



JOAN McCARTHY LASONDE FOR CONGRESS

460 Winnetka Ave. — Suite 1
Winnetka, IL 60093
(847) 430-4590
www.joanforcongress.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: T.J. Brown (847) 278-0174

LASONDE: ORLANDO'S SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE TO ILLINOIS' NINTH DISTRICT IS LGBTQs AND JEWS

WINNETKA, Illinois — The following is a statement by Congressional Candidate Joan Lasonde (IL-9) on Sunday's attack on an Orlando nightclub:

“The Orlando shootings shocked all Americans’ sense of security, but we who reside in Illinois’ Ninth Congressional District should be particularly stunned – and aghast.

“We are home to large populations of the LGBTQ and Jewish community. Omar Mateen, the shooter in Orlando, chose gays as his target and stated his allegiance to ISIS, which likewise prioritizes gay people, as well as Jews, for mass murder.

“Omar Mateen was an American-born U.S. citizen, but his parents were Afghan immigrants and we’ve now learned of his father’s allegiance to the Taliban. The Taliban routinely tortured homosexuals to death. We may never know whether stricter border screening would have kept him out, but we know for certain it would have made Orlando less likely, as it will for more Orlandos – or worse.

“All Americans must be made safe from Islamic terror, but it is our special duty to defend our neighbors, our friends and ourselves. That defense must not be limited to developing a coherent strategy against organized groups like ISIS, which we now lack: Our borders must be enforced.

“Here are my positions, which this horrid episode has made more important than ever:

- I want comprehensive immigration reform that includes rigid border enforcement and stricter immigration standards for those who we fear may be radicalized.
- I oppose expansion of the Syrian immigration goal.
- I oppose “sanctuary city” status, as Chicago has, that undermines those goals.

“No, that does not mean banning all Muslims from entering, which is neither practical, constitutional nor right. It means common sense precaution against slaughter.”

###