WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Robert C. "Bobby" Scott issued the following statement on the passing of New Jersey Congressman Donald Payne:

"It was with great sadness that I learned of the passing of my friend and colleague Congressman Donald Payne. Don was one of Congress' strongest voices for America's students and always fought to make our public schools more successful and to make college more affordable. As an expert on foreign policy, he visited the far reaches of Africa on numerous occasions and helped educate our colleagues on the serious issues facing that continent, such as addressing the Tuberculosis, Malaria and HIV/AIDS epidemic, advancing democracy and human rights, and stopping the genocide in the Sudan. The citizens of New Jersey and the American people have lost a dedicated public servant. My thoughts and prayers go out to Congressman Payne's family and his staff."

# # #