

## **TAMIKA HOWARD, CHICAGO'S SOUTH SUBURBS**

Chicago's south suburbs are no stranger to the devastating toll that gun violence takes.

This Sunday, February 2 marks the 12th anniversary of the shooting at a Lane Bryant clothing outlet in Tinley Park, Illinois, where six people were shot and five tragically lost their lives.

It has been more than a decade since this devastating incident, yet we have still not made the necessary strides we must to keep our community safe. This anniversary is a painful reminder that we must do more.

When I was a child, my family relocated to the south suburbs with the hopes of building a better, safer life. I lost my sister to gun-violence in 1992. She was shot while leaving a movie theatre in downtown Chicago. Twenty years later, my brother was shot and killed outside of our home in south suburban Hazel Crest. For my family, a life in the south suburbs was not enough to keep us safe.

I am urging our legislators to keep Chicago's south suburbs safe by supporting SB 1966, the BIO Bill. This meaningful legislation will close dangerous loopholes in the FOID card system and keep guns out of the hands of people who shouldn't have them.