U.S. Rep. Richard Hanna today released the following statement on extending the payroll tax cut:

"I was an early supporter of extending the payroll tax cut. It puts money in the right place - the middle class. We all know that those are the people who need it and spend it. Extending the payroll tax cut is an appropriate way to energize the economy at the moment.

"While a year-long extension is preferable to a two-month extension, I certainly would have voted for the Senate-passed bill if given the opportunity. Because the Senate bill was not brought to the House floor for a direct vote, I voted to follow regular order and move to a House-Senate conference to resolve differences between the chambers.

"The Senate and House should return to Washington to resolve this matter without delay. I stand ready to finish this work. Letting the payroll tax cut or unemployment insurance expire next year is unacceptable.

"Upstate New Yorkers don't deserve any more brinksmanship. It's time to get the job done."