

SEPTEMBER 6, 2002

{SCHAKOWSKY CALLS ON AG ASHCROFT TO DISMISS ANTI VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT (VAWA) ADVOCATES

NANCY PFOTENHAUER & MARGOT HILL APPOINTED TO THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) today expressed her strong opposition to the appointment of Nancy Pfotenhauer and Margot Hill to the National Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women, and called their selection *"my stifying as well as inappropriate and counterproductive to the goal of ending violence against women."*

□ Schakowsky called on Attorney General John Ashcroft to *"rescind their appointments."*

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□ In a letter to AG Ashcroft, Schakowsky wrote, *"The Independent Women's Forum (IWF), represented by Pfotenhauer and Hill, has gone on record numerous times in active opposition to VAWA and other initiatives aimed at combating domestic and sexual violence.□ IWF literature states that VAWA is 'based on ignorance, non-facts, and wishful thinking about the power of the federal government to curb violence between intimate partners.'□ Such a view would prevent Ms. Pfotenhauer and Ms. Hill from supporting innovative and proactive solutions to addressing and ending violence against women."*

□ She added, *"It is clear that advocates with vast experience and knowledge of the issues of domestic and sexual violence were not consulted in the appointment process, as the vast majority of these advocacy organizations oppose Ms. Pfotenhauer's and Ms. Hill's appointments."*

Schakowsky concluded, *"It is absolutely critical that we have strong and effective laws and programs to assist victims of such crimes and to work toward eliminating this violence.□ Given their history and record on such issues, Ms. Pfotenhauer and Ms. Hill are clearly inappropriate to serve on the committee responsible for advising the government on how to implement those laws and programs."*

Last session, Congress reauthorized VAWA.□ Included in the legislation were two Schakowsky measures to expand legal protections to battered immigrant women and increase funding for transitional housing for victims feeling domestic violence.