



Official Statement

From State Representative and Chicago Mayoral Candidate La Shawn K. Ford

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Ford Votes “No” on 15 Percent Pay Increase for Cabinet Members

“It is important that Illinois recruits the most qualified professionals committed to public services for Illinois’ taxpayers. I support the Gov.-elect’s push to make working for Illinois more attractive, however I voted no to the plan of a 15 percent salary increase for the state’s agencies secretaries and directors. We can never pay qualified agency heads their worth, but we can hire those committed to improving the wellbeing of Illinois. Highly qualified professionals like teachers, police, firefighters and others sign up to do their jobs because they want a job that helps people, knowing the pay will not be competitive.

A fifteen percent increase equates to \$22,500 per person, nearly half of what a firefighter earns annually (averaging \$49,000). Chicago’s Austin community has a median household income of nearly \$19,000, which is \$30,000-\$40,000 less than the statewide median income. And, the Oak Park average income is \$68,200. As a mayoral candidate, one of my main goals is to recruit, support, and retain high-quality, culturally competent government workers. Instead of overspending in Springfield, Illinois still doesn’t have a \$15 minimum wage for front line workers. We must do something about these continual pay inequities in our state.”

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