

Castle Praises No Child Left Behind on its Fifth Anniversary -- January 8, 2007

Wilmington, DE -- Delaware Congressman Mike Castle, a co-author of No Child Left Behind, praised the success of the law, which celebrated its fifth anniversary today. Congressman Castle pointed out the improvements the law has made in the education of children nationwide over the past five years and stressed certain priorities that need to be addressed during its reauthorization coming up in 2007.

"Education in our country is evolving at an exciting pace and No Child Left Behind is a huge component of that in helping to close the achievement gap and challenge our children in school. I see it firsthand as I travel throughout Delaware and visit schools and hear the success stories from students, teachers and administrators.

"However, as we continue our efforts to reauthorize No Child Left Behind, we will look at ways to strengthen this law, by focusing on issues that have arisen in the past five years, such as the vital role principals and school administrators can play in sharing best teaching and learning practices and determining if there is a role for the federal government in high school reform. It is important we do this while adhering to the basic commitment of No Child Left Behind, which ensures every child learns and succeeds," Castle said.

Castle would like to examine the following key issues during reauthorization:

- Accountability: Ensuring meaningful accountability systems which includes an examination of standards, as well as the assessment of subgroups.
- Growth Models: Determining whether a growth model is appropriate, and how best to include this measurement without compromising the intent of the law.
- Getting students on grade level by 2014: Deciphering what tools and policies are available to help teachers and administrators in reaching this goal.
- Funding: Ensuring that any additional funds are met with necessary reforms.

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