

APRIL 24, 2003

SCHAKOWSKY TO PRESIDENT BUSH: *DENOUNCE SENATOR SANTORUM'S BIGOTED STATEMENT ON HOMOSEXUALS AND URGE HIM TO RELINQUISH SENATE LEADERSHIP POST*

CHICAGO, IL - U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) today called on President Bush to denounce the bigoted statement made by Senator Rick Santorum (R-PA) in regard to homosexuals and to urge him to relinquish his leadership position in the Senate.□□

Schakowsky wrote in a letter to President Bush that *"Your silence is interpreted as your condoning or even agreeing"* with Santorum's words.□□ Santorum equated intimacy between consenting adults of the same sex with incest.□ Below is the full text of Schakowsky's letter to President Bush:

April 24, 2003

Dear President Bush:

I am writing to ask you to denounce the bigoted and misinformed statement of Senator Rick Santorum in regard to homosexuals and to urge him to relinquish his leadership position in the Senate.□ As leader of this nation and all its people, you should take this opportunity to condemn gratuitous attacks on a large minority of Americans.

Senator Santorum equated intimacy between two adults of the same sex with incest, which is a criminal act against a defenseless child.□ This is beyond insulting.□ He said, *"If the Supreme Court says that you have the right to consensual sex within your home, you have the right to polygamy, you have the right to incest, you have the right to adultery, you have the right to anything."*

□□□□

Senator Santorum outright questions any right to privacy.□ He said, *"And if you make the case that if you can do whatever you want to do, as long as it's in the privacy of your own home, this 'right to privacy,' then why be surprised that people are doing things that are deviant within their own home?"*

Regardless of one's sexual orientation, I believe most Americans are disturbed by the notion that the government will decide what consensual activity can or cannot be conducted between adults in the privacy of their own homes, especially their bedrooms.□

I believe that Senator Santorum's hurtful, intolerant and discriminatory remarks cannot be left to stand without criticism from you, the President of the United States and the leader of the Republican Party. Your silence is interpreted as your condoning or even agreeing with his words. Millions of Americans, gay and straight, believe that you should ask Senator Santorum to step down from his position of leadership and to apologize for his remarks.

Sincerely,

**Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress**