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SCHAKOWSKY JOINS COLLEAGUES TO CALL FOR END OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES BASED ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) today joined other members of Congress in cosponsoring a Resolution calling for an end to international human rights abuses based on sexual orientation. The sponsor of the resolution is Representative Tom Lantos.

The Resolution expresses the concern of Congress regarding human rights violations against lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgendered individuals around the world. The Resolution condemns all violations of internationally recognized human rights; recognizes that "the protection of sexual orientation and gender identity is not a special category of human rights, but it is fully embedded in the overall human rights norms defined in international conventions;" and calls for equal punishment under the law for human rights violations based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

"We have an opportunity in Congress to squarely stand behind and support what is just. This Resolution will put the United States on record as opposing international human rights abuses based on sexual orientation and gender identity," Schakowsky said.

"We must also do what is right here at home and pass tougher laws to combat hate crimes in our communities. These crimes tear at the fabric of our society. That is why Congress must send a loud message that the safety of all people is paramount and anyone who commits a crime based on hate will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law," Schakowsky added.

Schakowsky is an active member of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus.