



For Immediate Release:
October 4, 2012

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RI Dems slam Doherty for standing with GOP leaders in opposition to expanding VAWA

Providence, RI – In response to Republican congressional candidate Brendan Doherty’s press conference today – which could be better described as a press diversion than a press conference – the Rhode Island Democratic Party criticized Doherty’s support of GOP House leaders’ opposition to expanding the Violence Against Women Act.

“There was nothing moderate about Doherty’s stance on this important issue,” said Bill Fischer, spokesperson for the Rhode Island Democratic Party. “Mr. Doherty has chosen to stand with GOP leaders who are blocking the reauthorization and expansion of the Violence Against Women Act - purely for political purposes. Mr. Doherty has not offered one legitimate explanation why he’s opposed to expanding protections to Native American women, members of the LGBT community and immigrants. Instead of offering an explanation, he has characterized these individuals as ‘people in other walks of life.’ At this juncture, I think it would be appropriate for Mr. Doherty to explain exactly what ‘people in other walks of life’ actually means. It’s really quite simple: the Democratic Party believes all individuals should be treated equally. Apparently, Mr. Doherty does not share our opinion on this matter.

“Mr. Doherty went on a desperate personal attack today because he doesn’t want to admit he stands with House Speaker John Boehner, even when it comes to bipartisan legislation supporting domestic violence victims. It’s a sad reflection on the direction and the credibility of the Doherty campaign.

“Mr. Doherty had an opportunity to live up to his own mantra of ‘I’m my own man,’” said Fischer. “He could have proved his claims of bipartisanship by supporting a bipartisan Senate bill. The Doherty campaign hit a new nasty low today – one that women and women’s rights supporters should not forget.

“The poor judgment exercised by the Doherty campaign today in deciding to hold a press conference on domestic violence issues in a boxing gym speaks for itself,” added Fischer.