



SENATOR VI SIMPSON

SENATE DEMOCRAT LEADER ★ SENATE DISTRICT 40

NEWS RELEASE

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Simpson announced as recipient of 2009 Friend of Children Award

Award presented in honor of Senator's continued work to improve lives of Indiana children

INDIANAPOLIS –On Tuesday August 24, Senate Democrat Leader Vi Simpson (D-Ellettsville) was presented with the 2009 Friend of Children Award by IARCCA, a statewide association of agencies serving children and families. The award was presented to Sen. Simpson in honor of her many years of work to make life better for Hoosier children.

In the nomination of Sen. Simpson, IARCCA Executive Director Cathy Graham noted the Senate Democrat Leader's ability to work collaboratively across the aisle to seek resolution to problems that face vulnerable children and their families.

"Serving children and families is a natural priority for me as a state legislator and as a mother," Simpson said. "I'm honored and humbled by the recognition, and I will continue to work to improve the lives of all Hoosier children in the spirit of this award."

The award was also presented in recognition of Sen. Simpson's recent work on behalf of "hard to place" children. In 2009, Sen. Simpson authored legislation to address a change in state administrative policy that would have limited state adoption subsidies to hard to place children aged ten or older. For sibling groups, this would have meant that the oldest sibling would have to be at least ten years of age in order for the entire group to be eligible for a state adoption subsidy. Sen. Simpson worked with the General Assembly to successfully lower the eligibility to children two years of age or older for state adoption subsidies. The change was adopted under [Senate Bill 303](#), which became effective July 1, 2009.

Founded in 1944, IARCCA has made a commitment to service by bringing together a diverse group of providers into a cohesive organization, committed to the provision of quality services so that these children and families may lead healthy and productive lives in our communities.

Currently, IARCCA is an association of approximately 96 member agencies in Indiana providing a broad array of services, including residential care, foster care, transitional/independent living, home-based services, shelter care and crisis stabilization. Our member agencies continually reflect their dedication and support to children and family services through their ongoing participation in IARCCA-sponsored activities. More information on IARCCA can be found at www.iarcca.org.

For more information on Sen. Simpson or the Indiana State Senate, visit www.in.gov/s40 or call 1-800-382-9467.

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