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**For Immediate Release:**

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**SCHAKOWSKY LETTER TO SEC. RICE ON PASSPORT SECURITY BREACH**

Washington, D.C.—U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) sent the following letter to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on March 21, 2008.

March 21, 2008

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW.  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Madame Secretary:

I am writing to request answers to the following questions as part of your investigation into the passport security breach.

According to the latest news reports, the State Department employees who were responsible for the breach were contract employees.

As part of the investigation, I would like to request answers to the following questions immediately:

- Why did the State Department rely on contract employees to handle sensitive information?

- Are contract employees still being used for this purpose?
- When did the State Department employees first report these incidents to their supervisors?
- What were the reasons for any delay in reporting?
- What action, if any, did the supervisors take once the violations were reported?
- Did anyone in the State Department authorize these security breaches?
- What companies employ the contractors who were involved in these security breaches?
- Was this confidential information shared with individuals outside the State Department?
- Were passport files of other elected officials or candidates accessed by these contractors?
- What personal and confidential information was accessed?

These security breaches may have put individuals and their families in danger by exposing

I look forward to working with you to ensure that contractors do not gain access to private

Sincerely,

Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress