Congresswoman JAN Schakowsky

YOUR VOICE IN WASHINGTON

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Congressional Survey Enclosed

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Dear Friend,

Thanks to each one of you who has visited the office, written, phoned, faxed or emailed over the past year. You shared your views about hundreds of policy issues—the war in Iraq, the Medicare drug bill, the environment and education, and voting rights. The most frequent individual problems dealt with immigration, veterans' benefits, postal issues and Social Security.

This year has been particularly challenging in Congress. I have the overwhelming sense that our country is squandering its unique opportunity to help make this world a more habitable place in every sense in this 21st century. The United States is the richest nation in the history of the world, the undisputed superpower. We could be using that power to address the fact that the U.S. and other Western nations are, relatively speaking, islands of wealth surrounded by a sea of poverty. For a fraction of the cost of war, in terms of human lives and treasure, we could begin to address the brutalizing disparities that leave millions of people living in conditions ripe for terrorist recruitment.

The United States could take the lead in improving international institutions like the U.N. and help define a worldwide ethic that precludes the development and use of weapons of mass destruction, human rights abuses, genocide (as has been taking place in Sudan), subjugation of women, political and religious oppression. This consensus would isolate rogue states and terrorist organizations and be enforced by a broad coalition.

The United States could be a leader in health care. Medical technology has brought cures and treatments for the most debilitating diseases close at hand. We could dedicate the resources necessary to carry the research to the finish line, not stand in the way by restricting stem cell research. Tens of millions of people die each year from preventable and curable diseases. Tuberculosis kills nearly two million people every year; one million die from malaria. Every fourteen seconds another child is orphaned by AIDS, yet the U.S. is falling short in meeting its commitment to the Global Fund. Worldwide, one billion people lack adequate access to safe drinking water and 2.5 billion have no access to proper sanitation. Forty-four million Americans lack health insurance, many of them full-time workers. The Medicare prescription drug cards launched this year have quite predictably provided inadequate relief from the high cost of medication. We could and should offer a true drug benefit under Medicare. It's part of the unfinished business, along with the "No Child Left Behind" education program that is leaving tens of millions of children behind in overcrowded classrooms. Veterans have seen their health benefits cut. Military spouses and many public employees don't receive their full pension and Social Security benefits.

The beautiful thing about our democracy is that every citizen can participate in choosing his or her leaders.

You can register to vote by going to: **www.house.gov/schakowsky**, the Department of Motor Vehicles, any branch of the Chicago Public Library, the County Clerk's offices, or public health and public aid offices.

I am very grateful for the great privilege of being one of 535 Americans to serve in the most important legislative body in the world. Be sure to call any of our offices if you need help or want information, and don't forget to send back the questionnaire.

Sincerely,

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Congressional Survey

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	Respondent One	Respondent Two
 Should the President: a. Immediately withdraw troops from Iraq. 	YES NO	YES NO
b. Set a date certain for U.S. troop withdrawal.	YES NO	YES NO
c. Secure Iraq before removing U.S. forces.		
d. Keep U.S. troops in Iraq only as part of an international force led by an organization like the U.N.	YES NO YES NO	YES NO YES NO
2. Do you believe the war in Iraq has made the United States safer?	YES NO	YES NO
3. Do you personally know someone who has been laid off and cannot find a job?	YES NO	YES NO
4. Do you support legislation that is pending in Congress to allow Houses of Worship to engage in political activities without losing their tax-exempt status?	YES NO	YES NO
5. Do you support a proposal to give undocumented immigrants who have worked and lived in the U.S. for more than 5 years an opportunity to obtain legal status?	YES NO	YES NO
6. According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, increasing vehicle fuel efficiency standards to 40 miles per gallon would reduce gasoline use by one-third in 2020. Do you believe that all new cars and trucks should meet that standard even if it increases the cost of some vehicles by up to 10%?	YES NO	YES NO
7. Do you think U.S. consumers should be allowed to purchase prescription drugs from Canada?	YES NO	YES NO
8. Do you think emergency contraception (the morning-after pill) should be available over-the-counter to women in order to prevent unintended pregnancies?	YES NO	YES NO
9. Currently, there are limits on the use of embryonic stem cells for medical research. Should those limits be lifted?	YES NO	YES NO
10. Do you support a Constitutional Amendment to ban flag burning?	YES NO	YES NO
VOUR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS		

Mail back survey or go to: www.house.gov/schakowsky

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