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Chicago Mayoral Candidate La Shawn K. Ford Praises Gov. Elect J.B. Pritzker For Advocating for Federal Funds

State Representative and Mayoral Candidate La Shawn K. Ford praised Governor-Elect J. B. Pritzker for his recent trip to the White House to advocate for the people of Illinois, saying “Illinois loses \$40 billion in federal funds every year, due to distorted federal spending formulas in the Senate that shape our federal budget. We pay far more in federal taxes than we get back from the federal government. I think Pritzker’s meeting with the President and Vice President will help Illinois get the Federal funding we have been missing all these years.”

Ford noted that hundreds of billions of dollars are transferred every year from large-population states like Illinois to low-population and rural states. Some of these states that are recipients of federal funds border Illinois, such as Iowa, Missouri and Kentucky. These funds allow states to offer tax breaks and lure businesses out of Illinois.

“That has a significant effect on the economy in Illinois,” Ford said. “I’m grateful that Governor-Elect J.B. Pritzker showed leadership in striving to bring more federal dollars to Illinois.” He agreed with Pritzker that Congress should pass an infrastructure bill for the states.

“In addition to receiving federal funds for our infrastructure, rebuilding our roads and bridges, federal funds could also help pay for education, job training, investments in small businesses and affordable housing,” Ford said. “These types of investments would mitigate poverty and reduce violence in under resourced Chicago communities.”

Ford pointed out that an effective leader has to be able to work with both political parties and with all levels of government.

“I have always said that if we are going to bring federal dollars to the State of Illinois and the City of Chicago, we have to have a relationship with Washington,” Ford said. “As State Rep, I have worked with both Republicans and Democrats to get legislation passed. As Mayor of Chicago, I will continue to work with State and Federal officials to bring money back to our city.”

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