

**NASW-NYS Political Post**  
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**Only You Can Love Me This Way** – In the face of a potential primary challenge by former Tennessee Congressman Harold Ford Jr., article after article surfaced this week regarding a potential Democratic showdown for Kirsten Gillibrand's senate seat. Battle lines are being drawn as speculation grows regarding the former congressman's right to run against our junior senator. Critics assert that Ford is simply another carpet bagging flip flopper (See the recent ad that NARAL and Planned Parenthood are running by logging onto <http://blog.timesunion.com/capitol/archives/21588/naral-planned-parenthood-hit-ford-in-video/>). While some party loyalists such as Andrew Cuomo assert Ford has a "every right to challenge Gillibrand because this is a democracy." The potential race seems to be galvanizing women on each side of the fence as well as evidenced earlier in the week when 10 female state legislators rallied behind Gillibrand... "as women who serve in a male-dominated body, we understand the importance of having women's voices," said Assemblywoman Deborah Glick, D-Manhattan. "There are, I believe, only 17 of the 100 members of the U.S. Senate who are women, and we believe that we should be expanding that number, not diminishing it." Though NY Post columnist Andrea Peyser wrote a scathing article noting that she is "offended by Gillibrand's political actions" suggesting Gillibrand is far cry from her predecessor Senator Hillary Clinton. But perhaps it is her two most powerful supporters, President Obama and New York's Senior Senator, Chuck Schumer who are creating the most stir as political commentators such as Bill Hammond of the Daily News wrote earlier in the week that "By rights, she should be facing the political fight of her life - beginning with a contentious Democratic primary in September. But Gillibrand supporters from President Obama on down are doing their level best to shut the voters out again - by strong-arming every serious candidate out of the primary race." Yikes! Whatever the outcome folks, it's sure to be a contentious battle...stay tuned!

**You'll Think of Me** – Senator Hiram Monserrate (D-Queens) is first and foremost on the minds of most of his colleagues this week as a special senate committee charged with determining his political fate in the wake of his conviction on charges of assault (stemming from a domestic dispute) released a report recommending one of two punishments, censure or expulsion...many Senators have spoken out on the subject this week in favor of the later. Senator Thomas Libous (R – Binghamton ) told reporters "If a resolution (for expulsion) should hit the floor, it will have my very strong support." Libous's sentiment seems to resonate across party lines, as many of his Democratic colleagues weighed in with similar sentiments as witnessed by Senator Brian X. Foley, a Long Island Democrat, who told reporters he would introduce a resolution early next week calling for Mr. Monserrate's ouster.

**These are the Days** – Over the next several days, political junkies will be pouring over the campaign finance reports scheduled to be filed with the Board of Elections today; primarily in an attempt to gage the viability of candidates and potential candidates in the upcoming 2010 election cycle. Perhaps the most anticipated juxtaposition will be that of current Governor Paterson's coffers (rumored to be near \$3 million) as opposed to potential challenger Attorney General Andrew Cuomo's rumored \$16million. According to a New York Times article "Jay Jacobs, the state Democratic chairman and an ally of the governor's, acknowledged on Thursday that Mr. Paterson had to improve his fund-raising. But Mr. Jacobs added: 'It's my understanding that the governor has not been able to do as much fund-raising as he'd like. One of the problems he's had since becoming governor is he's gone from one crisis to another with very little time in between. I'm not measuring potential success at the moment on money.'"