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(202) 226-6898

Contact: Peter Karafotas

SCHAKOWSKY OFFERS TWO CONTRACTING AMENDMENTS TO DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

Washington, D.C.—U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), a member of the House

Congresswoman Schakowsky submitted the following statement to the House Rules Com

“Thank you Madam Chairwoman and Ranking Member Dreier for providing me the oppor

And I’d like to thank Chairman Skelton for working with me on these amendments and off

My first amendment would prohibit private security contractors from performing inherently

This is a systematic problem of private employees being tasked with extremely sensitive j

Currently there are approximately 170,000 private contractors working in Iraq and Afghan

The horrible incidents involving private contractors injuring Iraqi civilians in the news over

It is vital that we show the American people and the Iraqis that there are inherently gover

We cannot continue to allow private contractors to run roughshod over the law and jeopardize

A similar provision was included in the Senate version of the FY09 Defense Authorization

My second amendment addresses the abuses that continue to plague the defense contracting

Because the abuses of the contracting industry have continued, the bottom line is that we

The biggest source of contracting abuses is the defense industry, which makes up 70% of

Last year's Defense Authorization Act took a big step toward making that happen. My amendment

My amendment would protect employees if they disclose illegal activity within their companies

This amendment also includes burdens of proof language taken directly from the Whistleblower

Finally, my amendment would bar employers from forcing individuals to accept company-

Taken together, the changes in my amendment build on the provisions included in last year's

Again, thank you for allowing me to discuss my amendments today."