



# Press Release

FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

**For Immediate Release:**

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**For More Information:**

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## **Ford Salutes Gov. Quinn for Maintaining Sickle Cell Program**

**CHICAGO, IL** – State Representative La Shawn K. Ford (D-Chicago) today saluted Governor Patrick Quinn for maintaining services at the Sickle Cell Center at the University of Illinois-Chicago, which had been slated to have zero funding in the upcoming state budget.

Ford said, "The Sickle Cell Center at the University of Illinois is an example of a vital service that provides an invaluable resource to many in our community by doing screenings, treating patients, and keeping many Illinoisans healthy and out of the hospital. During these tough budgetary times, we should support vital services and reassess less vital programs."

State Rep. Ford said, "We were happy to join the coalition concerned about keeping the Center open, to raise awareness about the important comprehensive and cost-effective work performed at the Center." This coalition includes the UIC Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center; Health Resources Consultants; the Sickle Cell Disease Association of Illinois; Have a Heart for Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation; the Lambda Children's Memorial Hospital; and Circle Family HealthCare Network.

"I look forward to continuing to work with Governor Quinn to find creative solutions to continue providing care to those most in need," Ford said.

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