

DECEMBER 21, 2000

**SCHAKOWSKY SAYS CHICAGO AREA RESIDENTS FACING ENERGY CRISIS AND PAYING DOUBLE TO HEAT THEIR HOMES**

**JOINS REPRESENTATIVE MARKEY TO CALL ON PRESIDENT CLINTON TO RELEASE MORE LIHEAP MONEY TO HELP FAMILIES PAY FOR HIGH HEATING BILLS**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Representatives Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) today said that the Chicago area is facing an energy crisis and that families are now paying more than double to heat their homes. Schakowsky joined Representative Ed Markey (D-MA) to call on President Clinton to provide additional heating assistance for low income families.

In a letter to the President, they wrote, "Your recent decision to release more than \$155 million in emergency Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP) funds was a necessary and appreciated gesture. However, we believe that more needs to be done." In the latest round of LIHEAP funding, Illinois received \$9.5 million.

They added, "In order to ensure that those families who are most in need will not have to suffer unnecessary financial difficulties this winter, we urge you to release an additional \$300 million in non-emergency LIHEAP funds as well as an additional \$150 million in emergency LIHEAP funds."

Below is the letter to President Clinton.

December 20, 2000

*The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton  
President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500*

*Dear President Clinton:*

*We are writing today to thank you for your efforts to provide energy assistance to low income families in America. Your recent decision to release more than \$155 million in emergency Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP) funds was a necessary and appreciated gesture. However, we believe that more needs to be done.*

*Our constituents in the Northeast and Midwest are facing a particularly difficult situation this winter due to lower than average supplies of home heating oil and natural gas and exorbitant prices. In the Chicago area, consumers will pay more than twice the normal*

*amount to heat their homes this winter and in Massachusetts, home heating oil costs are estimated to have risen by approximately 50% over last year.*

*In order to ensure that those families who are most in need will not have to suffer unnecessary financial difficulties this winter, we urge you to release an additional \$300 million in non-emergency LIHEAP funds as well as an additional \$150 million in emergency LIHEAP funds. As you know, the FY 2001 Omnibus Appropriations bill recently passed by Congress includes sufficient funding for you to accommodate this request.*

*Again, we appreciate all you have done for America's low-income families and urge you to seriously consider our request. We look forward to your response.*

*Sincerely,*

*Jan Schakowsky Ed Markey  
Member of Congress Member of Congress*