



March 28, 2017

## The Importance of Hearing Different Views

One of the greatest opportunities I have experienced in life is serving as a public official, and for that I say thank you - thank you to those who have supported me over the past 10 years.

The opportunity to serve a district with so many strong beliefs in faith and culture allows me to listen to views and values from families from the Austin community, Oak Park, Berwyn, La Grange Park, La Grange, Forest Park, Brookfield, Western Springs and North Riverside.

I am proud to have been elected and serve to a form of representative democracy. Ours is a representative democracy where people with different views vote for an elected official to represent them and make decisions on their behalf, a responsibility that I honor and do not take lightly.

In Springfield, issues like naming roads, criminal justice reform, marriage equality, women's right to choice and many education bills are issues that have or are being considered in Springfield, and each brings its own level of enthusiasm to the discussion.

Whatever the issues are in a representative democracy, constituents have the right to express their support and beliefs. I am a strong supporter of our democracy. It is an honor to meet constituents on both sides of an issue to learn their views and beliefs and the reasons behind those views and beliefs.

Some issues require the exercise of the representative democracy, when people demand a voice and demand that their voice be heard. It is always my commitment to listen to the voices of the district, and it is only fair that people have the opportunity to express themselves on issues that they strongly believe in.

Sincerely,

La Shawn K. Ford  
State Representative-Eighth District