WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman John W. Olver (First District) released the following statement today regarding the situation in Gaza:

"With grave concern I have been following the latest developments in the Gaza Strip. The people of Israel have a right to be safe in their homes and daily lives. I strongly support Israel's right to defend itself as well as the right of Palestinians to realize a viable and sustainable state.

I call upon the United States, the United Nations Security Council, and the broader international community to secure an immediate and lengthy cease-fire and encourage both sides to begin serious negotiations to avoid repetition of this latest round of violence.

Right now, immediate humanitarian assistance—especially food and medical supplies—is needed for Palestinian civilians in Gaza. In the future, the United States must lead the effort towards achieving a permanent and sustainable peace agreement; only then will Israelis and Palestinians be able to live in peace and security."

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