

News...



FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

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For More Information:

State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford

(773) 378-5902

Rep. Ford Asks Governor Not to be a Penny Wise and a Pound Foolish with Proposed Budget Cuts

CHICAGO – In response to the governor’s recent call for deep cuts to social spending, state Rep. La Shawn K. Ford (D-Chicago) on Friday released the following statement urging Gov. Quinn not to push cuts that will hamper future generations:

“There is no question that we are facing a fiscal day of reckoning. A lingering recession has created the perfect storm – more people in need of help and fewer resources to provide it. But this is exactly what we were sent to the state capitol to deal with, and I think we must deal with this crisis now.

“Cuts are inevitable, but foolish cuts are not. We must use foresight to help guide us through this, because it certainly wasn’t used to get us where we are now. No longer can we count on the hope of prosperity down the road. No longer can we force future generations to pay the price for our actions today.

“We must maintain our work in the areas that pay social dividends. We know it is cheaper to give an ex-offender an education than a jail cell for life. We know that educating our kids today is an investment in tomorrow’s workforce. We know that throwing people off Medicaid puts them in the emergency room, which costs more. We know that in many cases, cutting one expense can cost us more than we might save.

“No one is talking about bold ideas to solve big problems. Cutting health care to the indigent is not a bold idea. On the other hand, releasing non-violent and reformed drug offenders from prison is a bold idea that will save us money and give these people an opportunity at a second chance, an opportunity to become a taxpayer. These are the types of win-win policies we must pursue.

“Our state constitution gives us a mission, to provide for the health, safety and welfare of the people; maintain a representative and orderly government; eliminate poverty and inequality; assure legal, social and economic justice; provide opportunity for the fullest development of the individual; insure domestic tranquility; provide for the common defense; and secure the blessings of freedom and liberty to ourselves and our posterity. These are big goals and there are many of them, but it is our job to make them happen every year, no matter how tough the circumstances.

~MORE~

“I urge everyone to exercise their constitutional right to petition their government by calling the governor at (312) 814-2121 and letting him know how you feel about asking our most vulnerable residents to bear the brunt of budget cuts. Further, I urge my constituents to contact my office at (773) 378-5902 to share your ideas with me on how we can craft a state budget using bold ideas.”

For more information, please call one of Ford's constituent service offices; call the Oak Park office at (708) 445-3673 or the Chicago office at (773) 378-5902.

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