



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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Sen. Jason Crowell Receives Appreciation Award from Autism Society of America, Gateway Chapter

JEFFERSON CITY– Sen. Jason Crowell, R-Cape Girardeau, yesterday (10/27) received an appreciation award from the Autism Society of America, Gateway Chapter for his support of autism organizations in Missouri. The awards ceremony took place in Creve Coeur at the chapter’s Inaugural Missouri Legislative Awards Reception.

“This serious disorder affects so many families in our state, and it has been my goal to make sure that resources are available throughout Missouri,” said Sen. Crowell. “By continuing research and increasing treatment options, we are helping the people whose daily lives are affected by autism.”

Sen. Crowell was recognized for his initiative in establishing programs and developing policy in Missouri on behalf of Missourians with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). Missouri currently serves more than 4,200 young Missourians with an ASD diagnosis. Since 2006, Sen. Crowell has worked to increase funding for autism-related programs and support resources for Southeast Missouri. His efforts have resulted in an \$11.6 million increase in funding. In addition, Sen. Crowell has secured a total of \$600,000 since 2006 for the Tailor Institute, an organization in Cape Girardeau that works with those who have been diagnosed with autism on the high-functioning spectrum, helping them to reach their full potential. In 2007, \$2.6 million was appropriated to the Southeast Missouri Autism Center. This center, the first of its kind in Southeast Missouri, will help families that once had to travel as far as Columbia, St. Louis, or Kansas City for treatment. In 2008, Sen. Crowell secured \$494,000 for the Southeast Missouri Autism Center’s annual operating budget.

The Autism Society of America is the nation’s leading grassroots autism organization. It exists to improve the lives of all citizens affected by autism. The organization works to increase public awareness about the day-to-day issues faced by people along the autism spectrum, advocate for appropriate services for individuals, and provide the latest information regarding treatment, education, research and advocacy. The Gateway Chapter of the organization offers information and support locally.

“The work to fight autism in our state is ongoing, and I will continue to make sure that we focus our efforts on this important issue,” said Sen. Crowell. “I am appreciative of the award, and am glad that I have been able to make a difference for Missourians affected by autism.”

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