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HOMELESSNESS is a PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTHCARE ISSUE

CHICAGO— The [Institute of Medicine of Chicago](http://iomc.org) (IOMC) is pleased to announce that Representative La Shawn K. Ford (D) - *Previous General Assembly (101st)* 8th District Illinois and Mr. Joel Segal, National Campaign Director of the Bring America Home Campaign, a national campaign to end homelessness and unemployment for the homeless, are key speakers for its March 25, 2022, Noon CT, virtual program, 'Homelessness is a Public Health and Healthcare Issue.' More details and to register, [visit this page](#).

The 'Bring America Home' national campaign is part of the "National Coalition for The Homeless" out of Washington, DC. Homelessness and its efforts to solve it require a different or expanded way of thinking. IOMC has created a panel of proven legislative leaders and problem solvers who are moving forward with a change of mindset and opportunities that bring solutions to a very complex issue.

Both leaders, along with Ms. Courtney Avery, Board member and Billings Fellow of The Institute of Medicine of Chicago, and Ms. Neli Vazquez Rowland, President and Co-Founder of The Safe Haven Foundation, Billings Fellow, and Board Member of The Institute of Medicine of Chicago, will conduct a panel discussion on the homelessness as a public health and healthcare issue to raise the issue of rethinking homelessness and discuss the support for the pending bill.

Since 2007, Representative Ford has been involved in:

- Fostering peace and justice for the West Side of Chicago and improving policies and legislation with the State of Illinois to serve its communities better. He serves on the Appropriations-Higher Education (Chairperson); Financial Institutions; Personnel & Pensions; Public Utilities; Miscellaneous Issues Subcommittee; Special Subcommittee (FIN).
- Co-founder of the West Side Heroin Task Force. In 2018 Nelson Mandela Award for Justice Honoree from Westside Health Authority, in recognition of tireless service and outstanding contributions in fostering peace and fighting for justice on the West Side of Chicago.
- HB3949 and HB5403. When HB3949 passes (pending). It will elevate homelessness to become an official part of the 'public health' critical infrastructure on par with healthcare and nursing home organizations. The speakers favor public/private funding proportionate to their services and results.
- HB5403 intended to provide a 5-year demonstration project that expanded the ability of the State of Illinois Medicaid system to cover the cost of community-based behavioral healthcare services. This step would allow for 'aftercare' for many people with mental health disorders. In addition, it would help address their co-existing social determinants of health issues.

Mr. Segal accomplishments are many such as:

- Co-authored the first bill ever introduced in the U.S. Congress to end involuntary homelessness, the Bring America Home Act, in 2004.
- Senior legislative assistant in Congress working on universal health care, homelessness, global HIV/AIDS, and ending poverty. He was the staff director of Rep. Conyers' Congressional Universal Health Care Task Force and the Out of Poverty Caucus.
- Founder and leader of America's 2000 Universal Health Care and Global HIV/AIDS civil society advocacy movements.
- He led efforts in Congress to reduce resident physician work hours. He co-authored unprecedented federal legislation which both the AMA and the ACGME adopted.
- In addition, Segal led efforts in Congress to prevent the closing of the Detroit Medical Center, the largest Trauma 1 Public Hospital in Detroit, from going bankrupt by forging a bipartisan coalition of Democrats and Republicans. As a result, \$40 million was allocated from the George W. Bush Administration to keep the hospital open.
- He also was the co-author of the Katrina Relief Act and led efforts in Congress to pass the bill by working closely with the staff of then-House Majority Leader Nancy Pelosi.

More details to [REGISTER here.](#)

The Institute of Medicine of Chicago (IOMC), since 1915, is an independent non-profit organization of distinguished leaders in the health field who collaborate to improve the health of the public. Drawing upon the expertise of a diverse membership and other regional leaders, the IOMC addresses critical health issues through a range of interdisciplinary approaches, including education, research, communication of trusted information, and community engagement. With the public's health at its core, IOMC is building new programs and services to meet better the needs of its members and the Chicago, Counties and the State of Illinois community. 501c3 non-profit organization. Visit www.iomc.org.

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