

Castle Continues Work to Improve No Child Left Behind in Latest Congressional Hearing -- April 18, 2007

Washington D.C. -- Delaware Congressman Mike Castle, Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education and an original co-author of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law, today helped examine the challenges and success of the implementation of the supplemental education services (SES) under NCLB. Castle, along with his colleagues on the Education & Labor Committee focused on ways Congress can help to improve quality and access to these services.

Under No Child Left Behind, students attending public schools that do not make adequate yearly progress (or AYP) for three consecutive years have the right to take advantage of free supplemental services. The services include extra academic help, such as tutoring or remedial help that is provided to students in subjects such as reading, language arts, and math. The extra help is provided before or after school, on weekends, or in the summer.

"While the number of students benefiting from these supplemental services is gradually increasing, I remain concerned about the overall low participation rate. By discussing programs and models that work, we can bring to light how to best increase this level of participation. Throughout the reauthorization of NCLB, we must continue to explore the best ways to help students by looking at how the performance of private tutoring providers can be evaluated, how we can ensure that private tutoring companies are aligned with the school districts they are working with, and what role the school district can play in providing students supplemental services when the district has been identified as in need of improvement," Congressman Castle said at the hearing.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, providers of supplemental educational services may include nonprofit entities, for-profit entities, local educational agencies, public schools, public charter schools, private schools, public or private institutions of higher education, and faith-based organizations.

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