

SUSAN V. JOHN

131st Assembly District (Part of Monroe County)

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Susan V. John has represented the 131st Assembly District, incorporating parts of the City of Rochester and towns and villages of Chili, Churchville, Mumford, Riga, Rush, Scottsville and Wheatland.

Susan holds a law degree from Syracuse University Law School. Prior to her tenure in the Assembly, Susan worked as an Associate for the Rochester-based law firm of Phillips, Lytle, Hitchcock, Huber and Blaine where she practiced business and commercial law.

Susan currently chairs the Labor Committee and serves on the Judiciary, Education, Energy and Libraries and Technology Committees. She chairs the Subcommittee on Public School Violence and serves on three special task forces of the Assembly: workers' compensation reform, women's issues and criminal justice reform. She is a member of the Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence Advisory Council and the Visiting Committee for the State Archives.

Susan chaired the Majority Steering Committee (2001-2002), the Governmental Operations Committee (1999-2000) and the Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Committee (1997-1999). In 1998 she served on the first Legislative Joint Budget Conference Committee on Mental Health. In 1999 and 2000 she served on the Joint Budget Conference Committee on Education.

Susan has successfully advocated for funding for domestic violence shelters, breast cancer outreach and education, rape crisis centers, family support services, early direction childhood programs and teen pregnancy prevention. She currently sponsors legislation that would provide domestic violence victims with up to 90 days of unpaid leave of absence from work to address ongoing domestic violence. Also, she sponsors legislation that would require that all hospitals make emergency contraception available for rape survivors to prevent pregnancy and provide counseling to address the survivor's long-term mental and physical recovery.

As a strong supporter of quality and affordable health care, Susan has worked with her colleagues to improve access to health care for residents in Monroe County and across the state. When Genesee Hospital closed, Susan took a leading role in working with the state Department of Health to ensure that quality care would still be available to former Genesee Hospital patients.

Susan was been a staunch advocate of the long awaited Women's Health and Wellness Law which will improve access to vital health services for New York State women. This legislation, which was signed into law in 2002, includes many initiatives that Susan has several years for that will bring affordable health coverage and expanded access to preventive screenings for countless women. Further, her emphasis on programs for pregnant and parenting women resulted in more support for community-based and outreach services. She was, and remains, an advocate for treatment on demand.

The recent financial difficulties facing the county have prompted severe budget cuts that threaten many critical programs that many families rely on. To address these cuts, Susan secured: \$49,000 to prevent the Monroe County Rape Crisis Center from curtailing its operations; \$220,000 to keep the Monroe County Library's bookmobile on the road; and \$44,000 for Prevention Partners, enabling the traveling program to continue spreading the word about the dangers of tobacco, alcohol and other drug abuse.

To assure hospitals and nursing homes in Monroe County can recruit and retain qualified and dedicated health care professionals to tend to our loved ones, Susan fought in 2002 for upstate to get its fair share of state funding for staff investment. She secured \$3 million to renovate the Rochester General Hospital Emergency Room – helping to avoid “code red” situations that forced ambulances to take patients elsewhere due to overcrowding. This year, she also secured \$75,000 for the Chili Fire Department’s Apparatus Exhaust Project to ensure a healthy work environment for firefighters.

Susan has been a longstanding advocate of protecting our most vulnerable citizens – from the youngest to the oldest. She helped create the statewide Amber Plan, linking police with broadcasters to quickly spread the word about missing or abducted children. She also voted for legislation to protect seniors from the unscrupulous predatory lenders who go after the value of people’s homes.

Susan authored New York State’s Anti-Stalking Law, the Clinic Access/Anti-Stalking Law, and amendments to the Clinic Access/Anti-Stalking Law which amends the definition of stalking in the first degree. She fought for over seven years to enact “Project SAVE,” which is dedicated to making schools, their students and staff free from violence. She sponsored the Sexual Assault Reform Act, a law which increased penalties for sex offenders, provided services for victims, and instituted necessary preventative initiatives. She fought to pass a law that created an additional city court judgeship in Rochester. Susan also sponsored legislation to govern state procurement of goods and services, protect a women’s civil right to breast feed her child in public, require health insurance companies to cover pap smears, reform the BOCES system, require disclosure of the potential hazards of breast implants, increase the criminal penalty for violating a court order of protection, and increase penalties for assault. All of these bills are now state law.

Susan is a longstanding advocate for quality and affordable day care. She has fought for adequate funding and safety, and has held the state Office of Children and Family Services responsible for following proper regulatory procedures. More recently, when Monroe County exhausted its child care funds, Susan fought for state funding to allow Monroe County to restore planned cuts to child care subsidies for families at or below the 200% poverty level. During the 2002-2003 State Fiscal Year, Susan fought to get families all the child care funding to which they are entitled

As a New York State legislator, Susan has worked tirelessly with her Rochester colleagues to improve the economic and regulatory climate for businesses, both large and small. Whether responding to a call for help from a business owner unable to obtain an ABC license, lottery machine, food stamp certification or other necessary state approvals, or advocating legislation, Susan has been dedicated to addressing business concerns about New York State laws and regulations.

VOTE IN 2002 GENERAL ELECTION

Susan V. John, Dem. 15,822
Michael S. Slattery, Rep. 10,667; Con. 1,580; Ind. 2,764