

Castle Receives Award for Fight Against Crohn's and Colitis -- May 17, 2007

Washington D.C. -- Delaware Congressman Mike Castle has been selected by the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America as the recipient of its 2007 Public Policy Leadership Award for his support of the Crohn's disease community and his co-sponsorship of H.R. 1113, the Inflammatory Bowel Disease Research Enhancement Act. Rep. Castle teamed up with Miss Delaware 2006, Jamie Ginn in December 2006 at Alfred I. DuPont Hospital for Children to announce their fight against digestive illness in children, specifically Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis (collectively known as inflammatory bowel disease).

H.R.1113, the Inflammatory Bowel Disease Research Enhancement Act, requires the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases to expand research on inflammatory bowel disease, including increased pediatric research, genetic and environmental-based research, training for new investigators and the creation of a CDC action plan. With \$28.4 billion in funding for the National Institutes of Health provided each year to study the basic science of diseases, Rep. Castle believes there should be increased efforts in the area of inflammatory bowel disease. Specifically, Rep. Castle believes there needs to be more focus on kids and teenagers and how the disease and its complications affect them for the short-term and long-term, as well as a greater focus on the causes of Crohn's and Colitis.

-- A fact sheet regarding the bill is copied below --

Goals of the Inflammatory Bowel Disease Research Enhancement Act:

1. Expand inflammatory bowel disease research at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases at the NIH, with a specific focus on:

- Pediatric related research.
- Genetic and environmental based research into the cause and progression of IBD.
- Clinical research, including translational studies and treatment trials.
- Support for the training of new investigators specializing in IBD.

2. Require the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to develop and submit to Congress a "National Inflammatory Bowel Disease Action Plan." This plan would detail a comprehensive strategy for addressing the burden of IBD in both pediatric and adult populations, including mechanisms for:

- Increasing public awareness of IBD.

- Determining the true prevalence of the disease in the United States.
- Increasing awareness of IBD in the health care community to facilitate more timely and accurate diagnoses.
- Preventing the progression of the disease and the development of complications such as colorectal cancer.
- Establishing a Pediatric IBD Patient Registry at the CDC.

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