

Press Release...



FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

For Immediate Release:
August 31, 2019

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Ford Introduces Legislation to Extend Good Samaritan Protections During Overdoses

CHICAGO –State Representative La Shawn K. Ford, D-Chicago, will announce at a press conference on Saturday, August 31, 2019, at 2:30 p.m. his introduction of legislation that extends Good Samaritan protections when someone tries to help another person who has overdosed. Ford has introduced House Bill 3879, which provides that a person who, in good faith, seeks or obtains emergency medical assistance for someone experiencing an overdose shall not be deemed to violate his or her conditions of aftercare release (for a juvenile) or conditions of parole or mandatory supervised release.

According to the Drug Policy Alliance, an important solution to encourage overdose witnesses to seek medical help is to exempt them from arrest and criminal prosecution through the adoption of 911 Good Samaritan immunity laws. At this time, Illinois' Good Samaritan law does not expressly protect those who are on parole or mandatory supervised release. Ford's legislation aims to address this loophole.

“Our main goal is to save lives”, says Rep. Ford. “People who witness someone else having an overdose should feel that they can call 911 and help that person without fear. This legislation aims to address this issue.”

August 31st of each year is International Overdose Awareness Day, to remember those who have died or suffered a permanent injury due to drug overdose. Activities on International Overdose Awareness Day seek to create a better understanding of overdose, reduce the stigma of drug-related deaths, and create change that reduces the harms associated with drug use.

WHO: Rep. La Shawn K. Ford; West Side Heroin Task Force; Prevention Partnership, Inc.; other community-based organizations and interested parties

WHAT: Press Conference on International Overdose Awareness Day

WHEN: Saturday, August 31, 2019, 2:30 p.m.

WHERE: Austin Community Family Center, 501 N. Central, Chicago, Illinois 60644

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