



# Press Release

*from 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 Overrides Governor's Veto - Advances Bill for Equal Pay for African Americans

Today the Illinois House of Representatives voted to override the governor's amendatory veto of House Bill 4743 which was introduced by State Rep. LaShawn K. Ford, D-Chicago. HB4743 provides that no employer may discriminate between employees by paying wages to an African-American employee at a rate less than the rate at which the employer pays wages to another employee who is not African American for the same or substantially similar work on a job that requires equal skill, effort and responsibility and is performed under similar working conditions.

"African Americans are the only racial group in the U. S. still making less than they did in 2000," pointed out Rep. Ford.

Governor Rauner had applied an amendatory veto to the bill, recommending instead wording that would eliminate a specific reference to African Americans. He recommended prohibiting pay and wage discrimination against any employee who belongs to a protected class that is based on race, color, national origin, or ancestry and against whom such practices would constitute "unlawful discrimination" under the Illinois Human Rights Act (rather than prohibiting pay and wage discrimination against African American employees.)

"African Americans were worse off financially in 2016 than they were in 2000," Rep. Ford noted. "The median income for an African American household was \$39,490 last year according to U.S. Census Bureau data released this week. It was \$41,363 in 2000. African Americans are the only racial group the Census Bureau identifies that has been left behind. White, Asian, and Hispanic households have all seen at least modest income gains since 2000. We needed this legislation to specifically name African Americans as a group to promote equity and justice in pay. I look forward to working with the Senate to complete the veto override so this important bill becomes law."

Ford represents the Eighth District, which contains parts of Chicago's Austin neighborhood and portions of Berwyn, Brookfield, Forest Park, La Grange, La Grange Park, North Riverside and Oak Park. For more information, please contact Rep. Ford's district office at 773-378-5902 or visit [www.LaShawnFord.com](http://www.LaShawnFord.com).

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