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Sen. O'Neill Honored For Autism Legislation

WARWICK - State Sen. Edward J. O'Neill, who represents District 17 in Lincoln, Pawtucket and North Providence, has been recognized by The Rhode Island Rehabilitation Association for his leadership in support of those with autism spectrum disorder.

In an award ceremony at the Raddison Hotel in Warwick on Oct. 28, O'Neill was honored with the RIRA Legislative Award for his sponsorship of legislation which extends insurance coverage for children with autism.

O'Neill's Autism Spectrum Disorder Bill was signed into law by Gov. Lincoln Chafee in July.

State Rep. Peter Palumbo, who represents District 16, was also honored by RIRA for his work as sponsor of the Autism Bill in the House.

The RIRA Legislative award recognizes outstanding legislative achievement in the rehabilitation field.

Award recipients must be currently serving in the legislature or executive body of government, and have demonstrated a leadership role in the development and/or passage of legislation which increases rehabilitation opportunities for persons with disabilities.

"Considerable time and effort were invested by me and Rep. Palumbo," O'Neill commented. "It was a labor of love and well worth the effort because it will make a big difference in the treatment and early diagnosis of children and young adults with autism spectrum disorder."

O'Neill can be reached via his website at www.senatoroneill.com or e-mail electedoneill@msn.com