



August 14, 2019

Reinstate Your Driver's License!

I look forward to working with the Department of Healthcare and Family Services with its Division of Child Support Services, Dads Rights, and Attorney Jeffery Leving to help those who need to reinstate their suspended driver licenses for non-moving violations because they had been behind with child support payments. A community event to help people regain their licenses will be held on Saturday, August 17, 2019, from 9 a.m. to noon at The Loretto Hospital, 6th floor Auditorium, 645 S. Central Ave, Chicago, Illinois 60644. A press conference will be held at 9 a.m. Everyone is welcome, especially those who need their driver's license reinstated.

I was Chief House Sponsor of Senate Bill 1473 which Governor Pritzker recently signed into law as Public Act 101-0336. Under this new law, the Secretary of State may remove the suspension of an individual's driver's license made pursuant to the nonpayment of child support, whether that suspension occurred before or after the effective date of the Amendatory Act of August 9, 2019, if the individual has arranged for payment of the arrearages and current support obligation in a manner satisfactory to the court or the Department of Healthcare and Family Services. The new law also provides that interest on child support obligations may be collected by any means available under federal and state law, rules, and regulations providing for the collection of child support.

Every year, tens of thousands of people in Illinois lose their driver's licenses - and in many cases, their ability to work - for reasons that have nothing to do with unsafe driving. Increasingly, driver's license suspensions are imposed not as a punishment for moving violations but as a tool for the government to try to collect revenue from people who have fallen behind on their payment of child support, parking tickets, other fines, and fees. The impact of these heavy-handed collection tactics falls most heavily upon low-income communities and people of color. Half of the suspended drivers reported losing or missing out on a job because of their license suspension. There are many jobs requiring the privilege to drive in Illinois. Rideshare and the delivery of goods offer livable wages for those seeking their own business or simply going to a job in Illinois. Our government must reverse the current laws that ultimately punishes not only the intended individual but society as a whole. Taking away a parent's ability to seek, obtain, or keep employment is not in the best interest of children or taxpayers. Let's help people reinstate their drivers' licenses so they can support their families.

Sincerely,

La Shawn K. Ford
State Representative-Eighth District