

Press Release...



FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

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For More Information:
773-750-0866
RepFord@LaShawnFord.com

FORD FILES HR494 JOINING OTHER STATES CALLING ON CENSUS BUREAU TO COUNT INMATE AT LEGAL ADDRESS

CHICAGO- State Representative La Shawn K. Ford (D-CH), filed House Resolution 494 calling on the Census Bureau to count inmates at their last known address and not at the prison they reside. The Census plans to continue to count prisoners for the 2020 census where they are serving time on census day.

Ford is currently working to pass legislation (HB0203) that creates the "No Representation Without Population Act." The bill provides that the Department of Corrections shall collect and maintain an electronic record of the legal residence, outside of any correctional facility, and other demographic data for each person entering its custody after January 1, 2019.

"By passing this HR494, the Illinois House of Representatives can send a strong message that it's time for the Census Bureau to respond to changing data needs by providing state and local governments with redistricting data that accurately portrays American communities," said Ford.

"Illinois recently announced the plan to spend \$29 million to have an accurate count in Illinois. If people are counted at a prison, our count would be less than accurate," said Ford. "We need to make sure we have an accurate count for the 2020 census We must count people at their last known address and not the prison address."

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