

STATE SENATOR • TUPAC A. HUNTER • 5TH DISTRICT

# Hunter Press Release

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## **SEN. HUNTER'S AUTISM BILLS TO INCLUDE INCOME CHECK OFF BOX**

*Proceeds would go to newly proposed Autism Research Fund*

LANSING- Sen. Tupac A. Hunter (D-Detroit) has proposed legislation that places a check-off box on the state income tax form for filers to donate to the newly proposed Autism Research Fund. The fund's purpose would be to promote research relating to autism. The bills (SB 784-785) are companion bills to his recently introduced legislation that would require insurance companies to provide coverage for autism-related services (SB 957).

"The check-off box will be an effective and convenient way for Michigan residents to help fund autism research," Sen. Hunter said. "In addition, it will help raise awareness of this growing health issue."

The money, interest, and earnings of the fund could only be expended for promoting autism-related research and disseminating research results on autism triggers and diagnosing and treating autism. Proceeds would also provide grants to Michigan hospitals specializing in the research, diagnosis, and treatment of autism; institutions of higher learning devoted to conducting autism research; and other Dept. of Community Health approved organizations for autism research.

Autism services proposed to be covered by SB 957 include but are not limited to therapeutic evaluations and interventions, speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, intensive early intervention, and applied behavioral analysis and therapy.

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*Sen. Hunter represents the 5th district, which is comprised of northwest Detroit, Dearborn and Inkster. He serves as Minority Vice Chair of the Banking & Financial Institutions and the Homeland Security & Emerging Technologies Committees. He is also a member of the Commerce & Tourism and the Economic Development & Regulatory Reform Committees.*