



# **JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE/JACL**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **JACL STATEMENT ON CONGRESSWOMAN GIFFORDS SHOOTING IN ARIZONA**

**WASHINGTON, D.C., January 8, 2011** -- The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) and its members stand with those who mourn the tragic shooting today that targeted Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords of Arizona and fatally injured several people who were exercising their duty as citizens to become more informed about the legislative issues of the day. This senseless act of mindless violence goes contrary to all the values of freedom and civility that this great country espouses.

We urge all to re-examine the tactics of communicating disagreement and to use sensible debate and informed discussion without name labeling and blame gaming. It is time to condemn those who, for ratings purposes or political advantage, fan the flames of hate and fear. Hate has no place in the lives of those who follow any religious or moral code of behavior. Hate is the engine that inspires acts that destroy lives and cause misery.

Today we express our sympathies for today's victims and their families. May we meditate on the meaning of being a responsible citizen and a good neighbor.