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September 19, 2007

Dear Ms. Beverly and Ms. Fischer:

It was a pleasure to meet with you and your colleagues and to learn more about your efforts to develop a national museum of public housing at the historically significant Jane Addams Home located at 1322-24 West Taylor Street on Chicago's near west side.

I am delighted to support this important undertaking.

To date, no cultural institution in the country is devoted to telling the important and complex story of public housing. This far-reaching policy, grown out of the Great Depression, has had a profound impact on hundreds of thousands of Americans throughout the 20th century.

Few cities have had a more dramatic connection to public housing than Chicago. Chicago has been home to some of the first urban public housing efforts in the nation, including some of the largest and most significant developments in terms of the experience of immigrants, migrants and thousands of families who have at one time been in need of subsidized housing.

This new institution will be a welcome addition not just to Chicago but also to the nation. I look forward to working with you in the months and years to come and joining you at the groundbreaking.

Again, I would like to express my support of a national museum of public housing at James Addams House. If you require additional information, please contact my Chicago Director, Clarisol Duque, at (312) 353-4952.

Very truly yours,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator