Kingston, N.Y. -- Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today released a statement regarding the shooting incident in Arizona that critically wounded several people, including Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords (D-AZ), and killed several others.

“This is an incredibly sad day for our country. My thoughts and prayers go out to Congresswoman Giffords, her family, her staff, and all of the other victims of today’s shooting. While we know some lives have already been tragically lost, we are all praying for the other victims to make a full and speedy recovery.

“Acts of violence against any American are unacceptable and today’s events are even more tragic given the number of victims and that the incident occurred while a Member of Congress was listening to the concerns and needs of the people she represents. I am deeply saddened to see such a beautiful act of democracy destroyed by such a horrific act of violence.”