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To Whom It May Concern:

I regret that I could not be in attendance today, and hope you will accept this letter as a sign of my strong support for the Crime Victims Program and today's event to raise awareness of the importance of victim services.

Throughout my adult life, I have been a strong and consistent supporter of women's rights and organizations in Upstate New York that aid women, especially those most vulnerable in our community. I wholeheartedly support the Violence Against Women Act and all it has done to help prevent and reduce domestic violence, protect victims of abuse and keep our communities safe.

I recently voted against the House version of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2012, which would reauthorize funding for VAWA grant programs for five years while making several policy changes to the Act. In April, the Senate passed their version of a VAWA Reauthorization Act with broad bipartisan support. There are significant differences between the House and Senate bills when it comes to protections extended to some of the most vulnerable domestic abuse victims in our society. In hearing from service providers, women's groups, and victim advocates in Upstate New York like yourself, it was clear that those on the front lines prefer provisions of the bill advanced in the Senate.

I am hopeful that during the upcoming House-Senate conference committee a bipartisan agreement can be reached to reauthorize VAWA in a manner that gives our law enforcement and service providers – and most importantly victims – all the tools and resources they need to ensure justice and recover from abuse.

As your federal representative, I will continue to promote policies that seek to prevent and reduce crimes of violence. Please know that you have my full support in your advocacy for such an important cause.

Warm Regards,



RICHARD HANNA
U.S. Representative

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