

CASTLE SUPPORTS LEGISLATION TO ENSURE ACCESSIBILITY TO FEDERAL STUDENT LOAN PROGRAMS - April 9, 2008

Washington, DC -- Today at a full committee markup before the House Committee on Education and Labor, Congressman Michael N. Castle (R-DE) voted in support of legislation critical to ensuring students and families have the continued availability of, and access to, the federal student loan program. This legislation, the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008, was introduced in response to the growing credit crisis affecting several markets, including student financial aid.

Among other provisions, this bill would specifically allow the Department of Education to purchase private student loans from lending institutions, allowing these lenders to fulfill the needs of future borrowers. It would also authorize an increase in select federal loan limits, reducing student reliance on higher cost private loans. Rep. Castle and the House Committee on Education and Labor feel that these provisions will increase loan availability and take some of the pressure off of students and their families.

Rep. Castle is also a long-time supporter of addressing college costs and has worked to do so within the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act of 1965. Also, The Congressman recently hosted a Financial Aid Fair in Middletown, Delaware. At the event on Monday evening, many Delaware families came to hear from representatives from the U.S. Department of Education, major student lenders, and Delaware colleges and universities. Congressman Castle hosted the event in hopes of helping families to access information about how to deal with the challenges associated with financing a college education.

"There is no question about it, college tuition is one of the highest expenses a family faces, and that is why we must work to reign in costs, make loans more affordable, and ensure that students have access to necessary loan and financial aid resources," said Rep. Castle. "This legislation contains bipartisan reforms that I believe can respond to student loan market instability and help families at home and throughout the country."

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