

## Castle Statement on Bush's State of the Union Address -- January 31, 2006

Washington, D.C. -- Delaware Congressman Mike Castle released the following statement on tonight's State of the Union by President George Bush.

"Tonight's speech by President Bush was a clear depiction of pertinent issues facing our country: healthcare, education, National Security, and realistic energy saving solutions.

"I agree with President Bush that rising healthcare costs are quite alarming and should be addressed. Establishing electronic records and providing for the portability of health insurance were very significant recommendations.

"I fully support the President's initiatives to increase the emphasis on American competitiveness, particularly his plan to improve and expand math and science education.

"I was also pleased that the President spoke candidly about his plan for helping the newly elected Iraqi government attain stability and made clear that our troop presence in the region would gradually decrease as the Iraqi security forces continue to take a greater role in defending their nation. Elections are an important step in this process - but they are by no means the "silver-bullet." For the new government to be successful, we need to continue to properly train the Iraqi military and get a few steps ahead of the insurgency.

"To reduce the dependence on foreign oil, the President's recommendations to look at all potential non-oil sources of energy, such as nuclear power, research and development of renewable and alternative fuels, and increasing efficiency, were met with bipartisan resonance. It is not only a national security necessity, but an economic imperative that the nation take bold steps to reduce energy consumption and dependence on foreign oil."