

*News from the*

**U.S. Senate Committee on  
Health, Education, Labor and Pensions**

**Michael B. Enzi (Wyoming), Chairman**



**For Immediate Release**

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**Tuesday, February 28, 2006**

***HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS ESSENTIAL FOR ENSURING STUDENTS STAY IN SCHOOL, AND ARE PREPARED FOR HIGH-SKILLED JOBS, ENZI SAYS***

**Washington, D.C.** - U.S. Senator Mike Enzi (R- WY), Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee (HELP Committee) said today that in order to remain competitive in today's global economy, we must find ways to encourage students to stay in school and prepare for and enter high-skill fields such as math, science, engineering, health, technology and critical foreign languages.

"In order to ensure that our students are the best in the world, we need a highly qualified teacher in every classroom," Enzi said Tuesday, during a hearing of the HELP Subcommittee on Education and Early Childhood Development. "Students need to be taught by teachers who expect great things."

"Just at the time when we need more skilled teachers, we are experiencing significant aging of the teacher workforce," Enzi added. "With a large number of teachers approaching retirement age, we have a dual dilemma: attracting the 2 million new teachers that will need to be hired in the next decade and making sure they have both solid content and academic background."

Tuesday's hearing, "Protecting America's Competitive Edge Act (PACE), S. 2198: Finding, Training, and Keeping Talented Math & Science Teachers," is

the first of two subcommittee hearings on the PACE Act. The hearing focused on improving teacher education programs at the undergraduate level, attracting math and science majors to education, and providing professional development experiences for teachers. The second subcommittee hearing on the PACE Act is scheduled for March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Enzi is now working with the Subcommittee's Chairman, Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN), and Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), as well as other HELP Committee members to improve the quality of math and science education, increase the high school graduation rate, and develop the abilities of students to successfully enter either postsecondary education or the workforce.

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