

APRIL 18, 2000

SCHAKOWSKY APPLAUDS HUD AND CHICAGO HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR GUN BUY BACK INITIATIVE

PROGRAM WOULD RID CHA COMMUNITIES OF 1,000 GUNS

CHICAGO, IL - U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) today applauded the announcement by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that will help the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) rid its developments of 1,000 guns.

"We have an obligation to provide our public housing residents with the safest possible environment. Every gun off our street is a potential life saved. That is why HUD's gun buy back program makes sense," Schakowsky said.

For reprogramming \$100,000 of its FY'99 crime prevention funds to be used for the Gun Buyback Initiative, CHA will receive \$43,000 from HUD. The program will take place in early June 2000 and will approximately take 1,000 guns off the streets at a cost of \$100 a gun. The remainder of the funds will be used for gun disposal and community outreach. The Gun Buyback Initiative will target 14 CHA public housing developments.

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"HUD and CHA should be commended for their proactive work to rid our communities of guns. As a member of the Housing and Community Opportunity Subcommittee, I look forward to Chicago and all communities benefiting from this worthy program," Schakowsky added.

In Congress, Schakowsky is working with HUD and CHA officials and other members to ensure that such programs are fully implemented. She has been a staunch defender of HUD's Gun Buyback Initiative.