



Blue Ribbon Panel on Autism Wraps Up Public Meetings in Kansas City This Friday

JEFFERSON CITY — Sen. Scott T. Rupp, R-Wentzville, will chair the next Blue Ribbon Panel on Autism meeting this Friday, September 28th at the University of Missouri- Kansas City Administrative Center at 5115 Oak Street. As with the previous meetings, this proceeding is open to the public, with an open forum scheduled from 11:00am-1:00pm to give members of the public an opportunity to address the panel.

“We have heard from a lot of people on the various aspects of this epidemic that affects one out of 150 children in this country—more than AIDS, juvenile diabetes, and cancer combined,” said Sen. Rupp. “After this meeting, I look forward to working with my fellow panel members to compile what we have learned over the past few months.”

This meeting will be the fifth and final one in a series of meetings the panel has held around the state (Jefferson City, Cape Girardeau, Springfield, and St. Louis as the previous meeting places), to hear public testimony on autism and related issues and to hear testimony from the various autism-related fields of expertise. At the Kansas City meeting, members will focus on insurance coverage, reimbursement, and mental health issues.

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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