



For Immediate Release

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James Piotrowski statement on Orlando tragedy

BOISE, Idaho — The following statement was issued by 1st District Congressional candidate James Piotrowski in reponse to the tragedy in Orlando:

“America once again faces a tragedy of mass violence and murder. Politicians and pundits will be quick to blame or to deflect blame based on their electoral positions and party alignments. Few of them will address the reality that we have created a society in which a disturbingly large number of people have reached a point of such helplessness and hopelessness that they will attack and murder innocents, even knowing that doing so will likely cost them their own lives.

“If there was a law we could pass that would actually prevent such massacres, of course I would support it. Everyone would. But there is no one law that can restore hope to the hopeless, make the desperate find reason, or teach the hateful to love. We have a sickness in our nation, a sickness that lets far too many of our brothers and sisters believe that violence is a solution, that notoriety is recognition, that hatred is identity. This illness is one we will only cure when each of us commits ourselves to fighting racial, sexual, religious and ethnic hatred in ourselves, in our communities, and in our entire culture.

“I renew my commitment today to loving my neighbor, to respecting difference, to celebrating our shared humanity rather than despising our differences of opinion, and to upholding the rule of law and the fundamental equality of all people.”

— END —

Note to editors — Piotrowski plans to attend tonight’s 8 p.m. vigil at the Capitol, which is being organized by activists from Add The Words. He could be available for interviews then, or before then by telephone.