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Larson Remembers the Victims of September 11th 2001

Washington, D.C. ♦ To mark the six year anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks Congressman John Larson CT-01, Vice Chair of the Democratic Caucus, released the following statement:

□ On this sixth anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11th, I extend my greatest sympathies to the families and friends of the victims. In particular, I want to recognize those in my district whose lives were forever changed on that day. Know that the country is still with you and that your loved ones are among our greatest heroes. Many showed a bravery and strength that saved lives and indelibly marked each of them on our national consciousness.

We all remember that day as a definitive moment in American history. Our world changed, our country changed and all of our lives changed when terrorists flew planes into some of our country's most beloved landmarks. When the dust settled and we saw the light of the next day, people in Washington and across the nation came together. Without regard to race, religion or political party, we prayed for our neighbors, friends and fellow citizens. Those days reminded us that despite our differences, we are all Americans and we are stronger when we act together.

Last year, on the fifth anniversary of the attacks, I stated my disappointment in a Republican Congress that had enacted fewer than half of the recommendations agreed upon by the bipartisan 9-11 Commission. Today, I am proud to announce that our Democratic-controlled Congress has passed legislation that strengthens and secures our country by enacting all 41 critical recommendations. That legislation was signed into law by President Bush on August 3rd.

But there is still a lot of work to be done. While the Bush Administration has been focused elsewhere, Osama bin Laden remains on the loose – free to release videos conveying his message of hate. Al Qaeda’s leadership has been allowed to reconstitute itself in Pakistan, making our country more vulnerable to another attack. The testimony of General David Petraeus yesterday was just another example of how this Administration has taken its eye off of the key issue of our time. I implore the White House to put its focus back where it belongs - capturing Osama bin Laden and dismantling Al Qaeda’s terrorist network.

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