

STATE SENATOR • JOHN J. GLEASON • 27<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

# Gleason Press Release

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## **Senator Gleason Makes Swartz Creek Teen's Dream of Helicopter Ride a Reality**

*Gleason, 13-Year-Old Boy with Muscular Dystrophy to Take Flight from Flushing Dalton Airport*

FLINT—This Saturday, April 19, Senator John Gleason (D-Flushing) will make Josh Parsons' dream of riding in a helicopter come true. Josh is a 13-year-old from Swartz Creek who suffers from Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. The event is in conjunction with the Experimental Aircraft Association, and Sen. Gleason will be joining Josh for the flight from Flushing Dalton Airport.

"Josh is a brave and delightful young man, and I can't wait to see his eyes light up when we launch," said Sen. Gleason. "His family shared that it was his dream to ride in a helicopter, and I am happy to make it happen. I'm pretty excited for the flight, too."

"We're very grateful to Senator Gleason for helping give Josh this experience," said Brian Parsons, Josh's dad. "He's really thrilled to have a once in a lifetime opportunity like this."

Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy is a rapidly-worsening form of muscular dystrophy. It is caused by a defective gene for dystrophin (a protein in the muscles), though it often occurs in people without a known family history of the condition. The disorder is marked by worsening loss of muscle function, which begins in the lower limbs.

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