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HELP Committee Chairman Enzi, Ranking Member Kennedy, Hail
Senate's Confirmation of Spellings as President's Secretary of Education

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Mike Enzi, R-Wyo., Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, today applauded the Senate's confirmation of Margaret Spellings as Secretary of Education, saying her skills and experience "will help bring students of all ages and backgrounds along the pathway toward fulfilling their own American Dream."

The Senate confirmed the nomination voice vote Thursday afternoon.

"Like me, Mrs. Spellings believes that every school can be a good one and every student can be a star achiever," Enzi said following the vote today. "It is no secret good skills lead to good jobs - and maintaining those skills through a lifetime of learning will lead to higher standards of living. Mrs. Spellings understands that challenge and will work to strengthen education policy to ensure that workers' abilities meet the demands of tomorrow's workplace, particularly those demanding high tech jobs."

Enzi praised the cooperation and support of the HELP Committee's Ranking Member, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-MA, in confirming Mrs. Spellings. Kennedy also praised the President's nominee following today's confirmation, saying: "Margaret Spellings has the knowledge, commitment, and leadership to improve the quality of education across our country. I look forward to working with her to strengthen our schools and universities for all Americans."

Enzi also commended Spellings for her work as the President's Domestic Policy Advisor, and her key role in the effort to emphasize accountability and results in the classroom as part of the No Child Left Behind Act. "Thanks to that important legislation, our nation's classrooms are more effective and efficient places of learning and our children are benefiting," Enzi said.

"As the Chairman of the HELP Committee, I am looking forward to working with Mrs. Spellings on a range of important issues, including the importance of using advanced technology to improve our rural schools," Enzi concluded. "As her record clearly shows, Mrs. Spellings is no stranger to the challenges facing students, parents and teachers in every schoolroom throughout the United States."