

Press Release...



FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

For Immediate Release:

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Ford and Illinois' Child Enforcement Agency Reinstate Drivers' Licenses

CHICAGO – State Representative La Shawn K. Ford, D-Chicago, and the Department of Healthcare and Family Services with its Division of Child Support Services, are joining forces to help those who need to reinstate their suspended driver licenses for non-moving violations because they had been behind with child support payments. A community event to help people regain their licenses will be held on Saturday, August 17, 2019, from 9 a.m. to noon at The Loretto Hospital, 6th floor Auditorium, 645 S. Central Ave, Chicago, Illinois 60644. A press conference will be held at 9 a.m.

Rep. Ford was Chief House Sponsor of Senate Bill 1473 which Governor Pritzker recently signed into law as Public Act 101-0336. Under this new law, the Secretary of State may remove the suspension of an individual's driver's license made pursuant to the nonpayment of child support, whether that suspension occurred before or after the effective date of the Amendatory Act of August 9, 2019, if the individual has arranged for payment of the arrearages and current support obligation in a manner satisfactory to the court or the Department of Healthcare and Family Services. The new law also provides that interest on child support obligations may be collected by any means available under federal and state law, rules, and regulations providing for the collection of child support.

“Every year, tens of thousands of people in Illinois lose their driver's licenses - and in many cases, their ability to work - for reasons that have nothing to do with unsafe driving,” said Ford. “Increasingly, driver's license suspensions are imposed not as a punishment for moving violations but as a tool for the government to try to collect revenue from people who have fallen behind on their payment of child support, parking tickets, other fines, and fees. The impact of these heavy-handed collection tactics falls most heavily upon low-income communities and people of color. Half of the suspended drivers reported losing or missing out on a job because of their license suspension. There are many jobs requiring the privilege to drive in Illinois. Rideshare and the delivery of goods offer livable wages for those seeking their own business or simply going to a job in Illinois. Our government must reverse the current laws that ultimately punishes not only the intended individual but society as a whole. Taking away a parent's ability to seek, obtain, or keep employment is not in the best interest of children or taxpayers.”

“This new law will help many families in Illinois support their children,” said Chicago Alderman Leslie A. Hairston, 5th Ward. “I was proud to help support the passage of this bill and look forward to working with Senate Chief Sponsor Senator Mattie Hunter and House Chief Sponsor Rep. La Shawn K. Ford to get the word out to as many men and women as possible to support their children.”

WHO: Rep. La Shawn K. Ford; Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services, Division of Child Support Services; The Loretto Hospital; Dads Rights

WHAT: Help in Reinstating Suspended Drivers' Licenses due to being behind with Child Support Payments

WHEN: Saturday, August 17th, 2019 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon; Press Conference at 9 a.m.

WHERE: The Loretto Hospital: 6th Floor Auditorium, 645 S. Central Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60644

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