

**DEMOCRATIC RURAL CONFERENCE
101 BRANDYWINE DRIVE
ITHACA, NEW YORK 14850**

Senator John Sampson
506 Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12247

October 23, 2009

Dear Senator Sampson,

I am writing on behalf of the Board of the Democratic Rural Conference (DRC) to urge you to work towards removal or resignation of Senator Hiram Monserrate.

The DRC has a strong stake in this issue. First, we have been in an ongoing process of strengthening the bonds between the New York State Senate and our rural counties as witnessed by our contributing both workers and funds to efforts to elect Democrats in the rural areas and by the financial assistance we have secured from the Senate campaign. We want to feel proud of the results of our efforts. Instead we are ashamed and embarrassed to be associated with a Senator convicted of domestic violence.

Secondly, as Democrats we need to publicly demonstrate our lack of tolerance for such behavior in any arena, but most especially in the arena of elected officialdom. How can we fight domestic violence in our communities while tolerating it in our elected officials? We look hypocritical at best and, as a result, weaken our efforts at the same time.

Thirdly, as moral human beings, we must speak up boldly whenever possible for injustice and crime against vulnerable fellow beings.

We hope we can rely on you to make us proud by a clear result of removal/resignation from the work of your special committee.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Irene W. Stein, Chair
on behalf of
The Board of the Democratic Rural Conference

Copies

Sen. Eric Schneiderman
Sen. Malcolm Smith
NYSDC: Chair Jay Jacobs, Exec Comm. Chair, June O'Neill