

*Ohio Assoc. of County Boards
Of MRDD
73 E. Wilson Bridge Road
Worthington, Ohio 43085
Contact: Linda Oda
Director of Communication
513-218-4851
loda@oacbmrdd.org*

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 30, 2008

Representative Kevin Bacon Named *OACB* “Legislator of the Year”

COLUMBUS, Ohio – One of Ohio’s leading agencies in helping individuals with developmental disabilities recently awarded a Minerva Park legislator with its highest honor.

State Representative Kevin Bacon (R-Minerva Park) was awarded the *Ohio Association of County Boards of MRDD (OACB)* “legislator of the year” honor at their 25th ANNUAL CONVENTION held at the Easton Hilton Hotel on Tuesday, Oct. 28.

In introducing Representative Bacon, *OACB* Executive Director Dan Ohler noted that the legislator has been instrumental in helping those with developmental disabilities from the moment he stepped into the Statehouse.

“Within one month of taking office, he spearheaded a study for early autism diagnosis,” Ohler said, noting his motivation is his eight-year old daughter Rebecca, who was diagnosed with autism about two years ago.

“Not many legislators are able to pass a bill during their first term in the *Ohio House of Representatives*, but that’s exactly what Representative Bacon was able to do. On June 2, I had the privilege of witnessing his first bill being signed into law by Governor Strickland,” Ohler said.

House Bill 405 simplifies the waiting list procedures for individuals with developmental disabilities as well as make the legislative priority groups for waiver enrollment, which was set to expire in 2009, a permanent part of the OHIO REVISED CODE.

Representative Bacon attended the *OACB* 25th ANNUAL CONVENTION with his wife Melissa and youngest of three daughters, Catherine.

“My family and I care deeply about the issues that are important to you,” Representative Bacon told the crowd of more than 600 who were in attendance.

“The real recipients of this award are the people across this state who work to help the families and the individuals with disabilities. With your help, we will continue this fight,” he said.

The *OACB* is celebrating its 25th-year. Its mission is to “support *County Boards of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities* in providing services and supports to individuals with disabilities.”

All 88 *County Boards of MRDD* in Ohio are members of this organization whose purpose is to educate and advocate for the 80,000 individuals with developmental disabilities who reside in the Buckeye State.

####