Washington, D.C. (December 14, 2012) – Rep. Jan Schakowsky released the following statement today in response to the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut:

"It is a sad day for America when the most innocent among us become victims of a sickening, senseless act of extreme violence in Newtown, Connecticut. My deep condolences are extended not only to those who lost a child or a loved one today, but for the children who lived through such a terrifying experience.

As a country we have witnessed repeated mass shootings and increasing proliferation of weapons in our communities. We can no longer afford to act as if the availability of guns is not an issue in our country. We're losing more lives in the battlefields of our communities than in war zones. The truth is ending easy access to deadly weapons must be part of the conversation in the wake of the tragedies in Connecticut and Oregon. I hope we will find the courage to take up this charge.

My heart goes out to the parents and the teachers of Sandy Hook Elementary. My prayers also remain with local law enforcement, first responders, and medical professionals who are working nonstop to save lives."

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