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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

HOMESCHOOL ADVOCATES CONDEMN POLITICAL RETRIBUTION

House Human Services Committee Chair Terra Costa Howard's move to block Rep. LaShawn Ford's bills sets a dangerous precedent that undermines democracy.

As homeschool leaders here in Illinois, we condemn in the strongest terms House Human Services Committee Chair Rep. Terra Costa Howard's apparent use of her position to settle political scores rather than serve the public interest. In what appears to be retaliation for Rep. LaShawn Ford's support of homeschool families during the HB2827 debate, Rep. Costa Howard is reportedly blocking Ford's bills from being considered in committee—a move that undermines the integrity of the legislative process.

Rep. Ford took a principled stand against HB2827, a bill that would have unfairly targeted homeschool families and compromised one of the most hopeful movements in our education sector today especially in black and brown communities. Now, instead of allowing his bills to be considered on the needs of his constituents in the black community and the bill's own merits, Rep. Costa Howard is using her power to stifle discussion—a dangerous precedent that must not be tolerated.

We have not taken a position on Rep. Ford's specific legislation, but we believe every bill deserves a fair and open hearing. The people of Illinois deserve better than political payback masquerading as governance. We call on Chairwoman Costa Howard to set aside personal grievances and allow Rep. Ford's bills to be evaluated on the issues, not on personal vendettas.

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