

**NOVEMBER 9, 2000**

**SCHAKOWSKY APPLAUDS EFFORT TO PROTECT CHICAGO AREA HOMEOWNERS FROM PREDATORY LENDERS**

**CHICAGO, IL - U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) today continued her fight to protect homeowners from predatory lenders. Schakowsky joined Jack Markowski, Commissioner of Chicago Department of Housing, Gale Cincotta of the National Training and Information Center (NTIC), and others at a news conference in Chicago to applaud a \$5 million initiative by Fannie Mae to help victims of predatory lenders. She also hailed a new project designed to combat abusive lending practices in ten locations across the nation.**

**Schakowsky is a member of the House Banking Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity and is the author of the Anti Predatory Lending Act of 2000, the first bill introduced this Congress to address this issue. She said, "I commend and join in the efforts taken by private lenders, local governments, and nonprofit organizations to ensure that homeowners do not lose their homes."**

**Schakowsky added, "Today's announcement is an innovative approach to address this ever growing crisis. However, it is not enough. My goal is to drive predatory lenders out of business and the best way to do that is to hold them responsible for their crimes. That is why I will continue to work in Congress to pass legislation that will give all homeowners the protection they are entitled and to ensure that predatory lenders receive the punishment they deserve."**

**The \$5 million initiative will allow Chicago area residents to refinance predatory loans by abusive lenders in order to save their homes from foreclosures. Those earning at or below 80% of the area median income (\$54,320) for single-family homes and two-flats qualify for this initiative.**

**The Predatory Lending Intervention and Prevention Project (PLIPP) is a partnership between lenders and local housing organizations, including Chicago-based NTIC. This partnership is designed to assess the impact of predatory lending on families, explore abuses, and find innovative solutions and new housing opportunities. Community groups participating in this effort represent cities in Illinois, Iowa, Ohio, Minnesota, Indiana, New York and Kansas.**