

STATE SENATOR • GILDA Z. JACOBS • 14<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

# Jacobs Press Release

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## **MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION CITES SENATOR JACOBS FOR LEADERSHIP ON MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES**

LANSING – Sen. Gilda Z. Jacobs has been awarded the Snyder-Kok Award from the Mental Health Association of Michigan for her leadership, concern and productivity on behalf of mental health issues. The award is presented to an elected official who most nearly emulates the distinguished record and the spirit of bipartisanship of former State Senator Joseph Snyder and former Representative Peter Kok, in whose honor the award is given. Jacobs is the 17<sup>th</sup> recipient of the award in MHAM's 30-year history.

"Of course, I am thrilled to be honored by this award," Sen. Jacobs said. "But I am also humbled by it, since the work that I do is what I care most about, and the rewards come from the outcomes, not the recognition."

The award was presented by Mark Reinstein, MHAM President and CEO, who recounted highlights of Jacobs' political career, as well as her mental health support efforts both in the House and the Senate, which include primary sponsorship of the mental healthy parity bills; service on the 2004 Governor's Mental Health Commission; lead legislator on the 2007 Legislative Mental Health Caucus; and supporter of current legislative efforts to implement the Commission's recommendations. Jacobs was also recognized for her lengthy record of civic involvement and her numerous awards and honors.

Prior to her legislative service, Jacobs was a Huntington Woods City Commission member from 1981-1994, serving as Mayor Pro-Tem in 1993-1994. She then served as an Oakland County Commissioner from 1995 to 1998. She previously worked as a special education teacher and as Development Director for JARC, an agency providing services to persons with developmental disabilities.

The Southfield-based Mental Health Association of Michigan is a 70-year old 501 (c)(3) association dedicated to state-level public policy analysis and governmental advocacy.

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