

STATEMENT

By Senator Jason Crowell on the Reinstatement of Funding for the Southeast Missouri Autism Center

JEFFERSON CITY– Sen. Jason Crowell, R-Cape Girardeau, today applauded Gov. Jay Nixon and Office of Administration Commissioner Kelvin Simmons for reinstating \$2.6 million in funding for the Southeast Missouri Autism Center. The governor announced in January that some MOHELA-funded construction projects, including the autism center, would be halted or put under review.

Sen. Crowell secured the initial \$2.6 million in 2007 for the construction of the Southeast Missouri Autism Center, which will be the first of its kind in Southeast Missouri and will help families that once had to travel as far as Columbia, St. Louis, or Kansas City for treatment. In 2008, Sen. Crowell secured an additional \$494,000 for the center’s annual operating budget. A groundbreaking was recently held to celebrate the start of construction.

“Throughout this process, Gov. Nixon and Kelvin Simmons were open, honest, and cooperative, and I am so pleased we were able to work together to get this project back on track quickly and efficiently. The good that this center will do for families in Southeast Missouri is immeasurable, and I am grateful that all parties involved in this process were able to recognize the value of the project.”

-Senator Jason Crowell