



Media Release

Monroe County Democratic Caucus

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For Immediate Release

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Democrats Continue Push to Prohibit SS Numbers on Web Site

Rochester, New York –September 22, 2008. Democratic legislation to protect Monroe County residents from identity theft by forbidding an individual's social security number from appearing on the county web site is set to be voted on tomorrow night during the Ways & Means Committee meeting. The legislation is opposed by corporate special interests that would prefer less regulation, but Democrats contend that protecting an individual's financial security and identity trumps any corporations' inconvenience.

"The County Clerk has clearly stated her position that special interests are more important than protecting our families from financial ruin," said Democratic Leader Harry Bronson (D-Rochester, Brighton & Henrietta). "Our constituents deserve better than to have their financial security jeopardized by their own government. The legislature needs to do its job and enact a clear policy that prohibits endangering families' financial well-being through the posting of Social Security numbers on the internet. Who could possibly disagree with setting this policy?"

Last month it was revealed that thousands of social security numbers were compromised on the County Clerk's web site. This issue had arisen over a year ago when Democratic Legislator Travis Heider (D-Brighton) wrote to Clerk Dinolfo on behalf of a constituent who discovered their social security number on the public records available through the Clerk's web site. Despite these repeated warnings, social security numbers remain visible on the internet, endangering an untold number of citizens.

"This controversy is the perfect example as to why we must enact this critical legislation to protect our community from identity theft. It is unacceptable that Monroe County would allow a citizen's private information to be compromised, but this is especially unacceptable on a taxpayer funded web site. Our legislation is not meant to shut down the clerk's web site, but to protect local resident's social security numbers from being compromised," Bronson added.

Members of the Legislature's Ways & Means Committee will be asked to consider the legislation at their meeting on Tuesday, September 22, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.

Please find the proposed legislation attached.

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