

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 31, 2007
Contact: Natalie Wise, Legislative Aide: (614) 466-3485

Statewide hearings begin in effort to improve healthcare
DeGeeter joins colleagues on healthcare reform tour

MIDDLEBURG HEIGHTS -- State Representative Timothy DeGeeter (D-15th District) joined colleagues from the Ohio House Healthcare Access and Affordability Committee and the Ohio Senate Health and Human Services and Aging Committee at Southwest General Health Center yesterday. The purpose of the visit was to reach out to residents outside Columbus to gather input for effective healthcare reform.

“We should all strive for common ground for greater access to healthcare for all Ohioans,” DeGeeter said. “We have a responsibility in our position as state lawmakers to help where we can and when we can in keeping our citizens healthy.”

The hearing is part of a larger five- city tour across Ohio. More than 200 people attended this debuted event. Participants offered over 27 pieces of testimony addressing:

- Current healthcare trends observed in Northeast Ohio;
- Ways the current system can more easily adapt to current trends that focus on access, transparency, cost savings, improving efficiency, and increasing healthy decisions; and
- Ways a person’s healthcare needs change as they age, and how the healthcare system must adapt to these changing needs while ensuring quality and maximizing efficiency at the same time.

“I wish to thank Southwest General for their exemplary work in hosting our hearing,” DeGeeter said. “Southwest was hospitable, accommodating, and extremely efficient in their organization,” said DeGeeter.