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## STATEMENT

### From Senator Eric Schmitt and Senator Ryan McKenna Calling for Review of the State Schools for the Severely Disabled

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JEFFERSON CITY– Sen. Eric Schmitt, R-Glendale, and Sen. Ryan McKenna, D-Crystal City, today expressed concern at the alleged treatment of students at Mapaville State School and called for a review of State Schools for the Severely Disabled throughout Missouri. In March 2008, several parents at the school pulled their children out after discovering abuse by hiding tape recorders on the students. In September, an inquiry panel sustained the complaints of abuse and neglect. The parents are now taking the issue to court to ask that further and more serious action be taken against the school and schools throughout the state.

“The treatment these students received was absolutely unacceptable. Children with disabilities deserve the highest quality of life possible, and the state should be able to confidently provide suitable treatment and education. I am calling for a review of State Schools for the Severely Disabled throughout our state to ensure that our disabled students are treated with the utmost respect.”

-Senator Eric Schmitt

“We have a responsibility to the students and parents in this situation to make sure that the state is providing adequate treatment to every student in these schools. This review process will provide us with a balanced perspective on exactly what is going on and how it can best be addressed.”

-Senator Ryan McKenna

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