Washington, D.C. (Thursday, April 28, 2011) - Rep. Jan Schakowsky issued the following statement in response to President Barack Obama’s nomination of Leon Panetta, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, to the position of Secretary of Defense:

“As a member of the Select Committee of Intelligence, I commend President Obama’s nomination of Leon Panetta to serve as the next Secretary of Defense during a critical time for our country.

“Last Congress, as Chairwoman of the House Intelligence Subcommittee on Oversight & Investigations, I worked with Director Panetta on issues concerning the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and protecting our nation’s security. Director Panetta’s dedicated leadership and exemplary work at the CIA makes him well-suited to take on the challenges we face.

“I expect bipartisan support for a prompt confirmation.”

###