

## Castle Participates in Hearing on Education Challenges and Successes in the Wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita -- April 26, 2006

Castle visited Gulf Coast area in March to see challenges first hand

Washington, D.C. -- Delaware Congressman Mike Castle, a senior Member of the Education and Workforce Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives, today heard testimony from educators regarding the challenges faced and successes achieved after last year's devastating hurricanes hit the Gulf Coast area.

Castle thanked the panelists for their hard work and commitment in the face of so many obstacles. He also commended the U.S. Department of Education for their quick responses to the needs of the schools impacted by the hurricane.

" I think today's hearing was a valuable experience for all Members here in Washington D.C. who have not had a chance to visit the schools and talk to education officials affected by the destruction of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Fortunately, this was knowledge I was able to gain firsthand during my trip last month to Louisiana. It is evident that the issues facing schools in this region are multi-faceted, and will take time to resolve. We have to realize that this is going to be an ongoing process into the years ahead. I would, however, like to congratulate all schools on an excellent job in bouncing back after the storm. From my experience in meetings, visits and today, I have seen true optimism and determination to continue and even improve education that was available before Katrina," Castle said.

Congressman Castle visited New Orleans and surrounding areas last month in an effort to gain a better understanding of challenges facing the education community.