



Blue Ribbon Panel on Autism Makes Stop in St. Louis

JEFFERSON CITY — Sen. Scott T. Rupp, R-Wentzville, will chair the next Blue Ribbon Panel on Autism meeting this Friday, August 31st from 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the University of Missouri-St. Louis’s Millennium Student Center, 8001 Natural Bridge Road in St. Louis.

“We are in the homestretch of our summer-long effort to get our hands around this autism epidemic that hits one out of 150 children in this country. That’s more than AIDS, juvenile diabetes, and cancer combined,” said Sen. Rupp. “I am looking forward to compiling this information with my fellow panel members to come up with an effective strategy to deal with autism in the future.”

This meeting will feature U.S. Senator Christopher Bond talking about the Parents as Teachers program and how it relates to autism. Experts will also testify on medical issues related to autism and its diagnosis. The public will also get the chance to offer its comments. Contact Sen. Rupp’s office at (573) 751-1282 to schedule a time.

After this St. Louis meeting, the last scheduled meeting for the panel will be September 28th in Kansas City (specific time and location is to be determined). After completing the hearings, the panel will issue a report to Senate President Pro Tem Michael Gibbons by October 31st, 2007.

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