

**MARCH 7, 2001**

**SCHAKOWSKY, DEMOCRATS AND ADVOCATES RALLY IN OPPOSITION TO PRESIDENT BUSH'S CUTS IN HOUSING BUDGET**

***"AS A RESIDENT OF PUBLIC HOUSING, PRESIDENT BUSH SHOULD BE MORE EMPATHETIC"***

**WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) today joined Democratic leaders and advocates to oppose President Bush's proposed cuts in the housing budget. This year's proposed Housing and Urban Development (HUD) budget is cut by \$2.28 billion.□□**

**□ "President Bush was in Chicago yesterday and talked about values and budget priorities.□ Looking at his proposed housing budget, it clearly does not reflect the values or priorities of the 34,000 families in Chicago waiting to get an affordable and safe place to live," said Schakowsky, a member of the House Financial Services Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity.**

**Schakowsky said the fight to give low-income families and seniors access to affordable housing has just gotten tougher with a Republican president and Congress.□ She added, "We've spent \$11 million last year to give the President a home, which equals the cost of providing 1800 families with rental assistance.□ As a resident of public housing, President Bush should be more empathetic to the millions without adequate housing."□**

**In his plan, Bush only adds an additional 34,000 Section 8 vouchers nationwide. Section 8 vouchers helps low-income families afford their rent.□ In Chicago alone, the waiting list for Section 8 vouchers is 33,667 applicants, while in New York, more than 215,000 families are on the waiting list for vouchers.**

**The Bush proposal also cuts \$309 million for the Drug Elimination program, thus completely ending that initiative.□ The program provides public authorities with funds to hire law enforcement officers, provide drug treatment programs, and establish tenant patrols.□□**

**Chicago Housing Authority CEO Terry Peterson, a supporter of the program, said, "There is no place at the CHA for drug dealers or drug users.□ Our resident-supported Lease Agreement clearly states that CHA residents must be drug-free and not engaged in criminal activities.□ In addition, our service-connector programs will assist residents with drug-treatment programs."**

**Other cuts proposed in President Bush's HUD budget, include:**

- **\$700 million cut in Capital Fund, which is used to repair & maintain buildings.**
- **\$640 million cut in Section 8 reserves.**
- **\$422 million cut in Community Development Block Grant program.**
- **\$200 million cut in HOME.**
- **\$35 million cut in Empowerment Zones funding.**
- **Elimination of the \$25 million Rural Housing and Economic Development program.**