

## Package of Health Care Bills Co-Sponsored by Castle, Pass House -- June 21, 2006

Bills address community health centers, childhood cancer, medical education

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Three pieces of health care legislation important to Delaware and cosponsored by Congressman Mike Castle, overwhelmingly passed the House of Representatives today and address critical issues like funding community health centers and medical education and increasing awareness regarding childhood cancer.

"These critical bills we are passing today help address many aspects of our health care system -- from education and prevention to treatment and maybe one day, cures. Our community health centers play a critical role in providing care to the uninsured and underinsured and are a critical player as we try to ensure universal coverage and access to care," Castle said.

"And of course we are so fortunate to have an amazing children's hospital in A.I. DuPont Hospital for Children in our state. This hospital is not only a treatment center, but also a support center for families who are suffering from the sickness of a child or loved one. The training they provide residents is top-notch and hopefully once these residents experience this hospital, it will convince these doctors to stay there throughout their careers. Finally, we need to be sure we are increasing awareness and research efforts into childhood disease like cancer, so physicians and families have the resources they need to identify, diagnose and treat cancers early on, so more children's lives will be improved, and hopefully saved."

The three bills passed by the House include :

The Health Centers Renewal Act "reauthorizes" federally qualified community health centers -- including Westside Health and Henrietta Johnson Health Center in New Castle County, Delmarva Rural Ministries in Kent County and La Red Health Center in Sussex County. This reauthorization will ensure these centers may take advantage of federal funding and other privileges including: enrolling in the 340 B Federal Discount Drug program, which allows the center to get prescription drugs at a discount rate; applying for federal tort claims which provide insurance to the center; receiving federally funded technical assistance; and, applying for expansion grants on a regular basis as well as rural health outreach grants if they qualify (La Red).

The Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Support Reauthorization Act ensures that freestanding children's hospitals -- like A.I. DuPont Hospital for Children in Wilmington, Delaware -- will continue to receive federal funding to support the training of pediatric and other residents in graduate medical education programs.

Resolution Supporting Efforts to Increase Childhood Cancer Awareness, Treatment and Research . The goal of this resolution is to recognize the need to continue promoting awareness of childhood cancers and to strengthen our investment in childhood cancer research to improve prevention, diagnosis and treatment.

Castle was the leader of the Moderate Republican effort to stave off cuts to important health care programs, like cancer research, during consideration of the Fiscal Year 2007 Budget Resolution and was successful in increasing funding for critical health, education and community programs by \$4.1 billion.