



For Immediate Release

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***ENZI APPLAUDS COMMITTEE PASSAGE OF THE
COMBATING AUTISM ACT***

Washington, D.C. - U.S. Senator Mike Enzi (R-WY), Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee (HELP Committee), today praised Committee passage of the “Combating Autism Act,” S. 843, a bill he said is “an important step toward improving the lives of persons with autism and families affected by autism.”

“With up to 1 in 166 children being diagnosed with autism in the United States, it is vital that we improve our understanding of the causes, symptoms, and intervention, supports and services for individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD),” Enzi said. “We must also ensure that there are effective programs in place to meet the diverse needs of persons with autism and their families, and that these programs work in close coordination with one another.”

The Combating Autism Act, S. 843, will expand research and coordination at National Institutes of Health (NIH) with regard to the possible causes and potential treatments of autism, increase autism awareness through Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and integrate health, education, and disability programs for persons diagnosed with ASD.

“I want to thank the original bill cosponsors, Senators Santorum (R-PA) and Dodd (D-CT) for introducing this legislation and for working with me to fine-tune it,” Enzi said. “I would also like to express my deep appreciation and thanks to the Committee Ranking Member, Senator Kennedy (D-MA), for his hard work during this process.”

The Committee also approved the following nominations:

- Elizabeth Dougherty, to be Member of the National Mediation Board, National Mediation Board
- Harry R. Hoglander, to be Member of the National Mediation Board, National Mediation Board

- Ronald S. Cooper, to be General Counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
- Lawrence A. Warder, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Education
- Troy R. Justesen, to be Assistant Secretary for Vocational and Adult Education, Department of Education

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