

STATE SENATOR • JOHN J. GLEASON • 27TH DISTRICT

Gleason Press Release

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Gleason Receives “Independent Living Champion Award” from Disability Network

Sen. Gleason honored for his leadership and support for people with disabilities

LANSING- Sen. John J. Gleason (D-Flushing) was recently presented with the Independent Living Champion Award by The Disability Network in recognition for his leadership, support, and legislation for people with disabilities.

“As a public servant, The best medication for a patient with epilepsy is the one that works for the patientI have always been committed to serving all people equally, and I am very humbled by this honor,” said Sen. Gleason. “I will continue to advocate for the rights of the disabled in the Legislature and out, and will keep working on passing legislation that betters the lives of all of our citizens.”

Senator John Gleason has been a longtime advocate for the rights of the disabled, in his capacity as a legislator as well as a volunteer. In 2007, Sen. Gleason introduced legislation, Public Act 23, to require the use of certified sign language interpreters to provide equal communication for the deaf and hard of hearing in important life situations, including educational, financial, legal, and medical interaction. It also established universal standards for sign interpreters.

He has continued to be active in helping the disabled in his community as well. Senator Gleason has volunteered to help students and staff of the Michigan School for the Deaf plant a community garden on school grounds that is maintained by the students. Senator Gleason also sponsors a unique hunter safety class to encourage and provide equal opportunities to all who want to learn the basic skills of hunting and hunter safety, including those with hearing challenges. Sen. Gleason has previously been honored by the Michigan Deaf Association and Hearing Loss Association of Michigan as its 2007 Legislator of the Year for his legislative efforts to improve the lives of those who are deaf or hard of hearing.

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