



**STEVE KIMATIAN FOR MAYOR**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**KIMATIAN: HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION IMPORTANT TO FABRIC OF  
OUR COMMUNITY AND MUST BE PRESERVED**  
*Candidate Indicates His Willingness as Mayor to Help Fund Commission Work*

**Syracuse, New York** – Syracuse mayoral candidate and business executive Steve Kimatian attended the Onondaga County budget hearing this evening in opposition to efforts to eliminate the Human Rights Commission of Syracuse and Onondaga County.

Below are Kimatian's comments to the members of the Onondaga County Legislature:

*The proposed effective elimination of the Human Rights Commission would have a detrimental impact on our community, most specifically the City of Syracuse.*

*First, this elimination communicates the wrong message throughout our community and beyond – a message that diversity, tolerance, and acceptance of differences are not a critical priority to residents of Central New York.*

*Second, this elimination will have a detrimental impact on local efforts to offer and promote diversity training and enhance capacity and support for communitywide tolerance initiatives.*

*Further, this elimination could possibly impact efforts to support business development and new economic opportunities within our minority communities. In this economy, local government should be doing all it can to support and assist economic development, especially in less advantaged sectors of our community.*

*I recognize the dire fiscal situation that confronts the County of Onondaga, and I do support the County Executive's initiative to spread budget cuts fairly and judiciously throughout County government. Consolidation and cuts to wasteful spending are important tools, but we must be considerate of their long-term consequences. We can cut costs without cutting important services.*

*As a candidate for Mayor of Syracuse, I pledge to you that once successful in November, the County will have a more willing partner in City Hall to support the work of the Human Rights Commission.*

*Central New York is a multi-racial, multi-ethnic community. We must keep the Human Rights Commission and make a statement that we as a community embrace that heritage. I respectfully ask that the Legislature accept the County Executive's proposal and maintain the Commission as an important function of County government.*