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**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Sen. Carey Honored By Statewide Agency For Work Helping Those With Disabilities**

COLUMBUS, Ohio – A legislator from Southeast Ohio was honored as the “legislator of the year” by a statewide organization that supports all 88 *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities* in providing services and supports to individuals with disabilities.

State Senator John Carey was introduced to the more than 700 participants at the 26<sup>th</sup> annual *Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) of Developmental Disabilities CONVENTION* by Kay Ervin, a *Jackson County Board of Developmental Disabilities* Board member who also serves as an *OACB* trustee. Pat Pletcher, Jackson County Board President, presented Senator Carey with the award.

The “legislator of the year” award is presented annually to an elected or appointed official who exhibits high accomplishments in legislative leadership for people with developmental disabilities.

“When I became mayor of Wellston, one of the first things I did was hire people with developmental disabilities to clean our city building,” Senator Carey said. “It wasn’t long before they all became my friends.”

In her introduction, Mrs. Ervin pointed out Senator Carey’s long history of support for individuals with developmental disabilities, including his work with the *OACB*’s CALL2ACTION program and his active participation in local *County Board of Developmental Disabilities* events.

“Senator Carey is working to hold local governmental entities harmless permanently from revenue losses as a result of the state’s move away from tangible personal property tax. . . *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities* will lose hundreds of millions of dollars over the seven-year phase out period (if new legislation isn’t passed),” she said.

This is the second time the *OACB* has honored John Carey. In 2002, when he served in the *Ohio House of Representatives*, he also earned the “legislator of the year” honor.

“Senator Carey has demonstrated time and time again that one of his priorities is making certain that funding and other legislative matters are secured for people with developmental disabilities,” said Dan Ohler, *OACB* Executive Director.

“It is our pleasure to honor Senator Carey for his hard work. We appreciate the time and respect he shows not only individuals with developmental disabilities, but those of us who work to enhance the lives and opportunities of the disabled,” Ohler said.

Following the award presentation, *Jackson County Board of Developmental Disabilities*’ Superintendent Kay Michael presented Senator Carey with an *Adena* man, a sculptured made by clients of the *Jackson County Board* and sold throughout Ohio by the *Ohio Historical Society*.

State Senator Carey’s legislative district includes Clinton, Fayette, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Pike, Ross, Vinton and portions of Lawrence and Pickaway counties. Before coming to the Senate in 2003, he served four terms as a State Representative.

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

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**CAPTION: State Senator John Carey was awarded the “legislator of the year” honor at the 26<sup>th</sup> annual OACB Convention. Pictured are Jackson County Superintendent Kay Michael, Gallia County Superintendent Rosalie Durbin, Fairfield/Vinton Counties Superintendent John Pekar, Senator Carey, Jackson County Board President Pat Pletcher, Jackson County Board Member/OACB Trustee Kay Ervin, Pike County staff member Jeff Allen, and Pike County Superintendent Jeff Noble.**