



For Immediate Release:  
October 5, 2012

Press Release  
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## **RI Dems LGBTQ Caucus says Brendan Doherty's views on reauthorizing VAWA are ignorant and prejudiced**

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**Providence, RI** – Rhode Island Democratic Party LGBTQ Caucus Chair Anthony DeRose and Vice-Chair Kate Monteiro today reacted to Republican congressional candidate Brendan Doherty's belief, according to his campaign, that federal money should not be directed to investigate and prosecute violence against male transgender individuals as part of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA):

"As Colonel of the Rhode Island State Police, Brendan Doherty swore to uphold the *highest degree of fairness, professionalism and integrity, and protect the inherent rights of the people to live in freedom and safety,*" said DeRose. "Now that Mr. Doherty is a congressional candidate, he no longer deems it necessary to uphold these principles to protect and serve all Rhode Islanders. Rhode Islanders deserve a congressman who is going to go to Washington to fight for the liberties of all and not one that will pick and choose whom to defend based on their ignorant and prejudiced ideology."

"It is outrageous that a man with such accomplishments in law enforcement as Brendan Doherty should exhibit such bald-faced ignorance and prejudice," said Monteiro. "Transgendered men and women are often subjected to violence simply for being who they are. To deny equal protection because Doherty thinks they are too different is to subject them to the same indignities that his ancestors faced when Irish were told they need not apply."