

(Washington, DC) Tonight, Congressman Alcee L. Hastings (D-FL) made the following statement on the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut:

"The massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary, which is located on a hill in Newtown Connecticut, makes the so-called 'Fiscal Cliff' look like a molehill. Those of us in Congress are at odds about money, while all around us unnecessary guns are proliferating in communities across our nation, and helping our society to crumble. We can't do everything to stop gun violence. But, we can and we must do something, and we must do it now!

"Here are a few things that we can do:

- Ensure that owning a gun be protected as stated in the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.
- Assault weapons should only be in the hands of or sold to no one other than military and police officials.
- We must enhance the 'Cops in School Program,' and provide security officers to every Public School in America.
- We should make conflict resolution part of school curricula.
- Require background checks where any weapon is sold.
- Require everyone to be taught relevant gun safety when purchasing a weapon.

- Increase funding for mental health and social services."

Congressman Alcee L. Hastings serves as Senior Member of the House Rules Committee, Ranking Democratic Member of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, and Democratic Chairman of the Florida Delegation.

###