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## **Springfield is next Stop for Blue Ribbon Panel on Autism**

JEFFERSON CITY — Sen. Scott T. Rupp, R-Wentzville, will chair the next Blue Ribbon Panel on Autism meeting this Friday, August 10th from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Missouri State University’s Meyer Alumni Center, 300 S. Jefferson in Springfield.

“This week, we’ll hold the third of our five information-gathering meetings on autism across the state,” said Sen. Rupp. “I’m glad we’re getting more knowledge on a problem that hits one out of 150 children in this country — more than AIDS, juvenile diabetes, and cancer combined. The information we get will affect this state’s policy toward this epidemic for years to come.”

This meeting will feature expert testimony on educational issues facing families of those with autism. The public will also get the chance to offer its comments. Contact Sen. Rupp’s office at (573) 751-1282 to schedule a time.

Future meetings are tentatively scheduled for various locations throughout the state (specific times and locations are TBD):

August 31 – St. Louis

September 28 – Kansas City

After completing the meetings, the panel will issue a report to Senate President Pro Tem Michael Gibbons by October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007.

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