

## CASTLE AND HOUSE APPROVE HOPE VI IMPROVEMENT AND REAUTHORIZATION ACT -- JANUARY 18, 2008

Washington, DC -- Yesterday, Delaware Congressman Mike Castle voted in favor of HOPE VI Improvement and Reauthorization Act when it passed the House yesterday. This bill reauthorizes and expands the HOPE VI Act, which provides grant funding for the revitalization of distressed public housing. The HOPE VI Improvement and Reauthorization Act will expand access to low and middle income families. The bill is now pending consideration by the Senate.

"The HOPE Act is a great program that has already helped to revitalize one low income housing area in Delaware called the Village of East Lake in Wilmington, a project that was just completed last year. With this reauthorization, we have vastly improved the program by giving families more options for finding a practical and safe place to live" said Castle.

Specifically, the HOPE VI reauthorization:

Provides grants that assist affordable housing through main street and revitalization projects,

Revises and improves the criteria by which HOPE VI grant recipients are selected,

Prohibits the award of "demolition only" grants,

Requires mandatory plans for the core components of the revitalization projects, including a plan for temporary relocation of families whose homes are being revitalized,

Encourages input from the families who will be living in the new communities.

For more information on HOPE VI grants and projects, including FAQs and how to apply for the grants, please visit [www.http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/ph/hope6/](http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/ph/hope6/), the HOPE VI Section of the United State Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Website.

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