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REPRESENTATIVE SCHAKOWSKY CALLS FOR ELIAN TO BE REUNITED WITH HIS FATHER

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) today called for the immediate reunification of Elian Gonzalez with his father. Schakowsky had recently contacted Attorney General Janet Reno to urge her to take the necessary steps to bring the father and son together as soon as possible.

Below is Schakowsky's statement.

"Like most Americans, I believe parents have the right to make decisions that affect their children. All attempts to deny this father his legal rights and all attempts to delay this reunification are misguided and must stop.

"Elian Gonzalez belongs with his father. This young boy has suffered so much after the death of his mother. It would be a tragedy if he were forced to grow up without his other parent, who is only ninety miles away.

"Using this young boy as a pawn in the larger debate about American - Cuban policy is despicable. We cannot allow the merits of our justice system to be compromised by anyone or any group. Keeping this young boy away from his father is a miscarriage of justice. Reuniting Elian with his father is our moral obligation."