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For Immediate Release:

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SCHAKOWSKY INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO SHED LIGHT ON PRIVATE CONTRACTORS

BILL WOULD END VEIL OF SECRECY OVER CONTRACTORS IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

WASHINGTON, DC--U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky, a member of the Select Committee on House Administration, today introduced legislation to shed light on private contractors in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“For too long, the Bush Administration has relied on guns-for-hire to carry out inherently governmental functions. The Iraq and Afghanistan Contractor Sunshine Act would require the Department of Defense (DoD), Department of State, and other agencies to report to Congress on the following information:

The Iraq and Afghanistan Contractor Sunshine Act would require the Department of Defense (DoD), Department of State, and other agencies to report to Congress on the following information:

The bill also has a reporting requirement that would require those agencies to report to Congress:

- The number of contractors and subcontractors (at any tier) that are employed in Iraq and Afghanistan;
- The total costs of those contracts;
- The total number of dead and wounded contractors;
- Any host country, international, and U.S. laws that have been broken by contractors; and
- The disciplinary actions that have been taken against contractors by the U.S. government, their employees, or the host country.

A December 2006 GAO report revealed that “Contractors’ activities in Iraq and Afghanistan have been largely hidden from the public. The report also found that contractors have been able to avoid the same oversight and accountability that applies to government employees.”

“After billions of taxpayer dollars spent, hundreds of casualties, and dozens of reports of waste, fraud, and abuse, it is time to bring the private war industry into the light of public scrutiny.”