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U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Community Planning and Development

Andrew Cuomo, Secretary

Cardell Cooper, Assistant Secretary

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HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo Presented with Champion of Justice Award for Efforts to Reduce Gun Violence

The Alliance for Justice presented Secretary Cuomo with its annual Champion of Justice Award for his comprehensive efforts to reduce gun violence in America's communities. The Alliance for Justice is a national association of public interest organizations that works to protect the advocacy rights of non-profit organizations, preserves access to the courts for ordinary Americans, and monitors judicial appointments. Since 1979, the Alliance has developed programs that advance the public interest field and support the cause of justice for disenfranchised individuals.

"This award reminds us that while gun violence and other crimes have fallen across our country over the past seven years, far too many men, women and children continue to be killed and wounded by gunfire," Cuomo said. "Today, as we mark the anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing and prepare to mark the anniversary of the terrible massacre at Columbine High School, we should rededicate ourselves to stopping such senseless killings."

Each year the Alliance gives its Champion of Justice Award to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to advancing the public interest and social justice through policy contributions and personal leadership.

The Championship of Justice Award followed the Secretary's launch Tuesday of *Buyback America* - an unprecedented national campaign to buy back unwanted guns and raise awareness about gun safety. Eighty-four communities have pledged to utilize HUD funds to purchase tens of thousands of unwanted firearms, reducing deaths and injuries caused by gun crimes, accidents and suicides. More communities are expected to join in the next round of grants.