



# Press Release

FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

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**For More Information:**

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## **Ford Named Chair of New House Committee to Help Grow Small Businesses and Jobs**

*Will hold hearings to make plans to create jobs*

**CHICAGO** – “Today I am happy to announce that Speaker Michael J. Madigan has approved the creation of one of two Illinois House of Representatives’ newest committees,” said State Representative La Shawn K. Ford. “The Speaker of the House of Representatives has appointed me to be the Chairman of the House Small Business Empowerment and Workforce Development Committee. This committee can be important as Illinois turns its focus on the creation of new small businesses and empowering current businesses. Small businesses across the state account for over 50 percent of the workforce. During a time when government is forced to make cuts, job creation by the government is not on the list of priorities. We must bring small businesses to the table if we plan to create jobs. Government has met with and bailed out Wall Street to stabilize the economy; now we must have a plan to meet with small businesses owners, hear their needs, and make plans to support them and other new businesses. We must partner with and empower small businesses if we plan to improve our workforce and bring down unemployment.”

“The first order of business for the committee will be a hearing including the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, Illinois Departments of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and Employment Security, small business owners, and all interested in the work of strengthening existing businesses, creating new businesses, and creating jobs for the people of Illinois,” said Ford.

“Job creation is a critical part of getting the state’s economy back on track, and the success of Illinois’ small businesses is a major component in achieving that goal,” House Speaker Michael J. Madigan said. “Representative Ford and I share a long-standing commitment to working with small businesses, listening to their needs and concerns and helping them address the challenges they face. We hope the creation of this committee is just another step in our ongoing efforts to revitalize our state and local economies,” said Speaker Madigan.

Ford went to Washington, D.C. to attend President Obama’s State of the Union address and to gather support for this effort, meeting with members of Illinois’ congressional delegation, including Reps. Davis and Rush and Senator Kirk. Ford has also met with Cook County commissioners and local aldermen and hopes local, city, county, state, and federal officials join to combine resources and efforts in the hearings to make plans to create jobs for Illinois.

Understanding that not all small business owners or all interested in small business empowerment and workforce development are able to attend hearings or meetings, Ford has established two email addresses, [smallbusiness@lashawnford.com](mailto:smallbusiness@lashawnford.com), and [workforce@lashawnford.com](mailto:workforce@lashawnford.com), to be able to gather input from all who are interested.

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