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SCHAKOWSKY APPLAUDS PRESIDENT OBAMA'S DECISION TO CLOSE GUANTANAMO BAY

Washington, D.C.—U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), a member of the House Intelligence Committee, today applauded President Obama's decision to close the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay and order the end of the use of torture.

“Madame Speaker, as a member of the House Select Committee on Intelligence, I rise to commend the President for his decision to close Guantanamo Bay and to ban the use of torture.”

The Executive Orders signed today by President Obama signal to the world that the United States is committed to the rule of law and the protection of civil liberties.

“As for our common defense, we reject as false the choice between our safety and our ideals. We will continue to protect our citizens and our interests without resorting to torture or other inhumane practices.”

That is why I am so pleased that one of President Obama's first decisions in office was to close Guantanamo Bay and to ban the use of torture.

I strongly believe that America possesses the capability to protect its citizens while also following the principles of the Constitution.

“Some may argue that we would be more effective if we sanctioned torture or other expedient measures. But we know that is not the path forward for our country.”

President Obama's decision to close the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay and order the end of the use of torture is a landmark moment in our history.

Thank you Madame Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.”