



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
**STATE SENATOR**  
**MICHAEL O. MOORE**  
SECOND WORCESTER DISTRICT  
State House, Room 518, Boston, MA 02133 (617) 722-1485

February 24, 2009

**Secretary of Health and Human Services Dr. JudyAnn Bigby Tours Irving A. Glavin  
Regional Center at Request of Senator Michael O. Moore**

Shrewsbury – On Monday morning Secretary of Health and Human Services Dr. JudyAnn Bigby, as well as representatives from the Department of Mental Retardation took a tour of the Irving A. Glavin Regional Center in Shrewsbury at the request of state Senator Michael O. Moore (D-Millbury). Prior to the tour of the facility, Senator Moore and Secretary Bigby held a lengthy discussion regarding the state’s intended closure of the facility by 2013.

In response to recent decisions made by the Administration to close the center, Senator Moore hosted the tour of the Glavin facilities to voice his strong opposition to the closure of the center.

“I am pleased to have had the opportunity to visit the Glavin Center with Secretary Bigby and see the good work that is done at Glavin. I feel that it is important to have an open dialog with the administration to discuss the concerns that I share with my constituents regarding the proposed plans to close the facility,” said Senator Moore. “I felt it was important for the Secretary to see the continued good work that is done at Glavin,” said Moore.

“The Commonwealth is committed to creating real choice for people with developmental disabilities for whom the community has never been an option,” said Secretary Bigby. “As we have seen many times, when individuals leave institutions to live in the community with the services and supports they need, they flourish and learn new skills.

“Change is hard for everyone, but we are committed to engaging the men and women who live at Glavin and their family members and guardians in a thorough, person-centered planning process to ensure that all options are presented and all questions are answered. I appreciated the opportunity to visit the Glavin Center with Senator Moore and look forward to working with him and his constituents to ensure that we fully address the diverse needs of people with intellectual disabilities.”

DMR made public its intention to close the Glavin Center, as well as three other state institutions over a four-year span, in a December 12, 2008 announcement. Senator Michael Moore was sworn into office on January 7, 2009 and has been working closely with residents and the administration to ensure that those served by Glavin have their voices heard.

“I will continue to oppose the closure of the Glavin Center and will work to ensure the concerns of the residents and their family members are adequately addressed,” said Moore.

At Senator Moore’s invitation, Commissioner of DMR Elin Howe will be attending a meeting with staff, residents and family members, at the Glavin Center on Wednesday March 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.