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Representative Schakowsky Appointed to House Government Reform Committee

WASHINGTON, D.C. House Democratic Leader Dick Gephardt has selected U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) to serve on the House Government Reform Committee. The announcement was made today during a Democratic Caucus meeting and later approved by members of the Government Reform Committee, which is chaired by Representative Dan Burton (R-IN).

Representative Schakowsky was contacted by the Democratic Leadership and Representative Henry Waxman (D-CA), ranking Democrat on the Committee, to fill a position vacated by Representative Gary Condit (D-CA). She will serve on the National Security, Veterans Affairs and International Relations subcommittee.

"I am grateful for this opportunity and, as a new member of the Government Reform Committee, I am prepared to immediately join in the critical debate on the census," said Rep. Schakowsky.

"The people of Illinois have much to gain from a fair and accurate census that would ensure that Illinois receives its fair share of federal dollars. But they also have much to lose from an inaccurate census that undercounts people of color, minorities, and the disadvantaged. We have the technology and know-how to greatly improve the census to ensure that everyone is counted and no one is left out," added Rep. Schakowsky.

Through investigative reports, the Government Reform Committee provides recommendations to committees in Congress with jurisdiction over federal agencies on ways to improve existing laws and streamline federal regulations. It is rare that the Committee engages in legislative business. However, the committee is currently debating a number of legislative measures relating to the 2000 census.

"In addition to the census, this new committee assignment affords me the opportunity to improve the way the federal government provides service and meets the needs of all people, especially in areas related to health care, postal reform, prescription drug costs and environmental cleanup," said Rep. Schakowsky.

Representative Schakowsky will vacate her seat on the Small Business Committee.