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FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

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Ford Urges Residents to Support Crime Prevention and Afterschool Programs by Simply Checking a Box on their Income Tax Form

CHICAGO – State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford (D-Chicago) is calling attention to an easy way for concerned citizens to support crime prevention efforts and after-school programs by simply checking a donation box on their Illinois income tax form next year.

“When it comes to finding a worthy cause to support, researching the program, contacting the agency, filling out paperwork, and mailing a check, even those with the best of intentions get exasperated or put it off until next time,” Ford said. “By putting a checkbox on the state income tax form to support the After-School Rescue Fund and the Crime Stoppers Association Fund, it is easier than ever for concerned residents to support these efforts.”

Senate Bill 2293, recently signed into law, creates two new state funds, the After-School Rescue Fund, which was championed by Ford in House Bill 1282, and the Crime Stoppers Association Fund. The new funds will be able to receive donations from Illinois taxpayers who check a box on their state income tax form and indicate the desired donation amount of one dollar or more. If the filer is owed a refund, the amount of their donation will be deducted before remittance, and if the filer owes taxes, the donation will be added to the amount owed. No other work is required by the taxpayer, and the state Department of Revenue will make sure the funds reach their intended program.

In 2010, approximately \$1.3 million was raised across the state for a variety of causes included on tax forms. This is down from 2009, which saw \$1.4 million in donations, and 2008, when \$1.6 million was raised. State law requires each fund on the income tax checkoff form to raise at least \$100,000 each year to remain on the form for the next year.

“Because these funds need donations to remain eligible to be on the income tax form, I plan to make a donation and I urge everyone who can afford to do so, to donate,” Ford said. “I know when times are tough that it is easy to put that money elsewhere, but it’s during tough times when our neighbors need us the most.”

For more information, call Ford's constituent service office at (773) 378-5902.

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