

JULY 16, 2002

**SCHAKOWSKY: "UNITED SENIORS ASSOCIATION - NO SENIOR ORGANIZATION"**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) today said, "I know a real senior group when I see one, and United Seniors Association is no senior organization." Schakowsky joined Senators and House members to expose the truth about United Seniors Organization, a group that has received at least \$4.6 million from the pharmaceutical industry and is currently running television advertisements in key Congressional districts in support of the House-passed Republican prescription drug bill that was written by the drug companies.

Below is Schakowsky's statement:

*I have spent my career working with seniors, senior groups, and grassroots organizers in Chicago, Illinois, and throughout the country. I was the Executive Director of the Illinois Council of Senior Citizens. I know a real senior group when I see one, and United Seniors Association is no senior organization.*

*Real senior groups like the Alliance for Retired Americans don't air lies on television. Real senior groups like the National Council on Aging don't support sham prescription drug bills. Real senior groups like the Center on Medicare Advocacy don't make seniors buy private insurance policies to cover drugs. They support an affordable and voluntary benefit under Medicare.*

*Real senior groups like the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare don't support plans where seniors would have to pay thousands of dollars out of their own pockets. Real senior groups like the National Council on the Aging don't want their members to travel to Canada for affordable drugs. Real senior groups like the Older Women's League believe that seniors should get the drugs their doctors prescribe, not the one an insurance company picks.*

*Real senior groups are not in the pocket of an industry that has seen its profits soar at the same time that lifesaving drugs for seniors have been priced out of reach. Millions of dollars can buy you a lot of TV airtime, but it doesn't make you real. No one should be fooled.*