

Hanna was 1 of just 23 GOP members to vote for weatherization funding

MOHAWK, N.Y. – As the cold weather approaches, families across upstate New York will be turning up their thermostats to combat winter temperatures.

This morning, **U.S. Representative Richard Hanna** (NY-24) joined the team from Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency, Inc. (MVCAA) to highlight ongoing efforts at a home in Mohawk. MVCAA completes all kinds of weatherization work including insulation, air sealing and windows.

"We are very proud of the work we do but since the economic downturn started, we have been inundated with requests for services," **MVCAA Executive Director Amy Turner said**. "For every home we weatherize we are adding about six to seven homes to the wait list.

"We are always looking to partner with other organizations in the region because that way our funds go further. We applaud Representative Hanna's commitment to supporting weatherization programs in Congress."

Hanna has been consistent in his support for weatherization to aid upstate families, especially in low-income households, to get through cold winters. Through simple home upgrades a lot of money can be saved on heating and cooling costs over the life-cycle of a home. Investing in weatherization is cost-effective and fiscally conservative.

The federal Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) enables low-income families to permanently reduce their energy bills by making their homes more energy efficient.

During the past 33 years, the weatherization program has provided weatherization services to more than 6.4 million households. Families receiving weatherization services see their annual energy bills reduced by an average of about \$437.

"Just last week, I signed a letter led by my colleague U.S. Rep. Chris Gibson asking the House Appropriations Committee not to change the Low-income Heating Assistance program (LIHEAP) funding formula to the detriment of New York," **Hanna said**. "We simply can't allow our most vulnerable citizens to freeze in their homes, especially when so many are still unemployed or on fixed incomes."

Earlier this year, during consideration of the Fiscal Year 2011 spending bill, Hanna was one of just 23 Republicans to support an amendment offered by the Capital District Representative Paul Tonko to defend the weatherization program.

Hanna said he looks forward to continuing to support both weatherization funding and LIHEAP assistance throughout his tenure.