

STATE SENATOR • TUPAC A. HUNTER • 5TH DISTRICT

Hunter Press Release

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Hunter Legislation to Bolster Autism Research Approved by Committee

Bills would provide grants to Michigan hospitals for autism research

LANSING, Mich.-Yesterday State Senator Tupac A. Hunter (D-Detroit) testified alongside Senator Buzz Thomas (D-Detroit) before the Senate Finance Committee to call for action on his legislation to establish a state income tax checkoff donation for an autism research fund. The bills, SB 957 and 958, passed with unanimous support and now head to the full Senate.

“With our country’s startling autism rate of roughly one in every 150 children born, this is an epidemic that we simply cannot ignore,” said Sen. Hunter. “Through new research we may be able to find ways to treat this disease, and this legislation will allow Michigan residents the opportunity to lend their support in furthering research and raising awareness for autism.”

The money, interest, and earnings of the fund could only be expended for promoting autism-related research and publicizing 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 Department of Community Health approved organizations for autism research.

Sen. Hunter has also been fighting to ensure insurance and health care coverage for autism-related services with Senate Bills 784 and 785.

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