



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

John J. Bonacic

## Statement by Senator John Bonacic Regarding the Vote to Expel Hiram Monserrate from the State Senate

JOHN J. BONACIC February 9, 2010

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“We are responsible for each action we take. Former Senator Monserrate served as a Marine, police officer, and was one of the Senators who led the effort to help reform the Senate’s rules last year. We honor our veterans. We support our police officers. We want reformers to succeed. The good actions he performed in those roles however, still do not authorize criminal conduct. Here, Mr. Monserrate was convicted of a crime associated with an assault on his girlfriend. There must be zero tolerance for domestic violence. Former Senator Monserrate’s conviction, along with his complete failure to recognize wrongdoing, disqualifies him from holding the office he was elected to. Removing someone from an office they were elected to by the voters is a harsh consequence. In this case, it is appropriate.”