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La Shawn K. Ford
State Representative
8th District

April 3, 2020

Call to Action

You may be surprised to know that the life expectancy in predominately black communities are up to 30 years less than their white counterparts in other communities, just a few miles away. The failure of the government's ability to supply even the minimum resources in the black communities, is deadly and unjust. The people in Chicago must have greater information and far more resources than currently available to deal safely and effectively with this pandemic.

I still see people gathered in crowds, in Chicago, because we are failing to communicate in a direct and effective manner to the black community how serious and severe the COVID-19 pandemic is, and that it WILL mean life or death for many of our community members if they do not receive this message. We must obtain a heat map from the department of public health immediately showing COVID-19 cases and the response to each case or Black people's death will be as invisible as COVID-19.

George N. Miller, President and Chief Executive Officer of The Loretto Hospital in the Austin neighborhood of Chicago says "We are already at a disadvantage fighting this war, without the resources needed from the state and federal government, we will face a serious crisis here in the Austin neighborhood. If we have to shut our doors because we don't have the resources or staff to take care of the patients, it will be the greatest failure our community has ever experienced."

The country is struggling for resource to fight COVID-19, but it's imperative that we fight to make sure the needs of all communities are met as resources become available. We must have a plan for each community in the state to prevent unnecessary deaths.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'LSK', written over a horizontal line.

La Shawn K. Ford
State Representative-Eighth District