

WASHINGTON- Congressman Spencer Bachus (AL-6) announced that Mitchell's Place will receive a \$250,000 grant to develop programs to better serve the needs of children and families affected by autism.

The U.S. Department of Education has officially awarded the grant to Mitchell's Place. Bachus obtained the funding in the FY09 appropriations bill.

Mitchell's Place is a comprehensive treatment center in Birmingham for children and adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The funding will help Mitchell's Place expand programs, staffing, and services for children, adolescents, and families in Alabama dealing with autism. Autism affects 1 in every 150 children in the United States, according to The Centers for Disease Control.

Congressman Bachus said, "There is an increasing incidence of autism, and it is something that children and families deal with their entire lives. We know that early intervention programs can make a big difference in the quality of life for these precious children. The innovative programs at Mitchell's Place are helping children and families here in Alabama and serve as a model for providers of autism services across the country."

Alan Meisler, Founder of Mitchell's Place said, "This assistance will allow us to offer even better services to the children and families who come to Mitchell's Place. Our goal is to provide a comprehensive approach that combines the latest in research with our structured and caring environment. We are very thankful for the support that we have received from Congressman Bachus."

Congressman Bachus is a member of the Congressional Autism Caucus. In April, Congressman Bachus, his wife Linda and State Representative Cam Ward partnered with the National Institutes of Health to host a briefing in Washington that provided an update on current autism research and highlighted innovative approaches that states are using to serve children and adults with autism.

"Young boys and girls on the autism spectrum can benefit tremendously from effective early

intervention. Mitchell's Place is a striking example of a program that is helping young people to achieve marked improvements in their academic performance and social behavior, and is a great asset for children on the autism spectrum and their families," Congressman Bachus concluded.