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Mass Rehabilitation Commissioner to Win Easter Seals Award

April 14, 2014 – Easter Seals will present its prestigious Empowerment Award on June 18 to Commissioner Charles Carr of the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission. Carr is being honored for his commitment to empowering youth with disabilities.

The award reflects Easter Seals' mission of ensuring that children and adults with disabilities have equal opportunities to live, learn, work and play. Carr was singled out to receive the Empowerment Award in the "Learn" category.

In announcing Carr's award, Easter Seals President Kirk Joslin cited the commissioner's efforts to establish a curriculum in Massachusetts public schools that will teach all students about the fight for disability rights. The curriculum also will help students with disabilities understand their place in the disability rights movement and develop a sense of pride and empowerment.

"Charlie Carr has been an indispensable partner of Easter Seals through the years," Joslin said. "In addition to championing the disability rights curriculum, he was instrumental in creating the Easter Seals Youth Leadership Network, which helps youth with disabilities develop the self-confidence and skills they will need to succeed in life. He has expanded the horizons of countless young men and women with disabilities."

As an advocate, manager and public policy leader, Carr has dedicated his career to advancing independence for people with disabilities through social and economic policies and programs. He also is a nationally recognized leader in the independent living movement.

Easter Seals will present the Empowerment Awards in a ceremony at the organization's Evening of Empowerment gala at the State Room, 60 State Street, Boston.

Easter Seals Massachusetts provides services to ensure that children and adults with disabilities have equal opportunities to live, learn, work and play. Nonprofit and nonsectarian, Easter Seals offers technological assistance, employment and training services, recreational activities, youth transition and leadership programs, veterans' services, rehabilitation services and public awareness programs. For more information, call 800-244-2756 or go to www.EasterSealsMa.org.