

House Committee Examines Rising College Costs -- November 1, 2007

Washington, DC -- Today Delaware Congressman Mike Castle, along with Members of the Committee on Education and Labor, examined factors contributing to increasing college costs as well as potential solutions to make a college education more affordable for students across the country. This hearing comes in anticipation of reauthorizing the Higher Education Act, which was first implemented by Congress in 1965.

Over the past two decades, college tuition and fees have been rising more rapidly than household income. These escalating costs will have dramatic effects on those who desire to access postsecondary education opportunities in the future.

To address tuition increases, witnesses at today's hearing recommended increasing transparency and making a wide range of data available to prospective and current students and their families.

"As someone who is particularly interested in the issue of college costs as well as a firm believer in educating all of our nation's students, I am deeply interested in learning what can be done to increase access to higher education," Castle said.

"I recently supported the College Cost Reduction Act to help mitigate some of these increases, and many postsecondary institutions are taking the initiative to keep down their costs, such as 'going green,' employing retired faculty, and consolidating support services. However, even with this and other student aid funds, college costs continue to outpace a student's ability to pay for a postsecondary education.

"To maintain our place in the global community, educating our students must be a top priority of the United States. As Congress continues to work on the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, I will continue to bring attention to the rising cost of college."

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