

# Press Release...



FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

**For Immediate Release:**

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**For More Information:**

State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford

773-378-5902

## Ford Recognizes Governor for Partially Restoring Child Care Program

**CHICAGO** – State Representative La Shawn K. Ford, D-Chicago, recognizes Governor Rauner for partially restoring assistance for child care in Illinois, saying, “Today, Governor Bruce Rauner amended his Emergency Rules which set new guidelines for Illinois' Child Care Assistance Programs (CCAP) by setting the income eligibility requirement at 162% of federal poverty level rather than the previous 185%. While this is movement in the right direction, Illinois families need the eligibility level to be at 185%, and we need to work hard toward that goal. I commend the Governor for his decision to increase the protection of children and families in Illinois - today’s action shows that the governor recognizes the value of child care for Illinois' families, but we need to do more. We have to continue improving the child care program in Illinois to ensure that every child has a safe and affordable learning environment in which to grow.”

In August, in response to many parents who expressed that they needed this vital support so they may afford child care for their children, Ford introduced House Joint Resolution 94 (<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/billstatus.asp?DocNum=94&GAID=13&GA=99&DocTypeID=HJR&LegID=92159&SessionID=88>), which urges the Department of Human Services and Governor Bruce Rauner to rescind Illinois' new Child Care Assistance Programs (CCAP) guidelines established by the Governor's Emergency Rules, effective July 1, 2015, and to restore the CCAP eligibility standards and guidelines in effect on June 30, 2015. In September, Ford initiated a petition that supports House Joint Resolution 94, and more than 2300 people to date have signed the petition.

Under previous eligibility rules for child care in Illinois put in place by Governor Bruce Rauner effective July 1, the eligibility requirement was at 50% of federal poverty level - the lowest in the nation - and an estimated 90 percent of new applicants for the state’s Child Care Assistance Programs were ineligible for services, with many more were locked out of child care. With today’s decision, the governor has set guidelines raising the income eligibility to 162% of federal poverty levels while current co-pays remain intact. Other eligibility requirements and restrictions were also lifted. Previous CCAP income eligibility standards were at 185% of federal poverty levels.

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).

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