



Office of
Jason Crowell State
Senator

The Crowell Connection



Senator Jason Crowell – Serving Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Madison, Mississippi, Perry, and Scott Counties.

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Why I Support Special Needs Scholarships

Many questions have been raised about why I have sponsored Senate Bill 993. Currently there are over 130,000 children in Missouri with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs). These students often require specialized education that most school districts are not able to provide them with. Across the state families are unable to receive adequate education for their special needs children.

During a Senate Committee hearing for the “Missouri Special Needs Scholarship Tax Credit Program” a mother of an autistic child conveyed the hardships she had experienced with the public school system. Her local school did not have the resources or expertise necessary to educate her son. Her family was forced to move across town in order to attend a public school that did have a



Families interested in the Tax Credit listen as witnesses testify on behalf of the legislation.

specialized program with the capacity to educate autistic children. This put a great strain on her other children, but was the best solution for her special needs son.

Moving is not a viable option for many low-income families. They do not have the financial resources necessary to move or to afford private schools. Families in this situation are forced to accept substandard education for their children. One mother that testified during committee has a special needs 11-year-old son who cannot read or write because her

district does not have the funding to staff teachers with the expertise necessary to teach her son.



Citizens from throughout Missouri expressed interest in the Missouri Special Needs Tax Credit.

The “Missouri Special Needs Scholarship Tax Credit Program” presents an effective solution that is able to meet the needs of families like these. These scholarships help parents to afford schools with the capacity to educate special needs kids. The program gives them the option of

attending a public school in another district or an approved private school of their choice. Similar programs have been highly effective in other states, and experts expect the same results in Missouri. It will be funded entirely by charitable donations from Missouri taxpayers and the donors will be eligible to receive a tax credit for 80% of the donations.

This program will allow parents to determine the best solution for educating their special needs children. Education is not a “One-Size-Fits-All” institution. It would be extremely costly and impractical to equip every school with the ability to educate every child. This Scholarship program allows families to choose the best school for their needs and gives them the means to pay for it without using public dollars.

Contact Me

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions and concerns. Please feel free to contact me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2459. You may write to me at Jason Crowell; Missouri Senate; State Capitol; Jefferson City, MO 65101, or email me at: jcrowell@senate.mo.gov or visit me on the web at <http://www.jasoncrowell.com>.

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