.”

“Business people must have the opportunity to start a new business and current business owners must have opportunities to grow and expand their existing businesses,” said Ford. “Every family must have the opportunity to send their children to a quality school so their children may reach their fullest potential, and they must receive a living wage so that as parents they can work one job to support their children. This change has to become Springfield’s political will and agenda: to create fairness, change, opportunities and resources for families and communities to develop.”

Ford’s effort and comments comes in light of recent reports that structural issues greatly affect the ability of African Americans to get ahead in Illinois ([http://www.huffingtonpost.com/hilary-gowins/illinois-is-killing-black\\_b\\_6028844.html?utm\\_hp\\_ref=tw](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/hilary-gowins/illinois-is-killing-black_b_6028844.html?utm_hp_ref=tw)). Fewer than half of working-age black adults in Illinois are employed. Working Blacks make 25 percent less than Illinois’ median household income of \$56,250, according to the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2013 American Community Survey.

Ford has passed legislation directly addressing issues affecting Illinoisans who have been struggling:

<http://www.lashawnkford.com/download/press-release/2013/FORDpr%202013-05-02%20Calls%20for%20African%20American%20Commission.pdf>

<http://www.lashawnkford.com/download/press-release/FORDpr%202010-07-28%20African%20American%20Employment%20Bill%20Signed.pdf>

<http://www.lashawnkford.com/download/press-release/2013/FORDpr%202013-11-14%20Legislation%20to%20Help%20At-Risk%20Youth.pdf>

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[http://www.lashawnkford.com/download/press-release/2013/Labor%20Day%202013%20Letter\(2\).pdf](http://www.lashawnkford.com/download/press-release/2013/Labor%20Day%202013%20Letter(2).pdf)

<http://ilga.gov/legislation/billstatus.asp?DocNum=95&GAID=12&GA=98&DocTypeID=HR&LegID=4555&SessionID=85>

<http://ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocTypeID=HR&DocNum=1134&GAID=12&SessionID=85&LegID=82357>

<http://ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocTypeID=HR&DocNum=1069&GAID=12&SessionID=85&LegID=82194>

<http://ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocTypeID=HR&DocNum=95&GAID=12&SessionID=85&LegID=74555>

<http://ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocTypeID=HR&DocNum=48&GAID=12&SessionID=85&LegID=71777>

<http://ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocTypeID=SB&DocNum=572&GAID=12&SessionID=85&LegID=69899>

“The most vulnerable people in Illinois were pursued by both candidates for their votes, and political chatter must now become a political agenda that will lead to greater opportunities in education, jobs and economic development, leading to vibrant communities throughout Illinois,” said Ford. “Governor Rauner is not starting from a lack of knowledge and doesn’t have to start from ground zero – commissions, task forces, laws to be enforced, and many experienced legislators are in place to help address the many issues and help to change Illinois. We can join together to create opportunities and a measure of fairness for all Illinoisans.”

For more information, contact one of Ford’s constituent service offices: 816 S. Oak Park Avenue in Oak Park at [708-445-3673](tel:708-445-3673), 4800 W. Chicago Avenue in Chicago at [773-378-5902](tel:773-378-5902) or in the Stratton Office Building in Springfield at [217-782-5962](tel:217-782-5962), or visit [www.lashawnkford.com](http://www.lashawnkford.com).

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