

## Miller Joins Mahoney, FL Superintendents and School Board Members to Discuss No Child Left Behind

(August 28, 2007)

(Port Charlotte, FL) - Chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee George Miller and Congressman Tim Mahoney (FL-16) today met with superintendents, teachers, and school board members from nine Florida counties to discuss the reauthorization of No Child Left Behind.

"I really appreciated the opportunity to meet with school administrators and board members to hear their ideas on improving the No Child Left Behind law. In the past year, I have heard directly from educators and parents across the country on their experiences with the law. Over and over again, I have heard from them that we must have an education law that treats schools and children fairly, that provides educators and administrators the flexibility they need to help their students meet high standards, and that delivers to schools the resources they need to improve and succeed." said Chairman George Miller of the House Education and Labor Committee.

Congressman Tim Mahoney said, "I thank Chairman Miller for meeting with our Congressional District's school superintendents and school board members. There is no issue more important than our children's education. With the controversy over FCAT and No Child Left Behind, it was critical for Chairman Miller to hear the recommendations from those directly responsible for our children's education on what Congress needs to do to fix the problems. In my District, my school boards and their teachers want to be empowered to tackle the daunting challenges they face in the classroom. They are tired of teaching to a test and being held accountable to arbitrary standards while operating without the financial support our children deserve. I am impressed with the caliber of the teachers, administrators, and students we met with and I thank Neil Armstrong Elementary for their hard work and hospitality. I will continue to fight for Florida students and teachers."

Most programs of federal aid to K-12 education are authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). The ESEA was most recently amended and reauthorized by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (signed into law on January 8, 2002).

The No Child Left Behind Act was intended as a national accountability law and a means of holding states, school districts and schools more accountable for improving the academic performance of each student regardless of economic status, race, ethnicity, proficiency in English or disability. However, the funding appropriated over the last five years has been substantially below the amount of funding authorized in the NCLB Act, making it difficult for many schools to meet federal standards. No Child Left Behind is expected to come before Congress for reauthorization this fall.

Today's events marked the beginning of Mahoney's "Back to School" Education Week. Mahoney will be meeting with students, educators, and local law enforcement officials to discuss challenges facing Florida schools.

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