

**JANUARY 26, 2005**

**SCHAKOWSKY VOWS TO DEFEND FIRST AMENDMENT AGAINST OVERREACHING LEGISLATION IN CONGRESS**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. - Following the reintroduction of legislation that would limit individuals' right to free speech, U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), the ranking Democrat on the Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection Subcommittee, vowed to defend against Congressional efforts to weaken the First Amendment.**

**□ Schakowsky, who was the only Commerce Committee member to vote against similar legislation last Congress, said, "We, as a country, run a great risk when legislation threatens to undermine both our Constitution and our creativity. □ The stakes are high and the threat to free speech is all too real."**

**The legislation, H.R. 310, would increase fines on broadcast licensees, networks and individuals found to have violated indecency regulations by the Federal Communications Commission. □ However, the bill fails to address the major concern of citizens across the country who believe that there is a direct correlation between media consolidation and the increasing number of objectionable materials on the air.**