**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** January 8, 2011

**LARSON STATEMENT ON SHOOTING IN ARIZONA INVOLVING CONGRESSWOMAN GIFFORDS**

*Washington, DC* – Congressman John B. Larson *(CT-01)*, Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, released the following statement after news that Arizona Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, members of her staff and others were shot at an event in Tucson, AZ earlier today:

***"Today is a sad day for Arizona and our nation.***

***"Congresswoman Giffords is respected by all of our colleagues for her conviction to public service. With a benevolent soul and a gentle heart, she serves her home state with great pride and passion.***

***"This tragedy is one that touches all of us, and one that will leave an indelible mark on our nation for generations.***

***"My thoughts and prayers are with her husband, Captain Mark Kelly and their family, her staff, and her constituents in Arizona."***

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