February 11, 2005

Mr. Richard S. Gilbert
Post Office Box 6
Ithaca, New York 14851

Dear Mr. Gilbert:

Thank you for writing. Your thoughts on the Unborn Victims of Violence Act are important to me. This legislation is likely to brought before the Senate in the coming weeks and months.

I am firmly committed to advancing legislation addressing violence against women. However, I believe that the Unborn Victims of Violence Act approaches this goal in the wrong way. In discussing the legislature, supporters present it as a measure that would combat domestic violence when, in fact, many of us believe that it would act to restrict the reproductive rights of women. I cannot support legislation that I believe would undermine Roe v. Wade.

I believe that we can and must address violence against women without jeopardizing a woman's right to choose. Consequently, I am co-sponsoring legislation such as Senator Biden’s bill to establish a permanent Violence Against Women Office at the Department of Justice.

I appreciate that you took the time to contact me. Please continue to share with me your thoughts and concerns on the matters before the United States Senate. Please also check my website http://clinton.senate.gov for regular legislative updates.

Sincerely yours,

Hillary Rodham Clinton