

## Castle Highlights Goals for Improving Teacher Quality in United States -- March 28, 2007

Washington D.C. -- In a speech before almost 100 scholars, journalists, Hill staff, students and practitioners at The Brookings Institution, Delaware Congressman Mike Castle, Ranking Member of the House Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education, today outlined his goals for improving teacher effectiveness in the United States, touching on the importance of teacher recruiting, as well as stressed his goals for the reauthorization of No Child Left Behind which is set to begin in the House Education & Labor Committee.

Castle specifically highlighted two areas which are critical for improving teacher quality; the Teacher Incentive Fund, which rewards teachers and principals through "recognition pay" for raising student achievement levels and addressing principal and leadership standards at schools across the country.

"There is no question that teachers play a critical role in helping their students reach proficiency and beyond. And we need to do all we can to incentivize and reward high quality teachers who are raising student achievement levels throughout the United States. For example, we must look at recognition pay so that teachers who are able to visibly raise student achievement levels are awarded for their innovation and hard work. Additionally, it is imperative to focus on leadership standards at schools, so that we recognize the degree to which an involved and demanding principal can motivate teachers and produce results in a school. Taking all of these steps will help us to one day close the achievement gap in our schools," Castle said.

Today's forum at the Brookings Institution was held in conjunction with the release of a new issue of The Future of Children, a monthly journal published by Brookings and Princeton University. The most recent edition of the journal solely focuses on exploring teacher quality and the prospect that improving teacher quality would have important impacts on student achievement.

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