



# Press Release

*from State Representative La Shawn K. Ford*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**December 18, 2018**

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## **Ford Joins With Actor/Comedian Michael Colyar to Fight Opioid Addiction**

State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford, D-Chicago, will be joined by Michael Colyar, creator of a one man play on opioid addiction, at a press conference on Thursday, December 20, 2018, 2 p.m. at The Loretto Hospital, 645 South Central Avenue, Chicago, to continue the fight against opioid addiction and to advocate for help for those with opioid use disorder.

“The Loretto Hospital is proud to partner with Rep. Ford to fight the opioid crisis. The West Side of Chicago needs our help! While this press conference will provide a level of awareness and education about the seriousness of the opioid epidemic, we also want the community to know that The Loretto Hospital is here to help, and that we offer sustainable treatment solutions as well as meaningful prevention programs from admission through post recovery,” Dr. Anosh Ahmed said, COO and hospitalist at The Loretto Hospital.

The press conference will discuss legislation that Ford introduced and passed, Public Act 100-1065, which permits health insurers to provide coverage for recovery housing for persons with substance use disorders. Ford was also co-sponsor of House Bill 1 which became Public Act 99-0480, known as the Heroin Crisis Act, and Ford is a co-founder of the West Side Heroin Task Force. Ford will outline key strategies in dealing with the opioid overdose epidemic.

Colyar, multi-talented actor, comedian and author, is currently performing his one man play called “Michael Colyar’s Momma” and will be launching a 100 plus city tour that has caught the attention of major television, cable and streaming networks. This play is a one man stage show that chronicles his life, his ups and downs from the rough streets of Chicago to the stages of Hollywood and his triumph over a 23 year crack addiction and achieving 8 years of sobriety, thanks to the support of his mother and God. This hilariously dramatic play highlights the importance of our mothers.

Colyar will be performing four shows in Chicago: Friday, December 21, 8 p.m.; Saturday, December 22, 8 p.m.; Sunday, December 23, 3 p.m.; and Sunday December 23, 7 p.m. at the Du Sable Museum of African American History Theater, 740 E. 56<sup>th</sup> Place, Chicago, 60637.

Rep. Ford will be appearing at Michael Colyar’s shows to give a brief message to the audience about where they can receive help for opioid addictions.

**What:** Press Conference on Providing Help to Those with Opioid Use Disorder

**Who:** State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford, Michael Colyar, Community Stakeholders

**Where:** The Loretto Hospital, 645 South Central Avenue, Chicago, 60644, 6<sup>th</sup> floor

**When:** Thursday, December 20, 2018, 2 p.m

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