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SCHAKOWSKY VOWS TO FIGHT EFFORTS TO WEAKEN COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT ACT

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) today said that she would continue to oppose all efforts to weaken the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA). During a Financial Services Committee mark up of the Financial Services Regulatory Relief Act, Schakowsky introduced an amendment that would maintain current law that gives consumers fifteen days to seek a judicial review of an approved merger between financial institutions, including the impact on CRA. That amendment failed by three votes in Committee. However, Schakowsky vowed to reintroduce it during debate on the bill by the full House.

"During bank mergers regulatory agencies consider a bank's CRA performance and fair lending practices. Banks who receive favorable CRA ratings have an easier time gaining regulator approval of mergers. A weakening of CRA will adversely effect low and moderate-income consumers," Schakowsky said.

She added, "My amendment would maintain legal rights for those that are concerned about the impact of a proposed bank merger. Under current law, consumers and other concerned parties have a fifteen-day window to seek judicial review of mergers that have been approved by federal regulators. Through these proceedings, courts are able to consider the mergers potential impact on consumers. There have been several cases when the courts have decided that federal regulators did not adequately consider the impact on consumers."

Schakowsky is supported in her efforts by the National Community Reinvestment Coalition, including 700 member organizations. Financial Institutions have committed almost \$400 billion to low and moderate income communities since enactment of the CRA in 1977.