



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 6, 2017

Contact: Patrick Watson, 630-947-4865, coalitionforabetterIL6@gmail.com

Schakowsky speaks to SRO crowd of Roskam constituents in Palatine

A standing room only crowd of more than 700 people turned out for an Adopt-a-District town hall meeting held June 3 in response to 6th District Rep. Peter Roskam's continued refusal to meet with his constituents. Roskam has held just one town hall during 10 years in office and has called the constituent meetings "a circus."

Saturday's Adopt-a-District event featured Rep. Jan Schakowsky, an Evanston Democrat who fielded questions and listened to concerns from 6th District residents and others at Fremd High School in Palatine. The event was sponsored by the Coalition for a Better Illinois 6th (CBIL6), which represents some 20,000 people through its 25 member organizations.

In contrast to the "circus" atmosphere Roskam charged is the essence of town hall meetings, the constituents who filled the auditorium and spilled into hallways were respectful. They sought answers they have not been able to get from Roskam, who is better known for ducking out back doors to avoid face-to-face contact with voters. Roskam didn't respond to CBIL6's invitation to appear at the town hall, where an empty chair awaited him onstage.

Schakowsky made it clear from the start of the discussion that those with differing opinions were welcome to speak, saying "the microphone works for them, too." None of the 13 questions posed by audience members—ranging from concerns about the Republican health care plan and attacks on the free press to potential cuts to educational programs, libraries and entitlements—were screened in advance.

Constituents of the 6th District need to focus on upcoming races—local as well as national—and continue to hold Roskam to account, Schakowsky said. "Your congressman, for now, is Peter Roskam. When I listened to him speak, he still has not really gotten the message. That's going to be up to you to do."

Schakowsky encouraged the audience to listen to an interview Roskam gave Crain's Chicago Business last week. In it, Roskam proudly stated he voted 60 times to repeal the Affordable Care Act and cited his election as proof his district supports the repeal, she said. "If it does not, and the will has changed, then in 2018 you have an opportunity to change your representative."

Schakowsky commended the work of grassroots groups, which have grown dramatically since the 2016 election, when Donald Trump "awakened a sleeping giant that knows its power."

“I have never seen mobilization like this before—ever,” she said. “It’s more powerful and larger than when the Tea Party was at its height. This is bigger in total numbers—much bigger—and more widespread. This is bigger in numbers than the civil rights movement, than the protests against the war in Viet Nam. This is the biggest thing I’ve ever seen,. You call a town hall meeting and it’s standing room only. We just have to keep it up.”

Schakowsky ended the evening with “something positive I’ve learned in my life, and you will learn if you haven’t already in yours: When we fight, we win.”

The complete video of the Adopt-a-Town Hall with Rep. Jan Schakowsky can be seen at <https://www.facebook.com/schakowskyforcongress/videos/10158786746940710/>

A timeline which details the time on the video when questions were asked follows on Page 3.

The Coalition for a Better Illinois 6th is a network of more than 25 grassroots groups representing more than 20,000 members in the 6th Congressional District of Illinois who believe people in the United States of America deserve equal and fair treatment regardless of their race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or socioeconomic status, and that a successful democracy requires an informed and engaged public. More information about the Coalition can be found at <http://betterillinois6th.com>.

Rep. Jan Schakowsky was elected to represent the Illinois 9th Congressional District in 1998 after serving for eight years in the Illinois General Assembly. She is in her tenth term, serving in the House Democratic Leadership as Chief Deputy Whip and member of the House Democratic Steering and Policy Committee. She is a member of the House Budget Committee and the House Energy and Commerce Committee, where she serves as ranking member of the Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection Subcommittee. Schakowsky also is a member of the Health and Oversight & Investigations Subcommittees.

###

Timeline* to accompany the video of the Adopt-a-District Town Hall with Jan Schakowsky
<https://www.facebook.com/schakowskyforcongress/videos/10158786746940710/>

Rep. Schakowsky Introduction
Begins at 32:00

Question 1: How to ensure a continued free press?
Begins at 39:40

Question 2: What can we do to ensure the AHCA isn't passed by the Senate?
Begins at 42.56

Question 3: Question from an Evanston school employee concerned about loss of Title 1 funding.
Begins at 49.30

Question 4: Question from woman fearful of threatening speech and behavior about what Congressmen and women should do to keep people in their districts safe.
Begins at 53:09

Question 5: Concern about possible privatization of Medicare
Begins at 1:01:5

Question 6: Question from scientist concerned about "war on science."
Begins at 1:05:20

Question 7: Question from special ed teacher concerned about DeVos position on funding
Begins at 1:10:15

Question 8: Question about possibility of presidential pardon for Kushner, Flynn et al
Begins at 1:13.20

Question 9: Question about what the Democrats learned from the 2016 election
Begins at 1:16:02

Question 10: Question about whether Roskam understands the 6th District didn't vote for Trump
Begins at 1:20:5

Question 11: Question about whether the ACA can unravel if the AHCA doesn't pass
Begins at 1:22:47

Question 12: Question from a retired library director about president's proposed budget cuts
Begins at 1:27:02

Question 13: Question about voter registration, gerrymandering, and how voters can affect change
Begins at 1:30: 35

*Times are approximate



Photo by Robin Tryloff. 1 Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL9) speaks at Coalition for a Better Illinois 6th town hall meeting in Palatine on June 3.



Photo by Robin Tryloff. 2 A crowd of more than 700 people overflowed the Fremd High School Auditorium for the Coalition for a Better Illinois 6th Town Hall meeting with Rep. Jan Schakowsky.



Photo by Robin Tryloff. 3 Empty chair for Rep. Peter Roskam next to podium at Adopt-a-District Town Hall meeting in Palatine on June 3.



Photo by Robin Tryloff 1 Seema Taylor, of Barrington, ILL, asks question to Rep. Jan Schakowsky at town hall meeting on June 3.



Photo by Robin Tryloff. 4 Part of audience of more than 700 people at Town Hall meeting in Palatine on June 3.



Photo by Robin Tryloff. 5 Parth Patel, of Bartlett, ILL addresses a question to Rep. Jan Schakowsky on freedom of speech.