

JUNE 25, 2003

SENIORS BLOW WHISTLE ON REPUBLICAN PLAN TO KILL MEDICARE

WASHINGTON, D.C. - At a rally today on Capitol Hill, U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, and Congressional Democrats joined hundreds of seniors who blew the whistle on the Republican plan to kill Medicare.

"Seniors know this is a lousy bill that will ultimately destroy Medicare and allow drug companies to continue to gouge seniors and taxpayers," said Schakowsky, who added that seniors would oppose any Republican schemes to privatize Medicare and place them at the mercy of insurance and drug companies.□□

Recalling the repeal of the catastrophic health care bill in the late 1980s and holding the picture of angry seniors who chased and surrounded the car of the then Chairman of the House Way and Means Committee Dan Rostenkowski, Schakowsky warned, "Members of Congress who vote for this skunk of a bill should do so at their own peril."□□□□

"I see seniors with their running shoes on.□ Members of Congress better get theirs on if they vote for any bill that kills Medicare," Schakowsky concluded.