

**JUNE 15, 1999**

**SCHAKOWSKY, WOMEN MEMBERS OF CONGRESS JOIN PRESIDENT AT ROSE GARDEN TO CALL ON CONGRESS TO PASS GUN SAFETY BILLS**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) today participated in a Rose Garden news conference with President Clinton and a bipartisan group of women House members to call on Congress to pass gun safety measures.

The measures include the sale of child-safety locks with each handgun, instant background checks at gun shows, and the importation ban of ammunition magazines with a capacity of ten or more rounds of ammunitions.

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Schakowsky said, "We are facing a national emergency.□ In the past two years, I have been to three funerals and helplessly watched three heartbroken mothers suffer.□ Each day, thirteen more mothers throughout our county are faced with that same empty feeling of losing a child."

□ "We have an opportunity in Congress to help save the lives of children.□ This is a modest first step that does not prevent lawful citizens from purchasing a gun.□ These measures are designed to protect our children and close the loopholes to keep guns out of the hands of criminals," Schakowsky added.

□ According to recent surveys, a majority of Americans support sensible gun safety legislation.□ But the gun lobby is using its political clout in an attempt to water down or even derail any meaningful legislation.□□ Schakowsky said that citizens must begin contacting their members of Congress to voice their support for these measures.

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"People back home are telling us that it's the guns, stupid.□□ I hear them loud and clear and it's time to send that same message to the gun lobby and Congress," Schakowsky said.□