

CASTLE INTRODUCES NCLB REFORMS -- July 30, 2008

Washington, DC -- U.S. Rep. Michael N. Castle (R-DE), senior Republican of the House Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education, today introduced the Improving No Child Left Behind for All Students Act, which seeks to revise and improve upon the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 based on recommendations from key education stakeholders and Delaware constituents.

"Although the legislative year is drawing to a close, the school year is just about to get started," said Rep. Castle. "We must continue the education reform dialogue and press ahead in our efforts to make the No Child Left Behind Act stronger and more reflective of what students and schools need to succeed.

"The Improving No Child Left Behind for All Students Act works to improve student success at the elementary and secondary level and close the achievement gap by allowing for the use of growth models, creating a reliable and comparable graduation rate, improving accountability and assessment measures, and attracting and retaining teachers in hard-to-staff areas of the country."

The Improving No Child Left Behind for All Students Act would:

Allow states to use growth models to measure individual student progress over time;

- Define a reliable and comparable graduation rate;
- Make NCLB work better for English Language Learners by allowing states and school districts to administer alternate assessments to ELL students and extend the time in which they can receive credit for their scores;
- Ensure the academic progress of students with disabilities can be accurately measured and reported;
- Create two separate and distinct school improvement and assistance systems to better target resources to schools with the greatest challenges; and
- Maintain the successful Reading First program, which supports states and school districts implementing reading programs in high-need schools in grades K-3. The bill also strengthens program accountability and expands support to higher grade levels through a Striving Readers program for students in grades 4-12.

"Congressman Castle has been at the forefront of the education reform movement, pressing for constant innovation on behalf of our nation's students," said Rep. Howard P. "Buck" McKeon, Ranking Member of the Committee on Education and Labor. "This legislation sets forth a clear path for reform, and it should be welcomed by members on both sides of the aisle as the foundation upon which NCLB renewal can be built."

A more detailed summary of the bill, [click here](#).

###