

Castle Named Ranking Member of Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary & Secondary Education -- January 18, 2007

Washington, D.C. -- Delaware Congressman Mike Castle, a long time leader in education reform, today was chosen to be the lead Republican -- known as the Ranking Member -- of the Education Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education, which has jurisdiction over K-12 education. Castle will join the Chairman of the Subcommittee, Rep. Dale Kildee (D-Michigan), in leading the reauthorization of No Child Left Behind.

"There is no question that since my time as Lt. Governor of Delaware, the education of our nation's children has been a top priority for me. We have to get it right the first time when teaching our kids, we cannot get it wrong. They are this country's future. They are what keep this nation competitive globally and their success depends on a strong education system, with regular assessments, and high teacher quality.

"Our primary focus will be the reauthorization of No Child Left Behind, which is the basis of all education reform. Every time I visit a school in Delaware, I see teachers and students going above and beyond to make sure all children are learning. That should always be our number one goal. Throughout the reauthorization, I look forward to discussing and researching a number of issues, including growth models, teacher and principal training, standards and assessments, parental involvement, and funding with the underlying goal of making this law better and stronger. We owe it to our students to build upon the success of this law.

"I look forward to working with my good friend, Mr. Kildee, who has been a true leader in education in this country. We shared a subcommittee in the past and were able to forge bipartisan consensus to help kids across America -- I know we can do it again," Castle said.

Specifically, Castle's subcommittee will have jurisdiction over:

- No Child Left Behind
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
- Head Start

"As Congress prepares to renew the No Child Left Behind law and Head Start programs, we're fortunate to have Congressman Castle leading this important subcommittee," said Rep. Howard P. "Buck" McKeon (R-CA), the Education and Labor Committee's Senior Republican Member. "He's been a thoughtful and deliberative leader on bipartisan reforms to close the achievement gap and improve our schools, and his commitment to working with Members on both sides of the aisle will be especially important during what will be an extremely busy 110th Congress on education issues."

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