

SENATE DEMOCRATIC LEADER • MARK SCHAUER • 19TH DISTRICT

Schauer Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Apr 16, 2008

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Schauer, Griffin, Simpson Honor Foote Hospital for Work Wellness Programs

Effort strives to improve the health and welfare of Jackson-area residents

LANSING-Senate Democratic Leader Mark Schauer (D-Battle Creek), Rep. Martin Griffin (D-Jackson) and Rep. Mike Simpson (D-Jackson) today offered a special tribute honoring Foote Hospital for its Work Wellness Programs. The foundation was organized in 2000 to carry out operations of the hospital's Health Improvement Organization, create programs that will improve the health and welfare of Jackson-area residents and raise money to help support other Jackson health-related programs.

"As one of the largest employers in the City of Jackson, Foote is more than just a world-class medical facility. It is also the heartbeat of our local economy," said Sen. Schauer. "That's why we need a bipartisan approach to solving the health care crisis, so more Jackson residents can have affordable access to Foote's top-notch health and wellness programs."

"It's Your Life" is a health and productivity management program offered by Foote Health System, and is designed to help patients improve their health and increase accountability for healthy behaviors. Participants complete a health risk appraisal, and in turn receive personalized health coaching, attend targeted education programs and select "Health Tracks" each year, based on their personal risk profiles.

"We are fortunate to have a hospital in our community that has been recognized nationally," said Rep. Griffin. "Foote Health System is a valuable asset. Their programs to promote the community's well being are to be commended."

With the rising costs associated with health insurance and prescription drugs, recent polls have shown that health care issues are a top priority for Michigan residents. Employees who take part in the "It's Your Life" program receive an assortment of financial incentives, which allow them to pay a lower health insurance premium than non-participants. Since the program was launched, participants have greatly lowered their health risks and reduced the cost of prescription medication.

"Increasing access to high-quality health care is one of my top priorities," said Rep. Simpson. "We know the health care industry is growing quickly to accommodate our aging population. As we work to create jobs now, Foote will help lead the way in

revitalizing our local economy in addition to providing excellent care to Jackson-area families.”

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Mark Schauer is the Senate Democratic Leader. He represents the 19th Senate District, which includes all of Calhoun County and most of Jackson County.