

Rep. Filner Talks About Congressman Gifford, Shooting

The following is a statement from Congressman Bob Filner on the tragic shooting Saturday in Arizona:

"Gabby Giffords is a good legislator and a good friend. We work closely together as U.S./Mexico border Congressmembers. We pray for her full recovery.

"I cannot help but believe that the violent context of the recent election is responsible for this tragedy. Many of us were physically threatened by those who believed they were "right" and we were "wrong" – we were "enemies," rather than sincere people with different opinions.

"Their incendiary talk – given legitimacy by equally incendiary talk shows – make violence an acceptable political tactic. Violence as acceptable – bolstered by easy access to guns – made this tragedy almost inevitable.

"Let us all resolve to recommit ourselves to what is truly exceptional about America – that we conduct our politics with debate and respect, not violence."