



Media Advisory...

...From State Representative La Shawn K. Ford

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
February 13, 2015

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford
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Ford Stands with Parents and Providers **in Fight for Child Care Funding**

*Hundreds of Children Have Valentine's Day Cards for the Governor and General Assembly Members
Urging Them to Find Funding for Program*

CHICAGO – To ensure that children have safe places to learn and grow, state Rep. La Shawn K. Ford, D-Chicago, is holding a press conference on Saturday with parents and day care center providers who rely on the Illinois Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). The press conference will spotlight the critical need for funding to maintain the program's solvency.

The Illinois Department of Human Services CCAP provides low-income, working families with access to quality, affordable child care that allows them to continue working and contributes to the healthy, emotional and social development of the child. Families are required to cost-share on a sliding scale based on family size, income and number of children in care. The CCAP budget for the current fiscal year is underfunded by almost \$300 million. For the program to function at its current level, the state would need to identify revenue necessary to pass a supplemental budget to fully fund CCAP through the end of this fiscal year, which ends June 30, 2015. In the state of Illinois there are more than 3000 licensed day care centers, 8000 licensed day care homes and 700 group day care homes with a combined capacity to serve more than 255,000 children.

"Now is the time to stand up and fight for our children," said Ford. "With the Illinois Child Care Assistance Program out of money, many families and children have nowhere else to turn, and that's unacceptable. Our kids are too important to let this wait - we must get something done."

Who: State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford, day care center providers, and parents

What: Press Conference

When: Saturday, February 14, 2015, 10 a.m. – 12 noon

Where: Austin Town Hall Park, 5610 W. Lake St., Chicago, 60644

Why: To call for full funding for the Illinois Child Care Assistance Program

For more information, visit www.lashawnford.com or contact one of Ford's constituent service offices: 816 S. Oak Park Avenue in Oak Park at 708-445-3673; 4800 W. Chicago Avenue in Chicago at 773-378-5902; or in the Stratton Office Building in Springfield at 217-782-5962.

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